United States of America
Text submission
Contact Group 1, Joint Sub-Group 1.2 and 1.3 Meeting on Fishing Gear, Parts II.8 (Emissions and Releases of Plastic) and II.9(b) (Waste Management/Fishing Gear)
April 26, 1:30pm
(Recommendations for streamlining are highlighted)

General
● The United States recognizes the deleterious environmental and socioeconomic impacts of abandoned, lost, and otherwise discarded fishing and aquaculture gear composed of plastic, and we support targeted provisions in the instrument tailored to addressing this distinct form of plastic pollution.
● As a general matter, we think it is important to keep in mind that the instrument as a whole takes a lifecycle approach to broadly address plastic pollution across products and sectors.
● We think there are a number of provisions that are particularly relevant to addressing plastic pollution from fisheries and aquaculture activities. In the interest of a streamlined and well-organized instrument, we prefer to reference this specific sector in such articles, where tailored provisions would be most impactful.
● In our view, provisions on addressing plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear would be most impactful and best placed in Part II Sections 8 on emissions and releases and Section 9(b) on waste management.

Part II.8 (Emissions and Releases)
● In Part II.8, we support a provision calling for each Party to take actions to prevent fishing and aquaculture gear composed of plastic from becoming abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded in the marine environment, complementary to existing efforts in other international bodies.
● We think that a streamlined provision with broader application can encompass a wide range of preventative actions while providing Parties with the critical flexibility to tailor implementation to fishery-specific contexts in their countries.
● Further, we believe that a provision is in the article on emissions and releases should focus on actions that are related to preventing gear loss.
● We appreciate that OP2 quarter was moved to follow OP2 ter so we can consider the provisions related to plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture gear in this article alongside one another.
● **We think OP2 ter is the best fit for the article on emissions and releases and should be used as the starting point.** We think the aspects in OP2 quarter that are not specifically
mentioned in OP2 ter are captured implicitly in the product design article and explicitly in the waste management article.

- We think the substance of OP2 quarter sub paragraph d may already be covered between the waste management article and the information exchange, awareness raising and education article.
- However, we are open to considering whether sub paragraph d should be integrated into OP2 ter.

- And finally, on emissions and releases, we understood OP2bis to be an intervention at INC3, not a request for an additional paragraph. It would be good to have clarity on this in case the text could be further streamlined.

**Part II.9(b) (Waste Management)**

- The United States thanks the co-chairs and co-facilitators for the technical streamlining, and we support using this as the basis for negotiations moving forward.
- The United States supports obligations and commitments to promote the collection and proper disposal or recycling of fishing and aquaculture gear.
- We view this instrument as an opportunity to harness global momentum to help catalyze and incentivize environmentally sound disposal and recycling of end-of-life fishing and aquaculture gear and to improve collection rates and overall management of plastic waste from this sector.
- We also support including an obligation to promote cooperation, coordination, exchange of information, and sharing of best practices for end-of-life management of fishing and aquaculture gear, as appropriate, including with relevant initiatives and organizations.
- As we noted at INC-3, we propose deleting the subsection headers in this article: “a. Waste Management” and “b. Fishing Gear.” We view “waste management” as a sub header to be redundant with the title of this article, and “fishing gear” seemingly implies that all fishing gear, including gear that is in use, is waste.
- In this section, we support working off of option 1, which now incorporates option 2 and option 5 from the revised draft text.
- In the waste management article, we believe provisions to address plastic pollution from fishing and aquaculture activities should focus on actions related to waste management, including collection, environmentally sound disposal, and recycling.
- In paragraph 2, we recognize there may be some duplication between 2(a) and the article on emissions and releases, as well as the article on information exchange, education, and awareness raising. We would welcome further discussion on the most effective way to capture the importance of training, education, and awareness-raising in this instrument, while keeping our aim to streamline the text in mind.
- With respect to option 1 paragraphs 4 and 5, as we’ve noted across the contact groups and sub groups, we encourage consolidation of provisions on means of implementation and national action plans in Parts III and IV.