



Vision 2020: The Future of U.S. Marine Fisheries



Vision 2020

- Purpose of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)
- Report Objective
- Trends Assessed
- MAFAC Findings
- Recommendations



MAFAC

- Representative range of expertise and geography
- Advises Secretary of Commerce on living marine resource matters
- Evaluates and assesses national programs and priorities



Objective of Vision 2020

“...to create, in clear, simple, non-jargon language, a stakeholders’ consensus on the desired future state of domestic and international fisheries.”



Vision 2020

Full report is organized into three sections:



- Trends and their impact on marine fisheries
- MAFAC findings
- Summary recommendations

Trends and their impact on marine fisheries

Complex relationship exists between fish and fishermen.

Goal of fisheries management is to assure sustainable use to allow the resource to be used indefinitely.



Trends expected to continue to grow

- Global fisheries production (slowly)
- Consumer demand for fish and shellfish
- Seafood consumption per capita and recognition of health benefits
- Domestic demand for safe seafood exceeding supply of domestic wild stocks
- Recreational sector, as population grows, lives longer, and has more leisure time
- Aquaculture supply
- Science and data demands for ecosystem-based management

Other Trends

- All sectors will continue to suffer if policies do not address overcapacity
- International fisheries management will have greater impact on status of worldwide stocks



MAFAC Findings

- Domestic fisheries alone are unlikely to meet America's demand for seafood
- Consumers must have confidence in safety, quality, and labeling of seafood
- A robust domestic aquaculture industry is needed to meet demand and reduce seafood trade deficit



MAFAC Findings



- Limited access privilege programs (LAPPs) protect fishermen, resources, and should be implemented as quickly as feasible
- Allocation disputes will decrease with sustainable, productive, rationalized fisheries
- All fishery sectors play a major role in economic viability of coastal communities

MAFAC Findings

- Ecosystem-management approaches will play a more significant role

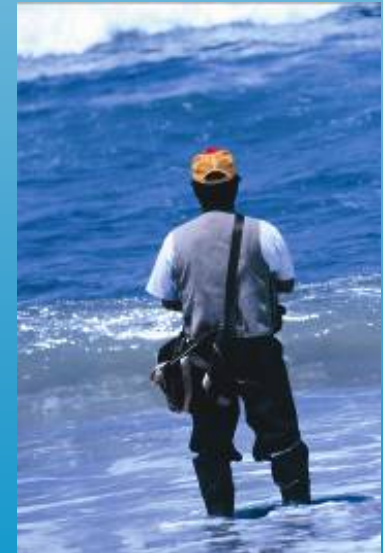


- The U.S. must continue strong role in international Regional Fishery Management Organizations

Vision 2020

Report proposes 24 recommendations to achieve a future with:

- Healthy, sustainable fish populations
- Robust fishing and marine offshore aquaculture industry
- Ample recreational fishing opportunities
- Numerous, vibrant coastal fishing communities
- Safe and healthy seafood supply for the nation



Vision 2020

Recommendations are summarized into five broad categories:

- Demand, supply and quality of seafood products
- Commercial fishing
- Recreational fishing
- Aquaculture in the U.S.
- Management



Report includes appendices detailing the rationale for each recommendation

Vision 2020

The full Report, and information about MAFAC, can be found at:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/index.htm>



Questions?

