

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ON COOPERATION ON FISHERIES ISSUES BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN FISHERIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND OCEAN FISHERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AND THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Department of Ocean Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Fishery of the Kingdom of Morocco and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America hereinafter referred to as "the Participants";

ANIMATED by the wish to reinforce the bonds of friendship existing between the two countries;

Recognizing the importance of ensuring the long-term conservation and management of living marine resources within their ecosystems;

Acknowledging efforts to address the global challenges associated with natural and anthropogenic impacts to the marine environment;

Noting the interrelationship between biological research, technical and technological knowledge, sanitary and other relevant standards and their importance for the production, marketing and processing of living marine resources;

AWARE of the specific role that the sector of marine fisheries plays in the economic and social development;

CONVINCED of the need to promote the preservation of the fisheries resources and the marine environment in accordance with the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

DETERMINED to contribute to the conservation and management of the living resources in their waters, and combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing for sustainable fisheries;

RECOGNIZING the importance of invoking an ecosystem approach to management of living marine resources;

CONSIDERING their interest in stimulating co-operation in the fields related to fisheries and, in particular, fisheries training, technical and scientific research in marine fisheries and the fish processing industry;

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WITH A VIEW to strengthen, promote and further develop cooperation in the above mentioned areas and to provide a basis for discussion and exchange of information on all issues of relevance to fisheries, aquaculture, other living marine resources, and their ecosystems;

Have reached the following understanding:

SECTION ONE

This Memorandum of Understanding aims to set the principles for the implementation of co-operation in fisheries, aquaculture, training, technical and scientific research in marine fisheries, ecosystems, and fish processing techniques between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United States of America.

The Participants share a desire to promote mutual cooperation and facilitate contact between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United States of America on any matter related to fisheries, other living marine resources, and their ecosystems in waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent seas.

SECTION TWO

The Participants commit to encourage the implementation of training programs and, to the extent permitted by law, the exchange of information which includes:

- organization of training courses in fisheries and aquaculture;
- organization of visits in order to share mutual experiences;
- participation in seminars, specialized courses and training workshops;
- exchange of relevant data and useful information in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture;

SECTION THREE

The Participants intend to cooperate to promote responsible and sustainable fisheries and the achievement of scientific research programs developed by their scientific and research institutions in the areas of aquaculture, fish resources, quality of marine environment, control of fish products as well as research in food safety related to fish products.

SECTION FOUR:

The Participants are establishing a Joint Committee, which is to meet as necessary. The Committee will discuss and agree on the location of meetings and the organizational form and working procedures of the Joint Committee.

At the Joint Committee meetings, the Participants may raise and discuss any bilateral or multilateral issue relevant to the matters identified in this Memorandum of Understanding.

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SECTION FIVE

Cooperation is to be in conformity with relevant international law and take into due consideration the applicable laws and regulations of the Participants' countries. All cooperative activities under this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and other resources. This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to be legally binding.


SECTION SIX

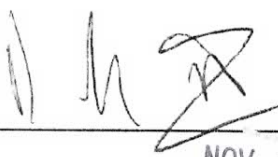
This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the latter date of signature of this Memorandum and is to continue for 5 years from the effective date. A Participant should endeavor to provide six months advance notice in writing of its intent to cease cooperation under this Memorandum.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified or supplemented at any time as agreed to between the Participants.

SECTION SEVEN

This Memorandum of Understanding is intended to replace the Memorandum of Understanding on Fisheries Partnership Cooperation Between the Department of Ocean Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, signed in 1982.


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Directrice des Pêches Maritimes
et de l'Aquaculture
Département des Pêches Maritimes
Ministère de l'Agriculture
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Royaume du Maroc


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Deputy Assistant Secretary for
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