
IUU Fishing Action Alliance

Members and Supporters Meeting

January 13, 225, 08:00-09:30 (Eastern Daylight Time)

The IUU-AA convened a virtual meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 08:00EDT. Chaired by Canada, the meeting included representatives from Members: Canada, Chile, European Union (EU), France on behalf of its overseas territories, France's UNOC planning committee, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, and United States; and supporter organizations: FishWise, Global Fishing Watch, Ocean, Pew Charitable Trusts, Sailors for the Sea - Japan, and the World Wildlife Fund.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair provided an introduction, goals for the meeting, and an overview of the meeting agenda.

2. Roll Call

- A roll call was conducted by the Stimson Center (Stimson) to confirm attendance

3. Discussion – Our Ocean Conference 2025

- The discussion began with the Chair establishing Canada's plans for the Our Ocean Conference (OOC). The Chair emphasized that (1) given current volatility in the Canadian government with the resignation of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that plans for OOC are up in the air but that this will not impact their chairship, and (2) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) are working with their Embassy in the Republic of Korea to gauge if they can have an on-the-ground presence in that capacity.
- The Chair then opened the floor for discussion on IUU-AA planning for OOC, posing the following questions:
 - (1) What are Members and Supporters current plans for OOC?
 - (2) Is there interest from Members and Supporters in hosting a formal or informal side event at OOC in Busan?

Status of: Members and Supporters at OOC

- Overall, most participants emphasized that attendance had not been confirmed at a high-level or technical level, and that member states are still working to secure attendance. Participants highlighted that if attendance is confirmed it will likely be a high-level representative, not a representative at the technical level. However, members highlighted that

should their attendance be confirmed, they would be interested in attending and organizing an in-person or hybrid event.

Status of: IUU-AA Side Event at OOC

- The Chair therefore decided that for now the IUU-AA will stand down from organizing any specific side event focused on the alliance itself. Rather, informal ad-hoc meetings or a high-level meeting between those at OOC makes the most sense.

4. Discussion – Deliverables for UNOC

- The Chair opened the discussion by highlighting that the purpose of the IUU-AA is to galvanize actionable outcomes on IUU, and to also illustrate actions being taken by members and supporters on both an individual and collective level. With this in mind, the Chair re-introduced the previously circulated pledge matrix developed based on the IUU-AA Pledge, designed to highlight and track actions taken by members in achieving policy goals in the IUU-AA pledge.
- The Chair highlighted that the pledge matrix could be publicized at UNOC as a deliverable and can be used as an opportunity to show our actions, highlight areas of action taken to meet activities under the pledge, and the opportunity to identify gaps that could be a focus of future collaboration and discussion. The Chair posed the following questions to guide the discussion:
 - (1) Are there any objections from members in filling out the matrix?
 - (2) Are there any objections to the matrix being used as a deliverable at UNOC?
 - (3) Are there any edits or changes members and supporters would like to be made to the matrix?

Discussion – Pledge Matrix

- In general, participants expressed that there would be no problem with filling in the pledge matrix, but that there would need to be internal discussions and approvals. Some participants had questions about the rationale behind the matrix, and about how this could be showcased at UNOC.
- The Chair specified that the mechanism for sharing the pledge matrix is still being developed, and emphasized that should the IUU-AA do a side event at UNOC it is logical to have some demonstration of who is participating in the IUU-AA and what work has been done and is going to be done in the future. Additionally highlighting that the pledge matrix would

be very useful for marketing the IUU-AA to potential new members and could be uploaded to the IUU-AA website (under development).

- Participants generally agreed that filling in the pledge matrix would be a good demonstration of leadership, and that it could illustrate areas to share best practices, where there are policy gaps in need of more attention. Supporters echoed that common elements could be extracted from the pledge matrix such as things done very well, things that need more focus, and looking at the collective utility of the IUU-AA.
- A representative from the UNOC planning committee emphasized that it would be great to see members of the IUU-AA making some strong commitments in the lead up to UNOC. They opened the door to future discussions and coordination with the IUU-AA leading up to UNOC.

Potential Edits to the Pledge Matrix

- One participant raised the question of how different columns were decided on, noting that monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) needs a bigger role. The Chair stated that MCS could fall into many different categories—i.e. coastal and flag states, transparency, and traceability components—as an underlying theme to the document as whole but that CAN and Stimson would work to tease that out better.
- Other participants highlighted that the Pledge Matrix could be edited to align with relevant international agreements signed on to by member states. For example, the International Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing or the Global Record on Fisheries Transparency due to the significant amount of overlap with the IUU-AA pledge.
- Participants highlighted that as long as edits are not too major, it should be relatively easy to get the Pledge Matrix filled out in time for UNOC. The Chair requested that **those with ideas for structural changes to the document should send them to CAN and Stimson as soon as possible**. The Chair also highlighted that the Pledge Matrix and a UNOC side event will be the subject of future members and supporters meeting to streamline planning leading up to UNOC.

5. Discussion – Deep Dive Sessions

Feedback – Deep Dive #1

- Participants highlighted that for future Deep Dives, discussions would be more robust if questions were circulated in advance to prepare. Participants also highlighted previous discussions on inviting industry as a participant in the Deep Dives, either for discussion or as a presenter. The Chair welcomed these changes and **requested that any other feedback**

on Deep Dive structure or ideas for outside participation be emailed to CAN and Stimson as soon as possible.

Status of – Deep Dive #1 Report

- The Chair began the discussion by highlighting changes made to the Deep Dive #1 Report based on feedback from members and supporters, specifically that the document was edited to better reflect Chatham House Rules. With no further objections to the report, the document is considered finalized.

Discussion – Deep Dive #2 Timing

- The Chair raised the following dates for Deep Dive #2: March 12th or March 13. Participants highlighted that the PSMA Technical Working Group meeting in Paris and the Seafood Expo North America (March 14-18th) could conflict with these dates. **The Chair posed sometime during the week of March 17th as a tentative time** for the next Deep Dive and will follow up with a finalized date in the coming weeks.

Discussion – Deep Dive #2: Traceability Sub-Themes

- The Chair opened the discussion by highlighting the previously chosen main theme of traceability, and that the alliance will need to agree on a standard traceability definition and narrow sub-themes as a first step. Participants agreed and suggested catch documentation schemes and data interoperability as potential sub-topics for the second Deep Dive session.
- The Chair agreed to work with Stimson to develop options for traceability definitions in the next two to three weeks. Additionally, **the Chair requested that members and supporters reach out to CAN and Stimson with potential sub-topics or ideas for speakers for the next Deep Dive session so a topic can be decided by early-to-mid February.**

6. New Members and Supporters

- Australia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Peru, and Senegal have expressed interest in joining the IUU-AA. The Chair opened the floor to objections to their participation before Canada pursues them more heavily as members. No objections were raised, but the Chair **welcomed any potential objections to their membership to be raised to Canada and Stimson.**
- The Ecology Action Centre (ECA), a Canadian NGO focusing on sustainable fisheries and seafood supply chains, and the Natural

Resources Defense Council, an advocacy organization that works to defend the environment, had requested to join as supporters. The Chair opened the floor to objections from current members and supporters. No objections were raised, but the Chair **welcomed any potential objections to their membership to be raised to Canada and Stimson.**

7. Discussion – Other Business

Update on: IUU-AA Website

- The Chair provided an update on the forthcoming IUU-AA website, highlighting that CAN and Stimson have been meeting with developers in recent weeks and that a mock-up would be ready in the coming weeks for members and supporters to provide comments on. The Chair emphasized that the website would be used as a marketing tool, and to share information and documents pertaining to the IUU-AA, and opened the floor for comments and suggestions from participants. Participants had no comments, and the Chair **encouraged members and supporters with specific ideas to reach out to CAN and Stimson.**
- Stimson provided a timeline that the website developers aim to have the website done in time for OOC (April 28, 2025).

Discussion – 2025 Critical Path

- The Chair opened the floor for comments and suggestions on the IUU-AA Critical Path for 2025. Participants requested that some of the meetings be streamlined and consolidated to lighten the lift of participation in the alliance. Additionally, participants requested clarity on the May 12th meeting for strategizing the future direction of the IUU-AA post-UNOC.
- The Chair agreed to re-evaluate the number of scheduled meetings for 2025 and explained that the reason for strategizing stems from the need to have a focused discussion on who will be taking on a Chair role following Canada. The Chair **welcomed further feedback from members and supporters to be shared by email.**

Discussion – World Conservation Congress (WCC) in 2025

- The Chair shared that the IUU-AA was invited to support an action related to combatting IUU fishing by Pace University, and that CAN would follow up with more details following this meeting.
- The Chair also raised that by UNOC most WCC motions will be provided, and that the IUU-AA could provide comments on motions as an opportunity to showcase the alliance.

8. Closing Remarks and Next Steps:

The Chair closed out the meeting with closing remarks, highlighting some of the follow-up action items below:

- Action Item #1: Members to provide feedback on and fill out the pledge matrix, including any structural changes by sending ideas to CAN and Stimson.
- Action Item #2: CAN and Stimson to revise the Pledge Matrix and re-circulate in a timely manner to members and supporters as needed.
- Action Item #3: CAN and Stimson will provide potential definitions of traceability to members and supporters.
- Action Item #4: Members and supporters to provide ideas for traceability sub-themes and potential speakers to CAN and Stimson by early February.
- Action Item #5: Canada to proceed with pursuing Australia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Peru, and Senegal as new members of IUU-AA, unless objections are raised. CAN to confirm the inclusion of the Ecology Action Centre and Natural Resources Defense Council as supporters.
- Action Item #6: CAN to circulate the mock-up IUU-AA website once it is available for comments and feedback from members and supporters.
- Action Item #7: CAN and Stimson to streamline and consolidate meetings for 2025 to reduce the participation burden.
- Action Item #8: CAN to follow-up on WCC with details to members and supporters and coordinate response.