

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments of 2014

Statement of Purpose and Need

This draft bill amends the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 to reflect changes made to the convention governing the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). On September 28, 2007, the NAFO adopted the *Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries* (Amendment). The Amendment represents a reorganization of NAFO and its underlying convention to better reflect current fisheries science and management principles and practices.

On April 22, 2013, the President transmitted the Amendment to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification. The President's transmittal message noted that implementation of the Amendment requires changes to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995. On April 3, 2014, the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the Amendment. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce is the lead agency for U.S. implementation of the Amendment. The Department of State and the U.S. Coast Guard also share responsibility for carrying out obligations in the Amendment.

The changes to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 are mostly administrative in nature, and reflect the Amendment's restructuring of the convention governing NAFO.