

David Balton

Senior Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20229
(202) 691-4106
david.balton@wilsoncenter.org

PROFESSIONAL WORK HISTORY

Senior Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Spring 2018-present). Engaged in researching, writing and public speaking on topics related to the oceans and both Polar Regions.

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, U.S. Department of State (2002–2018). Coordinated the development of U.S. foreign policy concerning oceans and fisheries, and oversaw U.S. participation in international organizations dealing with these issues. Also supervised the Department of State's work on Arctic and Antarctic affairs. Served as lead U.S. negotiator on a wide range of agreements in the field of oceans and fisheries and chaired numerous international negotiations, including meetings of the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials. Attained rank of Ambassador in March 2005, following confirmation by the Senate.

Director, Office of Marine Conservation, U.S. Department of State (1997–2002).

Attorney-Adviser, U.S. Department of State (1985–1997).

RECENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair, International Arctic Fisheries Negotiations: Successfully led negotiations that produced the 2015 [Oslo Declaration](#) and the [Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean](#)

Chair, U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Task Force: Supervised effort to establish the outer limits of the [U.S. continental shelf](#)

OTHER NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2015–2017): Served as Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, overseeing the day-to-day work of the Arctic Council; led negotiations on the [Fairbanks Declaration](#) and numerous initiatives to address Arctic issues

Ross Sea Marine Protected Area (2016): Oversaw U.S. effort to develop and negotiate the [world's largest marine protected area](#)

Our Ocean Conference (2014–2016): Served as key member of Department of State team that planned and organized [conferences](#) that produced unprecedented commitments on ocean protection

U.S.-Cuba Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation (2015): Negotiated and signed [Joint Statement](#) on behalf of the United States

U.S.-Russia Agreement to Prevent Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2015): Led U.S. delegation in negotiating [Agreement](#). Signed Agreement on behalf of the United States. Testified before U.S. Senate in support of successful U.S. ratification effort

Arctic Treaties (2011 and 2013): Co-chaired negotiations that produced the [Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement](#) and the [Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Agreement](#)

North Pacific Fisheries Convention: Chaired international negotiations to establish [regional fisheries management organization for the North Pacific](#). Testified before U.S. Senate in support of successful U.S. ratification effort

UN Fish Stocks Agreement: Served as President of the United Nations Review Conference for this [Agreement](#) in 2006 and 2010

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

Georgetown University Law Center (JD 1985), *magna cum laude*
Harvard College (AB 1981), *cum laude*

Lecturer, Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy, 2011–present

Frequent lecturer at Georgetown University Law Center, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

Recent presentations on Arctic and ocean issues at Harvard University, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Dartmouth College, and in Moscow, Reykjavik and Tromsø

PERSONAL

Performed as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra (juggling oranges). Married to Jane Bowyer Stewart, violinist with the National Symphony Orchestra. Two children, Rebecca and Timothy.