



## **Ambassador David A. Balton**

### **Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials**

Ambassador David A. Balton is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries in the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science. He is responsible for coordinating the development of U.S. foreign policy concerning oceans and fisheries, and overseeing U.S. participation in international organizations dealing with these issues. His portfolio includes managing U.S. foreign policy issues relating to the Arctic and Antarctica.

Ambassador Balton has functioned as the lead U.S. negotiator on a wide range of agreements in the field of oceans and fisheries and has chaired numerous international meetings. His Arctic Council experience includes co-chairing the Arctic Council Task Forces that produced the 2011 Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic and the 2013 Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic. He is presently serving as Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials.

Ambassador Balton previously served for 6 years as Director of the Office of Marine Conservation in the Department of State and for 12 years in the Department's Office of the Legal Adviser.

Ambassador Balton received his A.B. from Harvard College in 1981 and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1985. He has also appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. (juggling oranges).