

## **CCC input for Committee of Fisheries (COFI 34) – July 2020**

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was established to provide a global inter-governmental forum for consideration of international fishery and aquaculture issues, and to review and direct the work program for the FAO in the field of fisheries and aquaculture. Over 100 countries participate in the biennial meetings, that attract about 750 delegates and observers. The US delegation is led by the State Department and a Commerce lead. In addition, the delegation includes specialists from State and Commerce, a US Coast Guard representative, and a representative of the Regional Fishery Management Councils.

The next meeting will be held July 13-17, 2020 in Rome, Italy. Based on the procedure approved by the CCC in June 2018 (which follows the order of council CCC chairmanship), the Council representative would be someone from the South Atlantic Council (ideally a CCC member). If the SAFMC declines, then it falls to the WPFM, and so on.

The CCC will consider likely agenda items and provide guidance to the Council representative in the US delegation. A CCC discussion of the likely key issues would prove of value in this context, and enable the Council representative to participate with more depth of knowledge on the range of issues. This provides the Council representative background to address the full range of issues for all eight Councils. Additionally, to create more continuity between representatives, the CCC may recommend that the designated Council representative contact the prior representative and review reports from the last few meetings prior to attending. The CCC also anticipates that after the COFI meets, the Council representative (potentially in partnership with the NMFS lead) would provide an overview of the results at the following CCC meeting.