



September 16, 2022

Dear Council Members and Staff,

I have a few quick updates for you below

UN Meetings

Some postponed UN meetings have now been held will soon be held:

- The UN Fish Stocks resumed Review Conference is currently slated to be held in 2023, if conditions allow.
- A UN General Assembly workshop on the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks was originally scheduled for August 2020 occurred August 2-3, 2022. The workshop was intended inform a review of provisions and recommendations related to bottom fishing as part of the negotiations of the annual UN General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries. A draft report is available here: https://www.un.org/depts/los/reference_files/Draft_report_bottom_fishing_2022_final_advance_unedited_version_r1.pdf
- The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) was held August 15-26 in NY. While delegations made progress at IGC5, a number of key issues remain outstanding in the text. The U.S. BBNJ team is preparing a summary of issues relevant to fisheries and is working to find a time to make a presentation to the Council, perhaps in October.
- The UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) was held in Lisbon from June 27 to July 1, 2022. U.S. announcements at the UNOC included: the acceleration of efforts both across the U.S. Government and internationally to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and associated labor abuses; support for aquatic and blue foods contributions to food security; the announcement of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for ocean and coastal resilience, habitat restoration, and marine debris prevention; leadership on the development of an action plan to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage global coral reef ecosystems; and the release of a national Ocean Policy Committee Action Plan; among others. See the official White House press release here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2022/07/01/in-case-you-missed-it-biden-harris-administration-works-with-global-partners-to-drive-ocean-action-to-combat-the-climate-crisis-and-boost-ocean-economy-at-un-ocean-conference/>

Sincerely,

C. Colin Brinkman
Office of Marine Conservation