

U.S. Experience with Environmental Reviews of Trade Agreements

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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Experience and approach
- Challenges
- Benefits

Experience – Reviews Completed

- US-Jordan FTA (2000-2001)
- US-Chile FTA (2000-2003)
- US-Singapore FTA (2000-2003)

Experience – Interim Reviews Completed

- US-CAFTA FTA (2003)
- US-Australia FTA (2003)
- US-Morocco FTA (2003)
- US-Bahrain FTA (2004)

Experience – Other Reviews Underway

- WTO
- FTAA
- US-SACU FTA
- US-Panama FTA
- US-Thailand FTA
- US-Andean FTA

Approach

- Started early in negotiations
- Inform negotiators and the public
- Opportunities for public comment
 - On scope and methods
 - On an interim document
- Analytically flexible

Approach

- Examination of possible positive and negative effects
- Emphasis is on U.S. domestic environment
 - Economically-driven effects
 - Regulatory review
- Consideration of transboundary and global issues

Approach

- What is the trade-related issue?
- What is the relation to the current negotiation?
- Is there sufficient information?
- How can it be addressed?
 - Within negotiation
 - Through cooperative activities

Challenges--Considerations for Public Participation

- Capacity of organizations
- Outreach by government
- Interest in trade issues
- Possible redundancy
- Impact of comments
- Feedback from government

Challenges--Methodological

- Timely and concise quantitative information
- Using models to inform policy decisions
- Striking a balance: precision and uncertainty
- Focusing on the current policy decision(s)

Benefits

- Practically-oriented policy exercise
 - Introduce or avoid specific provisions
 - Inform environmental cooperation activities
- Identify trade and environment linkages—positive and negative
- Inform public and negotiating partners