

**Marine Genetic Resources –
Outcomes of the Informal Consultation Process (ICP) within the
United Nations**

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The purpose of this presentation is to provide background information on the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (ICP) and show how discussions and debates there fit into the international context. It will also look at the challenges of holding informal multi-State meetings.

The ICP is a unique international oceans policy forum that allows for integrated discussions of topical issues among a wide range of diverse stakeholders (i.e., government representatives, intergovernmental organizations, industry, academics and environmental groups). The 8th meeting of the ICP was held in New York, June 25-29, 2007, and focused its discussions on marine genetic resources (MGR). The co-chairs for the past two meetings have been Canada (Lori Ridgeway, DFO) and Ambassador Maquieira (Chile).

The theme of the 8th ICP was marine genetic resources. Marine genetic resources is an emergent oceans issues and one that is being addressed in several of fora, including, the UN Ad Hoc Working Group on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Commission on Genetic Resources, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Working Groups meetings on Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS WG) and the Conference of Parties (COP).

ICP achieved its goal of building knowledge of MGR. There were also a number of key outcomes and lessons learned that the international community will have to examine before proceeding with the next ICP in June 2008. One of the largest items to be discussed is the need for strengthening relationships between developed and developing countries. This is especially important as the international community debates issues which contain very diverse views.

This presentation will provide the background and information on the ICP. It will also provide an opportunity to this community to discuss the lessons learned and the key outcomes and look at ways in improve and strengthen future steps.