

U.S. STATEMENT TO THE COMMISSION PLENARY

Regarding the matter of collaboration with other organizations (PLE-109/20), the United States appreciates the Chair's suggestion included in ICCAT Circular #7324/20 regarding possible next steps on a framework for cooperation between ICCAT and WECAFC and GFCM, respectively. We agree that simple letters of cooperation should be explored with these two organizations, given that they are established under Art. XIV of the FAO Constitution. ICCAT's longstanding agreement with FAO appears to serve as an appropriate legal umbrella for such cooperation, pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1. As the Commission has clearly expressed its support in principle for strengthening cooperation with these organizations, and the Chair's suggested approach would not require the development of any legal text, we suggest that this matter should be handled after the official 2020 ICCAT correspondence period has closed to allow CPCs to focus on other, more urgent business.