

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Don Cesar Hotel
St. Petersburg Beach, FL
December 18-20, 2007**

SUMMARY REPORT

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC or 'the Committee') met on December 18-20, 2007, at the Don Cesar Hotel in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. This was the second of two meetings for calendar year 2007.

The agenda (**Attachment A**) was split into informational briefings and policy discussions. Informational status reports were presented by NOAA Fisheries staff on: implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act; current and future developments in seafood quality and safety; improvements to marine recreational fisheries data collection programs; and the status of aquaculture, particularly the status of legislation and actions subsequent to the June 2007 aquaculture summit held in Washington, DC. Full committee policy discussions were held on the completion of the MAFAC report *Vision 2020: The Future of U.S. Marine Fisheries*; development of a NOAA national ocean policy statement; and seafood sustainability and certification standards. The full Committee convened for the first two days, December 18th and 19th before breaking into Subcommittees the morning of December 20th. It reconvened the afternoon of the last day, December 20th, to deliberate and report-out on motions and consensus recommendations to the agency.

The meeting was open to and attended by several members of the public and NOAA-NMFS staff. Below is a synopsis of the Committee's discussions and actions (numbers in parentheses correspond to page numbers of the daily transcript).

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

9 AM – Meeting Convened

Introductions, Opening Remarks, Review Agenda (Day 1 pgs. 4-26) Captain Tony DiLernia, MAFAC Liaison, called the meeting to order, and took a roll call of members present and visitors attending the session. Dr. Mark Holliday, MAFAC's newly appointed Executive Director, delivered opening remarks on behalf of MAFAC vice-Chair Dr. Hogarth, who had been required on short notice to return to Washington, DC for the day. This was followed by a review of the agenda.

MAFAC Administration (Day 1 pgs. 26-77)

Dr. Holliday reviewed several issues regarding MAFAC administration.

- The Committee was reminded to complete their financial disclosure forms and certification statements that were emailed to them in November. They were due to be returned to NOAA the first week in January 2008.

- The Charter for MAFAC, required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, was due to expire in February 2008. Federal rules require the Charter to be re-examined and renewed every 2-years and be in effect to conduct the business of the Committee. Since the June 2007 meeting did not include any discussion of changes to the Charter, and the deadlines for submission for clearance of the Charter renewal fell before conduct of the December meeting, NOAA Fisheries re-submitted the current Charter as-is to the Department of Commerce in November to maintain continuity of MAFAC's authority. Discussion ensued by the Committee on possible modifications to the Charter that can be made at any time, in particular the pros and cons of designating different chair and vice-chairs of the Committee. The current Charter establishes the DOC Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere (i.e., NOAA Administrator) as the Chair, and the vice-Chair as the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries.

ACTION: Mr. Tom Raftican agreed to lead a MAFAC Charter workgroup to assess what other FACA committees have done relative to chairmanship and evaluate other possible changes to the Charter the Committee may wish to recommend, including specific reference to Interstate Fisheries Commission participation; adding aquaculture expertise as a possible Committee member qualification, and a process to fill terms of members leaving the Committee prior to their appointment expirations. The workgroup will meet via teleconference in the spring and prepare recommendations for review prior to the July meeting, where it will be on the agenda. NOAA Fisheries will provide the workgroup with previous versions of the MAFAC charter and copies of the charters for the NOAA Science Advisory Board and the Marine Protected Area Advisory group.

- A table was presented by Dr. Holliday on upcoming term expirations, with 10 new members needing to be recruited by October 2008. The Committee discussed a previous effort to ensure continuity of MAFAC function by allowing no more than one-third of the 21 member appointments to expire in any given year. In a similar situation, NOAA had allowed a subset of expiring member's appointments to be extended for one more year, and this precedent was suggested to NOAA Fisheries as a remedy to the current situation.

- Ms. Michele Shea, Fish for the Future Foundation, presented MAFAC a briefing on the history and Committee responsibilities associated with the NOAA Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Award. This is the third year for the awards, and nominations are open until February 11, 2008. MAFAC will again be asked to review and rank the nominations during a 3-week period beginning at the end of February.

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization (Day 1 pgs. 77-144)

Mr. Alan Risenhoover, Director of the NOAA Fisheries Office of Sustainable Fisheries, presented a briefing on progress in implementing the Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization Act. He began with acknowledging that the passage of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSA) created a significant new workload, and proceeded to provide a status report on new requirements that have a statutory deadline, new requirements without a deadline, and new requirements imposed by the agency to ensure effective execution of the statute. Of the 30 tasks with hard deadlines, 10 were completed at the time of the meeting, 12 more were on track for completion by the due dates and the remaining eight were behind schedule. Over 100 tasks comprised the secondary and tertiary priorities. Eight national rulemakings were underway; two

of the most significant rules being processed are on annual catch limits and revision and updating of agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. An agency website portal to MSRA implementation has been created at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/>. It includes implementation tracking reports that are updated on a weekly basis. He noted the need for intense public education and understanding about the elements involved with ending overfishing, implementing annual catch limits, as well as developing a national recreational fishing registration program. He requested MAFAC to serve as a sounding board on the agency's policy development and implementation strategies in the months ahead.

The ensuing discussion included the following topics: the setting of federal annual catch limits where the fishery is also conducted in state and international waters; the current and future roles of Science and Statistical Committees; whether the report to Congress on fishery science degrees included aquaculture; the agency role in publishing and enforcement of "blacklists" of vessels deemed by national and international fishery management organizations to be conducting IUU (Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated) fishing; regional funding support and preparation of guidelines for development of Limited Access Privilege programs; the agency progress in creating a bycatch reduction engineering program, and its application to addressing predator-prey interactions in an ecosystem context; and status of the agency Cooperative Research program with industry.

The session closed with a discussion of the future role of MAFAC with respect to MSRA implementation and other sustainable fisheries issues. Mr. Risenhoover indicated it would be helpful to hear MAFAC's position on issues such as the agency's annual catch limit rule. In addition, policy issues of how the agency takes the Magnuson Act past the year 2010, and what the next major fisheries issues MAFAC thinks the agency needs to face would be useful to NOAA Fisheries.

Seafood Quality and Safety (Day 1 pgs. 144-192)

Mr. Tim Hansen, Director of the NOAA Fisheries Seafood Inspection Program, presented a briefing on current status and emerging issues in the quality and safety of seafood reaching U.S. consumers. The presentation focused on the federal and state programs associated with inspection, research and enforcement of seafood safety and quality for domestic and imported fisheries products. FDA is the primary agency for U.S. food safety except for meat and poultry for which USDA is responsible. Underneath that are Agricultural Marketing Act organizations that conduct grading and quality and inspection services on a voluntary basis, most of them housed in the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA. The U.S. voluntary seafood inspection program is housed in NOAA Fisheries and focuses on improving seafood safety, quality and marketability.

Mr. Hansen indicated our imported seafood (the vast majority of total US supply) is regulated currently under three principal programs: FDA's Seafood HACCP regulation governing seafood business practices and procedures for handling and processing product; FDA in-plant audits of the 20,000 firms shipping to the U.S.; and the Affirmative-Steps program applied to the importer of record to ensure due diligence in seafood safety. This was followed by a description of the research and inspection capabilities present in NOAA Fisheries; current circumstances at FDA;

and recent activities on seafood safety occurring in Congress. The following trigger questions were posed for discussion:

- What is the most important long term objective for NMFS to accomplish in seafood quality and safety?
- Are there any structural, organizational or process impediments to the success of the agency seafood quality and safety program that should be addressed in the short term?
- What is the highest priority seafood quality and safety issue for the next administration?

Discussion ensued on clarification of what percentage of all U.S. seafood has passed some seafood quality and safety inspection; the relative roles of NMFS and FDA in future seafood quality and safety initiatives; and the possibility for focusing on the illness-oriented safety aspects as the inherently governmental function.

ACTION: NOAA Fisheries to provide documentation to MAFAC of the calculation of percentage of U.S. seafood supply that is inspected (slide 3 in Mr. Hansen's presentation). Mr. Tom Billy, as Chair of the Commerce subcommittee, would take the lead on MAFAC's consideration of the seafood quality and safety trigger questions.

Marine Recreational Fisheries Improvements (Day 1 pgs. 192-243)

Mr. Gordon Colvin, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, briefed the Committee on the status of the effort to improve marine recreational fishery data collection programs. Mr. Colvin reviewed the marine recreational registry component of the program, describing the organizational structure; committee membership; guiding principles and goals; current state license exemptions; and communication strategies. The goal is to publish a proposed rule in early 2008 to begin implementation of the registry program by the required 2009 deadline. Ideas for resolving issues associated with state license exemptions for classes or categories of anglers were presented. Mr. Pres Pate, also representing the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, followed with a presentation on the Operations Team of the recreational statistics improvement program. This team is one of several groups organized by NOAA Fisheries in response to the findings by the 2006 National Research Council review of recreational fisheries survey methods. Several meetings and workshops have been held with the various committees and workgroups comprised of federal, state, industry and angler constituency and stakeholder members. A total of 17 projects are approved for implementation throughout 2008 to implement recommendations and changes to existing survey approaches.

Discussion ensued on the sampling of indigenous fishermen and possible registry exemptions; budget availability for educating the angling public; voluntary compliance with angling surveys; and potential recalculation of fishery allocations based on new recreational angling data.

ACTION: NOAA Fisheries to provide MAFAC information on the share of FY08 recreational fishing improvement budget allocated to education and information.

Aquaculture Status (Day 1 pgs. 243-275)

Dr. Michael Rubino, NOAA Aquaculture Program Manager, briefed the Committee on progress in the area of aquaculture, including milestone events in the creation and publication of the U.S. 10-year plan for aquaculture; the June 2007 national marine aquaculture summit; creation of a aquaculture line item in the NOAA budget; and progress on creating an Office of Aquaculture and centers of excellence for aquaculture science; and the marine aquaculture bill. Highlights were presented on four aspects of the 10-year plan: regulation; science; outreach/education; and international.

Discussion ensued on Commerce Department involvement in aquaculture; the competitive research proposal review process; the use of demonstration projects; issues associated with the aquaculture bill and the Gulf Regional Fishery Management Council aquaculture amendment; and options for advancing aquaculture literacy to support an informed public policy discussion in the U.S and internationally.

5:07 PM Tuesday - Meeting adjourned for the day.

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

9 AM Meeting Reconvened

Vision 2020 Document Discussion (Day 2 pgs. 28-115)

The full Committee met until noon to discuss the public comments received in response to a draft of the MAFAC report *Vision 2020: The future of U.S. marine fisheries* that was made available for public review. As part of the original charge to MAFAC for this project, NOAA Fisheries requested that MAFAC solicit broad public input in the preparation of the report. This meeting's purpose was to review public comments and decide whether and how to modify the contents of the report, with the goal of finalizing the contents by the end of the meeting. Each specific commenter's input was evaluated in turn and choices made to modify the report.

The Committee's discussion included agreement that the report should include additional findings and recommendations related to: the loss of infrastructure and working waterfronts as a threat to sustainable fisheries; the use of *Vision 2020* as a catalyst for subsequent discussion and possible use by future administrations; acknowledging the recent creation of the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program in NOAA Fisheries; the importance of promoting a conservation ethic among fishermen, and the principle of prohibiting the sale of recreationally caught fish; options (including preferential access or pilot programs; analogous treatment to agriculture with respect to credit, financing and technical assistance) to enable commercial fishermen to enter aquaculture fisheries to promote continuity of employment and sustainability of coastal communities; the relative roles and responsibilities for place-based management by NOAA Fisheries and other NOAA line offices. Mary Hope Katsouros and her staff (as part of their project support effort to MAFAC) were asked to incorporate these and other editorial changes into the document in time for Thursday morning's meeting of the *Vision 2020* workgroup.

Development of a NOAA National Ocean Policy Statement (Day 2 pgs. 115–174)

Mr. Jim Gilmore, Chairman of the Strategic Planning subcommittee, led this session to discuss possible policy areas and priorities for creating one or more NOAA ocean policy statements. The context was the potential next round of actions to implement the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy; several pending legislative opportunities/drivers such as the NOAA Organic Act (HR 250), the HR 21 Oceans bill, the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act; and new and emerging policy issues facing NOAA. Several trigger questions were provided in the annotated agenda:

- What are the pros and cons of creating a NOAA Ocean policy statement?
- What purposes would be served by developing such a statement?
- What scope and level of detail should be targeted?
- What role(s) would MAFAC have in advising NOAA on this topic and future statements?
- What is MAFAC's view relative to progress on implementation of the USCOP and Ocean Action Plan and recommended next steps?

Discussion ensued on creating greater public excitement and focus on oceans issues for citizens from pre-school to adult; being not only able to identify the ocean policies that will be important over the next 10 years but having the resources to do something about them in the current budget climate; resolving the tension/conflicts between competing ideas for conservation and utilization of the ocean; the role of NOAA providing a stronger international leadership role regarding the use of the oceans for food; the necessity to develop materials in the near future for use by transition teams of the new administration. The Committee requested legislative updates/briefings be made a standing agenda item of each meeting. The Committee suggested during the subcommittee's deliberation of this topic on Thursday morning that use of the ecosystem context be used as a backdrop for discussion, and that any recommendations to be made use a tired approach; directing specific guidance to NOAA and separate recommendations for NOAA Fisheries.

Seafood Certification Standard (Day 2 pgs. 174 - 244)

Mr. Tom Billy, Chairman of the Commerce subcommittee, led this session to initiate a discussion of what role the U.S. government should pursue in the development of sustainability standards and marks for both wild caught and/or aquacultured fish and fishery products through a formal certification program. Several trigger questions were provided in the annotated agenda:

- Is there a need for additional federal sustainability standards for seafood?
- If so, What form should they take – general guidance or specific standards? What would be the scope, e.g., wild versus all seafood sources? Domestic production only or imports as well? What is the definitional boundary of “sustainable seafood?” Is a sustainable label or mark desired? Practical?
What is the role of other federal agencies, industry, NGOs, consumer groups?
- If no need for additional federal sustainability standards, why not?

An update and discussion of the NOAA Fisheries website FishWatch was presented by Mr. Alan Risenhoover. The Committee appreciated the good start made by FishWatch and encouraged continued refinement of the site. Discussion ensued on the importance of NOAA Fisheries

promoting the positive sustainable fisheries outcomes it has achieved (preferring wording in the positive (e.g., “sustainable”) versus use of multiple negatives (i.e., “not overfished”). There was a lengthy discussion of domestic and international ecolabeling programs, as well as reference to the FAO guidelines for ecolabeling. NOAA Fisheries policy on third-party seafood certification was discussed, and the point was made that the 10 national standards for fisheries conservation and management in the MSA are considered the nation’s federal standards for sustainability. Various comments were offered on the role of third-party certification, including differences between designations of “green”, “safe” and “sustainable”; the need for a universally accepted sustainability standard/definition, and possible roles for the agency in auditing certification programs. The Commerce subcommittee was asked to follow up on these issues at their Thursday morning meeting.

4:56 PM Wednesday - Meeting adjourned for the day.

Thursday, December 20, 2007

The MAFAC Commerce and Strategic Planning subcommittees met concurrently from 8:00-10 AM; the Charter Workgroup met from 10-10:29 AM; and the *Vision 2020* workgroup met from 10:38 AM until 12:05 PM.

The Full Committee reconvened at 1:16 PM, Mr. Tom Billy presiding for Capt. DiLernia.

Dr. Hogarth began the session by making a brief presentation on the FY 2008 budget figures that had just been agreed to by Congress. (Day 3 pgs. 94-109). Discussion ensued on what specific increase or decreases were known for a variety of programs.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report (Day 3 pgs. 109-118)

Mr. Gilmore then gave the report of the Strategic Planning subcommittee (**Attachment B**) that included a proposed work plan for MAFAC to develop an ocean policy document with the principal audience being the incoming administration. Drafts would be prepared and circulated for review prior to the next meeting, with a proposed final action to be taken at the July MAFAC meeting. The contents would tier off the *Vision 2020* document as a set of near-term actions to be undertaken in the next 4 years. The primary message would focus on the need for NOAA to become the nation’s lead ocean agency. The work plan would evaluate what would have to happen to make this a reality. The following framework was proposed for developing the contents of an ocean policy statement.

- (1) Look closely at the NOAA Organic Act legislation – as currently written. Is it helpful or not in accomplishing the goal of NOAA becoming the lead ocean agency? Is NMFS role properly articulated? Is it too prescriptive/not enough?
- (2) Look at current agency structure and make recommendations re: coordination of management/statutory responsibilities within NOAA (e.g., marine area management; living marine resource management).
- (3) Emphasize ecosystem approach to management – removal of internal and external barriers to management; establish framework for science, research, cumulative assessment of impacts-biological, economic, social, cultural, ecological.
- (4) Explore alternatives for additional funding for NOAA, such as considering pending

legislative proposals for creating an oceans stamp, allocating a portion of federal oil and gas royalties, etc.

(5) Information and education: Creating an informed public; marketing NOAA accomplishments and successes;

(6) Measurement of success – ecological health to economic productivity. Policy development that ties improved ocean ecological health to promoting economic productivity through responsible aquaculture development, LAPPs, recreational fisheries, etc.

(7) Organize NOAA science leadership in data research to emerging areas of integrated science of climate change, including ocean acidification.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the Strategic Planning subcommittee report and workplan.

Commerce Subcommittee Report (Day 3 pgs. 118-155)

Mr. Tom Billy presented the report of the Commerce subcommittee (**Attachment C**) and facilitated the ensuing discussion of its three components: aquaculture; seafood safety and quality; and seafood sustainability and certification. With respect to seafood quality and safety, the Committee requested at least an additional one-half day detailed briefing to gain a better understanding of: what FDA is doing; what the states are doing; what is contained in the pending FDA-NMFS MOU; what is the NOAA Fisheries role in the Bush Administration Food Safety Plan/Import Safety Plan; and requested an FDA representative be invited to attend the July meeting.

ACTION: MAFAC requested NOAA Fisheries prepare in collaboration with other entities a discussion paper on strategic directions for seafood safety and quality issues with a particular emphasis on what role(s) NOAA might play and the resource implications. This would serve as input to Committee discussion of the topic at the July meeting.

With respect to seafood sustainability and certification, the Committee acknowledged the progress made on the FishWatch website, and encouraged NOAA Fisheries to substantially expand its education and promotion efforts to educate stakeholders and the public on the positive stewardship accomplishments of the agency.

ACTION: MAFAC requested that NOAA Fisheries conduct a review and analysis of sustainability certification programs employing a comparative matrix of the scope, standards and criteria used, science validation, costs and funding sources. This would include examination of each program's use of the FAO guidelines for ecolabeling and an assessment of the potential need for and role of NOAA or other entities as an auditor of such programs in the U.S. This report would serve as a basis for further discussion at the July meeting.

ACTION: MAFAC reiterated its recommendation from the June 2007 meeting that NOAA Fisheries meet, along with other country fishery agencies, with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to discuss certification issues such as deference to national fisheries management systems and the setting of MSC conditions for certification.

Mr. Bill Dewey then proceeded to describe the contents of a letter drafted by the Commerce subcommittee from Bill Hogarth to VADM Lautenbacher expressing MAFAC's suggestion

regarding an opportunity to further the Department's goal for aquaculture development as part of reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act. The letter suggests that coastal states, as part of their comprehensive planning and preparation of coastal zone management plans to respond to national priorities, consider aquaculture among those priorities.

Charter Working Group Report (Day 3 pgs. 155-157)

Mr. Tom Raftican presented an oral report of the Charter Working Group. Tom has agreed to lead a MAFAC Charter workgroup to assess what other NOAA FACA committees have done relative to chairmanship and evaluate other possible changes to the Charter the Committee may wish to recommend, including specific reference to Interstate Fisheries Commission participation; adding aquaculture expertise as a possible Committee member qualification, and a process to fill terms of members leaving the Committee prior to their appointment expirations. The workgroup will meet via teleconference in the spring and prepare recommendations for review prior to the July meeting, where it will be on the agenda.

ACTION: NOAA Fisheries will provide the workgroup with previous versions of the MAFAC charter and copies of the charters for the NOAA Science Advisory Board and the Marine Protected Area Advisory group.

The Committee adopted the Working Group report by unanimous vote.

Vision 2020 Working Group Report (Day 3 pgs.157-161)

Mr. Tom Billy summarized the proceedings of the Thursday morning working session on *Vision 2020* (Day 3 Pgs 18-93), including the timetable for execution of the Committee's requested edits by staff, and suggestions for distribution and roll-out of the document. The Committee unanimously voted to adopt the *Vision 2020* document as amended as their vision of the future of U.S. fisheries.

New Business

The next meeting of MAFAC was confirmed for July 1-3, 2008, in New York City at the Radisson Martinique.

2:49 PM Thursday the Committee Adjourned

All documents and transcripts associated with MAFAC meetings and deliberations are posted at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac.

ATTENDANCE:

MAFAC

Tom Billy

Randy Cates

John Connelly

Bill Dewey

Tony Dilernia, Committee Liaison

Chris Dorsett

Robert (Bob) Fletcher

John Forster

Catherine Foy
Jim Gilmore
William T. Hogarth, Vice Chair and Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Mark Holliday, Executive Director, MAFAC
Steve Joner
Dorothy Lowman
Heather McCarty
John (Vince) O'Shea (Non-Voting Consultant, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Comm.)
Tom Raftican
Ralph Rayburn
Ken Roberts
Eric Schwaab
Larry Simpson (Non-Voting Consultant, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Comm.)
Mary Beth Tooley
Absent Members:
Rob Kramer
Pete Leipzig
Randy Fisher (Non-Voting Consultant, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Comm.)

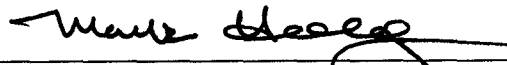
NOAA/NMFS Staff:

Jim Balsiger, AK Regional Administrator, NMFS
Heather Blough, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS
Laurel Bryant, Office of Policy, NMFS
Gordon Colvin, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS
Roy Crabtree, SE Regional Administrator, NMFS
Tim Hansen, Seafood Inspection Program, NMFS
Brian Keller, National Marine Sanctuary Program, NOS
John Oliver, Deputy Assistant Administrator, NMFS
Tywana Otts, Partnerships and Communication, Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS
Pres Pate, Office of Science and Technology, NMFS
Alan Risenhoover, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS
Michael Rubino, Director, Aquaculture Program, NOAA

Members of the Public and other agencies:

Carol Ballew, retired NOAA employee
Elizabeth Fetherston, Ocean Conservancy
Gary Graham, Texas Sea Grant
Mary Hope Katsouros, Fish for the Future Foundation
Kathryn Novak, Ocean Conservancy
Michelle Shea, Fish for the Future Foundation
Tom Wheatley, Marine Fish Conservation Network

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark C. Holliday, Ph.D. January 22, 2008
Executive Director, MAFAC



Attachment A

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 1-727-367-6952 (fax number)
<http://www.doncesar.com/>

Day 1 - Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30	30	Morning Refreshments Available	
9:00	30	Introductions & Opening Remarks	Dr. Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries
9:30	30	Agenda Review: Overview of Plenary, Subcommittee, and Working Group Agendas for the Meeting	Tony DiLernia, MAFAC Liaison
10:00	30	MAFAC Administration: - Financial Disclosure Statements - 2008 Nomination Process; Liaison Position - Charter Renewal - Sustainability Awards	Mark Holliday, NMFS Policy Office Michele Shea, Fish for the Future Foundation
10:30	15	Break	
10:45	75	Briefing – Seafood Quality and Safety - Current and future developments in seafood quality and safety: science, technology, enforcement, management and inspection-- international, federal, state and industry issues	Tim Hansen, NMFS Seafood Inspection Program
12:00	90	Lunch	
1:30	60	Briefing – Magnuson Stevens Act: - Schedule/status of Implementation (NEPA Improvement, Annual Catch Limits, and Limited Access Programs)	Alan Risenhoover, NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Office
2:30	60	Briefing – Marine Recreational Fisheries Improvements	Gordon Colvin, NMFS Office of Science and Technology
3:30	15	Break	
3:45	75	Briefing – Aquaculture: - Bill Status - Aquaculture Summit impacts - Status rpt. re: strategic goals/performance metrics - Next Steps – with and w/out bill	Michael Rubino, NOAA Aquaculture Program
5:00		Adjourn	

Day 2 – Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30	30	Morning Refreshments Available	
9:00	180	Full Committee Discussion – Vision 2020 Project - Public comments review - Responses/recommendations	Dr. Bill Hogarth, AA for NOAA Fisheries Tony DiLernia, MAFAC Liaison Mary Hope Katsouros, Fish for the Future Foundation
12:00	60	Lunch	
1:00	120	Full Committee Discussion – Development of a NOAA National Ocean Policy Statement: - Need for, pros/cons - Focus on big picture, relevant authorities, mandates, science, governance. - Context Oceans 21 bill, NOAA Organic Act, Reauthorization MSRA, CZMA. - What are legislative and policy priorities for remainder of administration? - What are near-term MAFAC opportunities for giving policy advice?	Jim Gilmore, Strategic Planning Subcommittee Chair
3:00	15	Break	
3:15	105	Full Committee Discussion – Seafood Certification Standard: - Fish Watch Follow-up - MSC Certification Issues - Authority and Desirability for a Federal Sustainability “Mark” - Next Steps	Tom Billy, Commerce Subcommittee Chair
5:00		Adjourn	
6:00		Reception hosted by Fish For the Future Foundation	

Day 3 – Thursday, December 20, 2007

Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30	30	Morning Refreshments Available	
9:00	180	Subcommittee and Working Group Meetings: Responses to Full Committee Discussions - Strategic Planning Subcommittee (NOAA Ocean Policy) - Commerce (Aquaculture and seafood certification) - Recfish (Recreational Improvement program) - Vision 2020 (Final document)	Jim Gilmore, Strategic Planning Subcommittee Tom Billy, Commerce Subcommittee Bob Fletcher, RecFish Working Group Tony DiLernia, Vision 2020 Working Group
12:00	60	Lunch	
1:00	180	Subcommittee and Working Group Reports, Recommendations, and MAFAC Motions - Strategic Planning Subcommittee (NOAA Ocean Policy) - Commerce (Aquaculture and seafood certification) - Recfish (Recreational Improvement program) - Vision 2020 (Final document)	Jim Gilmore, Strategic Planning Subcommittee Tom Billy, Commerce Subcommittee Bob Fletcher, RecFish Working Group Tony DiLernia, Vision 2020 Working Group
4:00	60	Review of Action Items, Next Steps and Place	
5:00		Adjourn	

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
Strategic Planning Subcommittee
Report to the Committee on NOAA Ocean Policy Statement
December 19, 2007**

It would be useful for MAFAC to work on development of its view of a statement of ocean policy. The purpose of this exercise is to develop a policy statement to inform the incoming administration about ocean policy priorities. Over the long term, the document would provide policy direction/guidance for NOAA to apply internally and externally in ocean policy venues.

Tier-off the *Vision 2020* report, looking for what short term actions are necessary to achieve the desired outcomes of long term sustainable oceans policy identified in the *Vision 2020* report. Propose subcommittee work between meetings to draft a policy statement for consideration and input by the full Committee also prior to the July meeting with final action at the July meeting. Statement of Ocean Policy primary message is that NOAA needs to become the nation's lead ocean agency.

Premise: What would have to happen to make this a reality? What are the component parts of an ocean policy statement? Issues? The following framework is proposed for developing contents of an ocean policy statement.

- (1) Look closely at the NOAA Organic Act legislation – as currently written. Is it helpful or not in accomplishing the goal of NOAA becoming the lead ocean agency? Is NMFS role properly articulated? Is it too prescriptive/not enough?
- (2) Look at current agency structure and make recommendations re: coordination of management/statutory responsibilities *within* NOAA (e.g., marine area management; living marine resource management).
- (3) Emphasize ecosystem approach to management – removal of internal and external barriers to management; establish framework for science, research, cumulative assessment of impacts-biological, economic, social, cultural, ecological.
- (4) Explore alternatives for additional funding for NOAA, such as considering pending legislative proposals for creating an oceans stamp, allocating a portion of federal oil and gas royalties, etc.
- (5) Information and education: Creating an informed public; marketing NOAA accomplishments and successes;
- (6) Measurement of success – ecological health to economic productivity. Policy development that ties improved ocean ecological health to promoting economic productivity through responsible aquaculture development, LAPPs, recreational fisheries, etc.
- (7) Organize NOAA science leadership in data research to emerging areas of integrated science of climate change, including ocean acidification.

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
Commerce Subcommittee Report
December 20, 2007**

Aquaculture

MAFAC acknowledges and appreciates the strong leadership and significant progress, including the 10-year plan, made by NOAA Fisheries and the Department of Commerce (DOC) in aquaculture in the past year. Aquaculture is a key area of our *Vision 2020* document and the Committee urges continued emphasis by DOC and NOAA Fisheries leadership.

Much remains to be done and MAFAC looks forward to continuing updates on implementation of the 10-year plan. In particular, progress reports are desired on the legislation, and budget and commercial scale demonstration projects that inform and educate the public about environmentally sound domestic aquaculture.

The Committee stands willing to be of assistance as NOAA moves forward in its efforts.

Seafood Safety and Quality

While much progress has been made in seafood safety, quality and labeling in the past decade by the responsible Federal and State agencies and industry, it is clear to MAFAC and the public that some longstanding problems remain and new problems have emerged.

MAFAC requests NOAA Fisheries to develop a draft discussion paper on the issue of seafood safety and quality in cooperation with FDA, other federal agencies and the states, which identifies key problems and provides options and resource implications for addressing them, focusing in particular on the proposed specific role of NOAA Fisheries in seafood safety, quality and labeling, for consideration by MAFAC at its next meeting.

Seafood Sustainability and Certification

MAFAC acknowledges and supports the development and release of the FishWatch website and initial efforts to promote public awareness of its availability. MAFAC looks forward to its continued expansion, improvement and promotion. NOAA is encouraged to significantly expand education and promotion of its fisheries management results with emphasis on the National Standards and sustainability.

NOAA is encouraged to review sustainability programs available from NGOs, government and industry both domestically and in other countries to evaluate their approach, scope, standards, cost and acceptance. In this review consideration should be given to the application of FAO guidelines for ecolabeling, and the need for third party auditors to monitor and evaluate these programs on an ongoing basis, including such a role for NOAA in the U.S.

MAFAC requests briefings on NOAA activities and results of its efforts at upcoming meetings.