

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

**SUMMARY MEETING REPORT**

**MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Chateau Le Moyne Hotel**

**New Orleans, LA**

**November 12-14, 2008**

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC or 'the Committee') met on November 12-14, 2008, at the Chateau Le Moyne Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. This was the second of two meetings in calendar year 2008.

The agenda (**Attachment A**) covered three full days of work, and was split into orientation, administrative and organizational work on Day 1, followed by informational briefings and policy discussions on Days 2 and 3. This was the first meeting for four new members of the Committee.

Day 1 began with introductions and opening remarks, review of the agenda and a new member orientation, including an ethics and financial disclosure briefing. A brief status report followed on the seafood safety and quality task from the July 2008 meeting. The afternoon of Day 1 was spent discussing the various subcommittees of MAFAC, including their membership, current projects and suggestions for future work. Informational status reports were presented on the morning of Day 2 by NOAA Fisheries staff to the full Committee on: implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act; budget and transition updates, and agency ecolabeling efforts. The *Vision 2020* working group discussed their next steps. Program briefings were provided by NOAA, industry and regional experts on limited access privilege programs in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council aquaculture Fishery Management Plan. Policy discussions and recommendations followed each set of presentations. Day 3 focused on presentations that highlighted policies influencing U.S. fisheries infrastructure, from the impacts of Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf to federal programs influencing sustainable fishing communities. Discussions, findings and recommendations by MAFAC followed each set of presentations.

The meeting was open to the public. However, no member of the public took the opportunity to present written or oral comments to MAFAC. The following is a more detailed synopsis of the Committee's discussions and actions (numbers in parentheses correspond to page numbers of the daily transcript, available online at [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/meetings/2008\\_11/index.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/meetings/2008_11/index.htm)).

## **Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

### **9 AM – Meeting Convened**

#### Introductions, Opening Remarks, Review Agenda (Day 1 pgs. 6-46).

Dr. Jim Balsiger, NOAA Fisheries Acting Assistant Administrator and MAFAC vice-chair called the meeting to order, and introduced Mr. Tom Billy, MAFAC Liaison. Dr. Balsiger and Mr. Larry Simpson of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (the meeting's local host) each welcomed the Committee and gave opening remarks. A roll call of members present and visitors attending the session was taken. This was followed by a review of the agenda by Mr. Billy.

#### MAFAC Administration (Day 1 pgs. 46-96)

Dr. Holliday, MAFAC Executive Director, presented an overview of the Committee structure, function and operations for the benefit of the new members. A new MAFAC member handbook prepared by NOAA Fisheries was described and members were asked to provide feedback within 60 days on the draft that was posted on the MAFAC website [Action Due January 30, 2009] The url is:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/meetings/2008\\_11/docs/mafac\\_handbook11102008.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/meetings/2008_11/docs/mafac_handbook11102008.pdf).

The new member recruitment process for 2009 was discussed as four vacancies are upcoming in October 2009. The briefing concluded with an overview of the requirements of MAFAC members under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and a powerpoint presentation on federal travel regulations. The travel briefing covered the initiation of travel, common carrier reservations through ADTRAV, and filing travel claims under GSA and NOAA regulations and procedures.

#### Ethics and Financial Disclosure Briefing (Day 1 pgs. 97-132)

Mr. William Jacobi, Senior Counsel in the Ethics Law and Programs Division of the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel gave a briefing to members via teleconference call. He explained the roles and responsibilities of members with respect to ethics, financial disclosure and fielded several questions on conflicts of interest and reporting requirements.

#### Seafood Quality and Safety (Day 1 pgs.132-161)

Mr. Tim Hansen, Director of the NOAA Fisheries Seafood Inspection Program briefed the Committee on progress on the development of a strategic plan for seafood quality and safety. There has been significant progress in developing the strategic plan for seafood safety and quality in response to MAFAC's recommendation. However, the ad hoc group that is working on the plan has asked the Committee for a delay in completion until the next MAFAC meeting in the spring or summer of 2009. Several compelling reasons were presented on why delaying the final document is desirable. These include changes in the administration; implementation of last year's Farm bill provisions for new catfish inspection; current budgetary continuing resolution prohibiting new program starts; a new FDA Food Protection Plan that may influence future policies; and potential legislative activities in the new Congress that would affect inspection policy. The Committee requested that the plan be ready for the spring 2009 meeting.

#### Subcommittee and Working Group Briefings (Day 1 pgs.132-161)

The purpose of this agenda item was to introduce the new members to the work that the subcommittees have recently been involved in, as well as to open the door to potential new projects or issues that the subcommittees may want to take up over the next year or two. The afternoon of Day 1 was spent discussing the various subcommittees of MAFAC, including their membership, current projects and suggestions for future work. There was agreement that if members saw a need for a different subcommittee, it could be created. Conversely, if the members don't see a need for the continuation of a subcommittee then it could be dissolved and its members could move on to other subcommittees.

The Committee agreed for continuity reasons to continue with the same chairs of the subcommittees through the next meeting. Current members are to consider whether they would be interested in becoming a member of a particular subcommittee, and express that interest as well as their interest to serve as chair of one of the subcommittees by contacting Mark Holliday before the next meeting. [Action due by March 1, 2009]

Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Day 1 pgs. 165-177) – Mr. Jim Gilmore presented the briefing on this subcommittee as he is its current chairperson. He indicated the objective was to get some advice to the Agency and help them in their policy development before the general public gets through it. The chair considers all the members of MAFAC to be members of the subcommittee. Generally, what has been done in the past is to set aside a block in the afternoon for the subcommittees to meet. It is sometimes necessary to have overlapping sessions, and thus people go where their strongest interests are. So, we just have a number of folks who have come in to various projects that interest them. The new members were encouraged not to look too much at the organizational boxes but take advantage of their MAFAC membership to contribute where they think best.

Commerce Subcommittee (Day 1 pgs.177-183) - Mr. Tom Billy presided and described the subcommittee as having a very broad mandate. Anything to do with business matters, consumers, economics in the macro-sense that relate to fisheries -- both commercial, recreational fisheries -- are matters that can be taken up by the Commerce Subcommittee. Currently, one of the items that we are dealing with is the seafood safety quality and labeling topic. The Committee dealt extensively with aquaculture over the last two or three years and as a result of those discussions and considerations, asked the Agency to develop a strategic plan which led to what is now called the NOAA Aquaculture Ten Year Plan. Ecolabeling is another matter that has come up, and MAFAC has been briefed on what currently is going on nationally and internationally. We learned a lot about some of the strategies that are being pursued by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations as well as some of the NGOs in this area. And we have had several in-depth discussions about this in deciding what, if anything, this Committee might recommend to NOAA Fisheries about a federal ecolabel. This is an ongoing area of consideration. And then finally the subcommittee has looked at the need for new technology as it would relate to fisheries, and providing advice and input into that broad area.

#### Recreational Fisheries Working Group (Day 1 pgs.183-190)

Mr. Bob Fletcher described this working group, reminding everyone it was designed to convene for a finite period. The Recreational Fisheries Working Group was created as a result of changes to the Magnuson Act that required the nation to do a better job of counting all recreational fishermen. The working group has provided support to the NOAA Fisheries Service nationwide effort to redesign a collaborative partnership for the collection and estimation of improved recreational catch, effort and participation information. MAFAC agreed that the subcommittee should continue to exist at least into the near future as many implementation issues remain for 2009 and beyond.

#### Protected Resources Subcommittee (Day 1 pgs. 190-198)

Mr. Bob Fletcher described the history and purpose of the subcommittee, which has never formally met. The trigger for the subcommittee formation was the recovery of the California sea lion and the inability to deal with expanded population effects under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. MAFAC needed to begin to consider ways to improve the Act and recognize the successes that have resulted from the Act's protections, and be ready to provide some guidance to the agency as they begin to develop a position on reauthorization.

Scientific permitting under the Endangered Species Act was characterized by several members as a long, tedious process that makes it difficult to conduct good science. There was discussion of MAFAC possibly facilitating a workshop of regional investigators from around the country to meet with the NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources permit staff to focus on key areas and opportunities to improve the process. However, no final action was taken at this meeting.

#### Ecosystem Approaches Subcommittee (Day 1 pgs. 198-220)

Mr. Chris Dorsett described the purpose and function of the subcommittee. It was put together to review initiatives for the development and implementation of ecosystem based approaches to fisheries management. MAFAC has received various briefings on reports that describe an ecosystem approach, and allied efforts aimed at certain aspects of such an approach such as protecting sea floor habitat from trawling, and evaluating climate change impacts on fishing. Managing for weak stock success and incorporating predator-prey dynamics into assessments still suffer from lack of data and insufficient modeling. However, the subcommittee felt the fisheries ecosystem emphasis in NOAA in general was being overtaken by the recent focus on climate change. One strategy suggested was to have the MAFAC subcommittee modify the subcommittee name to incorporate explicitly "climate" and "ecosystems" together to maintain the visibility and importance of the latter. However, no final action was taken at this meeting.

#### Potential New Subcommittee Topic Areas (Day 1 pgs. 220-301)

The Committee debated numerous topics that the subcommittee's could adopt for future discussion. The process was initiated by looking at a list of topics or issues that NMFS is going to be working on over the next 12 months. While some of topics were more detailed/specific management and regulatory actions that are going to be important to fisheries, they all had potential implications for MAFAC with respect to positions on policy, guidance, direction or priorities into the future and on which the Committee could choose to provide advice. Some of the topics generating the most interest and discussion included:

- Recovery planning and de-listing processes for species under the ESA
- LAPP guidance and preferred implementation procedures [MAFAC suggested re-visiting findings made at prior meetings on this topic]
- Regional Fishery Management Organizations' inability to manage to scientific advice
- Ocean acidification [MAFAC requested a full briefing and discussion be scheduled for their next meeting]
- Clean energy/alternative energy sources and their impacts on LMR stewardship
- State-Federal alignment of regulations for species under interjurisdictional management
- Ocean zoning/spatial planning

This discussion included a revised list of potential ideas for consideration by the various subcommittees. The Committee noted that not all the topics themselves were of national policy interest to MAFAC but either represented regional cases that were symptomatic of a larger policy question needing MAFAC attention or, if dealt with regionally, could have precedent – setting effect for the rest of the organization.

At 4:36 p.m. the proceedings of MAFAC adjourned for the day.

#### **Thursday, November 13, 2008**

#### **8:30 AM – Meeting Re-Convened**

##### Update Briefing Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization (Day 2 pgs. 4-60)

Mr. Alan Risenhoover, Director of the NOAA Fisheries Service Office of Sustainable Fisheries, presented a briefing on progress in implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act. He covered 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. An agency website portal to MSRA implementation provides detailed status reports for every action at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007/>. He focused his remarks on the two most significant rules currently being processed: annual catch limits (ACLs), and revision and updating of agency procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). On ACLs, the latest status of the stocks report indicates NOAA has 41 stocks that are currently subject to over-fishing. A total of 17 percent of those stocks that we have data on are required to have annual catch limits in place by 2010. On NEPA, NOAA started with the CEQ regulations as a basis. They worked very closely with CEQ to make sure the proposed rule meets the current CEQ guidelines. The four major parts of this rule were content, documentation, public involvement and timeline. Both final rules were expected to be submitted to OMB in anticipation of final approval during this administration (i.e., January 20, 2009).

##### Update Briefing – Budget/Transition (Day 2 pgs. 60-95)

Mr. Gary Reisner, Chief Financial Officer for NOAA Fisheries Service, presented the Committee a summary of fiscal year 2008 and 2009 budget data, pointing out significant increases and decreases and discussing the prospects for a 2009 budget or a year-long continuing resolution (CR) after the current CR expires on March 6, 2009. The Committee began

discussing various risks and potential impacts of budget scenarios for all the missions of NOAA and in particular the priorities for fisheries and living marine resource interests of MAFAC. Questions were raised about the appropriate venue to raise these budget concerns and priorities (e.g., current acting NOAA Administrator, transition team representatives, new Obama administration appointees at the NOAA and/or Department level). The Committee requested that they be kept informed of budget status information, especially the aspects of the continuing resolution, trends towards certain outcomes and any new developments [Action Reisner/Holliday – ongoing] In addition, the Committee agreed to consider the timing of the spring 2009 MAFAC meeting: whether to accelerate the meeting date or have a smaller contingent meet and represent MAFAC’s budget concerns, questions and priority recommendations to the new administration in early 2009. The latter was the preferred choice.

#### Update Briefing - Ecolabeling (Day 2 pgs. 75-122)

Dr. Mark Holliday, Director of the NOAA Fisheries Service Office of Policy briefed the Committee on the response of the agency to MAFAC’s July recommendations on a federal ecolabel. As background, in 2007, NMFS requested that MAFAC evaluate and recommend what role the U.S. Government should pursue with respect to ecolabeling, and if there should be a formal government certification program. This was discussed at the last two MAFAC meetings (Dec 2007, July 2008). At the July 2008 meeting, an overview of seafood eco-labeling was presented to MAFAC, they were provided the FAO guidance on eco-labeling and other background material, and a presentation was made by Ms. Kitty Simonds (Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council) on a proposal supporting a NOAA Sustainable Fisheries label. MAFAC passed a motion stating:

“NOAA [should] provide a plan to provide a mark and/or other acknowledgment for use on or with domestic fishery products that are sustainably managed in accordance with U.S. national standards. Further, that NOAA make a substantial effort to improve public education efforts through FishWatch and other means regarding the status of U.S. fish and shellfish stocks and the health benefits of consuming them.”

NMFS leadership considered this motion and further discussed the topic at their August 2008 meeting in Woods Hole. The preferred recommendations that resulted are as follows:

1. It is recommended that the Leadership Council not endorse the creation of a federal ecolabel.
2. It is recommended that NOAA Fisheries focus its resources on expanding and improving efforts to communicate and acknowledge the status of sustainability of U.S. domestic fisheries in accordance with U.S. national standards. Further, that NOAA Fisheries should make a substantial effort to improve public education efforts through FishWatch and other means regarding the status of U.S. fish and shellfish stocks and the health benefits of consuming them. The scope of these efforts should include domestic production of wild and aquaculture stocks subject to federal stewardship.

A draft policy statement was provided to MAFAC for review and comment that would implement these decisions. The definition of sustainability (one where fishing activities do not cause or lead to undesirable changes in biological and economic productivity, biological diversity or ecosystem structure and function from one generation to the next) was drawn from

the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing work products that the U.S. had previously approved and endorsed.

Vision 2020 and Transition Report (Day 2 pgs. 122-177)

Capt. Tony DiLernia led the discussion on Vision 2020. He reviewed the context of the project. In September 2006, the Assistant Administrator of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service asked MAFAC to prepare a report on the desired future state of U.S. Marine Fisheries. The specific request to MAFAC was "...to create, in clear, simple, non-jargon language, a stakeholders' consensus on the desired future state of domestic and international fisheries." The Vision 2020 report is MAFAC's response. The report assesses trends and their impacts on marine fisheries, provides 10 MAFAC findings based on the trends, and presents 24 recommendations organized under five main topics:

1. Demand, Supply and Quality of Seafood Products (4)
2. Commercial Fisheries (5)
3. Recreational Fisheries (4)
4. Aquaculture (4)
5. Management (7)

The Committee discussed ideas on how to annually appraise progress on the 2020 report recommendations, as well as establish a process to accommodate updating topics as needed. MAFAC requested that NOAA Fisheries provide periodic report on the progress made on the 24 recommendations. [Action to NMFS, Due annually] In addition, members were asked for feedback on a draft 2-page Vision 2020 handout document and a draft PowerPoint presentation. These were prepared as potential communication tools for use by MAFAC and members were asked to comment on their usefulness to the Committee and to recommend changes as needed. A motion was made by Ms. Heather McCarty, seconded and unanimously approved (p. 375):

"Regarding the Vision 2020 Report, MAFAC recommends:

1. MAFAC members meet with the new NOAA Administrator for a briefing and discussion on the Vision 2020 document;
2. MAFAC members make presentations to each Regional Council on the Vision 2020 Report;
3. NMFS staff, in combination with MAFAC members, conduct briefings for key Congressional staff, including subcommittee staffers;
4. MAFAC and NMFS include the Report along with the MAFAC transition paper in discussions with new administration leadership; and
5. MAFAC review and update the Vision 2020 Report in two years, with subsequent updates as needed."

Mr. Tom Billy suggested he work with Mark Holliday to circulate an email to members that will provide an opportunity for MAFAC members to volunteer to make the presentations at Regional Council meetings. NOAA Fisheries would write letters to the Councils initiating the request for agenda time for MAFAC to address the Councils at an upcoming Council meeting. [Action Billy/Holliday, Due ASAP]

Mr. Jim Gilmore led a discussion on next steps regarding the MAFAC Transition paper for the new administration. Since July 2008, MAFAC has worked to complete a Transition Paper to highlight the highest priority immediate steps that the new administration should consider to continue progress on enhancing marine resource management, food security and strengthening the economies of vital coastal communities. The goal was to agree on a plan for advancing and communicating the ideas contained in the MAFAC transition paper. Mr. Eric Schwabb made the following motion which was unanimously approved (p. 378):

“That MAFAC proactively seek meetings with transition leadership and the incoming Secretary of Commerce to present the transition paper and the recommendations on behalf of MAFAC.”

The Committee suggested writing a letter to the transition team, indicating MAFAC has prepared several documents that are relevant to the transition and requesting a meeting with the transition team. [Action Billy/Holliday, Due ASAP]. The Committee in a related action requested it receive copies of the final versions of the NOAA Transition papers that were made public to determine how the MAFAC comments were reflected. [Action Holliday, Due ASAP].

#### Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) in the Gulf of Mexico (Day 2 pgs. 177-296)

MAFAC has been supportive of the usage of LAPPs in appropriate fisheries, and has made recommendations to NOAA encouraging their adoption. References to greater LAPP consideration in U.S. fisheries has been published by MAFAC in their strategic vision document and their new administration transition briefing paper. Four speakers presented specific feedback from various perspectives on the Gulf of Mexico red snapper IFQ and the upcoming adoption of an IFQ for grouper. MAFAC was interested in hearing both positive and negative experiences in all phases of the subject IFQs, from scoping, planning draft rules, implementation, monitoring, and in particular changes in the fisheries as a result of the IFQ as measured by biological, economic, and social performance indicators. The speakers were Phil Steele, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries; Robert Gill, Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council member; William Tucker, Commercial Fisherman, FL; and Alan Risenhoover, Director, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries.

While no formal motions were approved, members did ask NOAA to provide guidance to the Councils of what the parameters might be for the definitions of “substantial participant” and “substantially fished.” Mr. Martin Fisher’s question on the prohibition in the red snapper IFQ on banking of uncaught IFQ allocation across years was unanswered. In addition, he made comments on creating a better interface between the way electronic reporting and enforcement works and what happens at the dock in the red snapper IFQ. Both questions were to be referred to NOAA Fisheries for response. [Action to NMFS SERO] Finally, a suggestion was made for NMFS to create a benchmark for the cost recovery fee that is the market price no matter what the sale price is to avoid unlawful or irregular manipulation of the price reported for cost recovery computation purposes.

#### Gulf of Mexico Aquaculture Fishery Management Plan (Day 2 pgs. 297-377)

MAFAC has been extremely active in the development of the Administration’s initiatives, strategic 10-year plan and draft legislation for aquaculture. Aquaculture development is one of



the major foundations in MAFAC's view of the future of marine fisheries. The Committee has been informally briefed on the development of the Gulf Council aquaculture amendment in the past. The objective for this session was to receive a formal briefing on the origins, objectives, and features of the Gulf of Mexico Council's aquaculture Fishery Management Plan, hear from a representative of the industry about their perspective, as well as hear the viewpoint of the NOAA aquaculture program. Three speaker's each spoke for 15 minutes followed by a 60 minute MAFAC question and discussion period. The speakers were: Tom McIlwain, Chairman, Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council; Peter Smith, Sr., Vice President, Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc.; and Michael Rubino, NOAA Aquaculture Program Manager. Many pros and cons of the Gulf approach were discussed as well as possible actions on federal aquaculture legislation, but no motions or recommendations were approved by the Committee.

At 4:57 p.m. the proceedings of MAFAC adjourned for the day.

### **Friday, November 14, 2008**

#### **8:30 AM – Meeting Re-Convened**

#### **Policies Influencing U.S. Fisheries Infrastructure (Day 3 pgs. 10-311)**

In the vision document prepared by MAFAC, the long term viability of fishing communities and the necessary supporting infrastructure were topics of concern and discussion. Economic, social, climate and coastal development impacts play as much a role in the future of marine fisheries as the biological status of the exploited stock. Gulf fisheries have recently been subject to extreme stress. MAFAC was interested in learning what has been the federal/NOAA/state agency response to the effects of recent hurricane events on Gulf coast fisheries, including supporting infrastructure. Was there a NOAA plan or policy to support sustainable fishing communities across regions subject to natural and fishery disasters? How does support for maintaining or rebuilding fisheries infrastructure get reconciled with objectives to reduce capacity in overcapitalized fisheries? The morning session's objective was to evaluate recent experiences affecting the sustainability of fishing communities and fisheries infrastructure as a result of hurricane events in the Gulf, and the afternoon session's objective was to examine national policies influencing the long term viability of fisheries infrastructure.

The day was broken into two sessions: in Part I (pgs 9-129), four speakers addressed the Gulf experience and response to hurricane events from various perspectives, including related data and research/science issues, followed by questions and discussion by the MAFAC Committee. The speakers were: Phil Steele, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries; Larry Simpson, Executive Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; Harlon Pearce, Commercial Fisherman, Gulf Mexico Regional Council member, and Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board member; and Rita Curtis, Chief, Economic & Social Analysis Division, NMFS Office of Science and Technology.

In Part II (pgs. 201-284), these experiences were complemented by a more general discussion of national policies affecting U.S. fisheries infrastructure and the sustainability of fishing communities, including coastal planning for resiliency, fisheries overcapacity reduction, and federal assistance and subsidy policies. Three speakers spoke: Gary Reisner, Director, NMFS

Office of Management and Budget; Alan Risenhoover, Director, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries; and Ralph Cantral, Senior Advisor, NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. This was followed by a MAFAC question and discussion period. [Action: Provide copies of the Coastal States Organization CZMA reauthorization bill to MAFAC]

As a result of the ensuing discussion, MAFAC agreed that the Committee should form a working group to derive for the entire Committee's discussion and approval a set of principles for use by the Secretary (and others such as Congress) that would advise decisions related to declarations of and responses to fishery and natural disasters. Such principles would include conceptual advice on when and how to make funding allocations to deal with resource rehabilitation (including biology, habitat, barrier island creation); fisheries short term financial relief; and restoration of coastal and community infrastructure to support sustainable fishing communities. MAFAC agreed their task was to look at what principles should be adopted to proactively avert disasters and promote fishing community sustainability, as well as how to respond when disasters occur, whether natural disasters or fishery disasters. Their task would include looking at best practices from other agencies or related programs; and what have past expenditures in NOAA-related efforts yielded in both short and long term benefits. Later discussion after the Part II presentations added the tasks of including policy advice on fisheries loan programs relative to fishery capacity reduction, feedback on the Capital Construction Fund issue, and reform of the aquaculture loan program. Mr. Eric Schwabb agreed to lead the working group to include Dave Wallace, Bill Dewey, Heather McCarty, Catherine Foy, Steve Joner, Martin Fisher, Erika Feller and the three interstate Commission Executive Directors (Vince O'Shea, Randy Fisher and Larry Simpson). The first task would be the creation of a Terms of Reference with assistance from NOAA Fisheries staff as needed (see pgs 129-179; 244-293).

Additional motions arising from these discussions on Day 3 that were passed were as follows:

Ms. Dorothy Lowman: (motion introduced p. 294, passed unanimously p. 302).

"MAFAC believes that socioeconomic data collection is essential to understand the impacts on communities and appropriate responses to both fishery disasters and changes to fisheries management. We support the NOAA Fisheries budget request for increased appropriations for socioeconomic research. In addition, we recommend that NOAA Fisheries develop a policy that LAPP programs include a requirement that quota shareholders provide basic socioeconomic information that could assist evaluating the impacts of the program. This data submission requirement should be mandatory, but at the same time cost effective and not overly burdensome."

Mr. Tom Billy: (motion introduced p. 299, passed unanimously p. 301). To have NOAA Fisheries at the next meeting brief MAFAC on the Regional Council 5-year programmatic grants process and other mechanism used with respect to how the agency measures and monitors Council function and performance, and whether they are functioning properly.

Mr. Martin Fisher: (motion introduced p. 305, passed unanimously p. 308).

"MAFAC strongly encourages the Secretary to take action to provide relief for fishermen subject to policy and business constraints that are stranding their use of funds in their Capital

Construction Fund accounts – and that the Department should work collaboratively with Congress to try to find a remedy for this problem.”

**At 3:15 PM Thursday the Committee adjourned.**

All documents and transcripts associated with MAFAC meetings and deliberations are posted at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac).

**ATTENDANCE:**

**MAFAC**

Jim Balsiger	Tom Billy
Randy Cates	Patty Doerr
Bill Dewey	Tony DiLernia
Chris Dorsett	Erika Feller
Martin Fisher	Randy Fisher
Robert (Bob) Fletcher	Catherine Foy
Jim Gilmore	Mark Holliday, Executive Director
Steve Joner	Dorothy Lowman
Heather McCarty	John (Vince) O’Shea
Tom Raftican	Eric Schwaab
Larry Simpson	

**Absent Members:**

Ed Ebisui  
John Graves  
George Nardi

**Members of the Public and other agencies:**

Peter Smith  
Bob Gill  
Tom McIlwain  
Bill Tucker

**NOAA/NMFS Staff:**

Ralph Cantral	Rita Curtis
Tim Hansen	Steve Murawski
Sam Rauch	Gary Reisner
Alan Risenhoover	Michael Rubino
Phil Steele	

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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

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<b>Day 1 - Wednesday, November 12, 2008</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Min.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
9:00	15	<b>Introductions &amp; Opening Remarks</b>	Dr. Jim Balsiger, Acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries
9:15	15	<b>Agenda Review:</b> Overview of Plenary, Subcommittee, and Working Group Agendas for the Meeting	Tom Billy, MAFAC Liaison
9:30	60	<b>New Member Orientation</b> - Overview of Committee purpose and operations - MAFAC Member Handbook/Website - Federal Advisory Committee Act - Travel briefing	Mark Holliday, NMFS Policy Office
10:30	15	Break	
10:45-11:30	45	<b>Ethics and Financial Disclosure Briefing</b>	William Jacobi, Senior Counsel, Ethics Law and Programs Division, Office of the General Counsel U.S. Department of Commerce <by phone>
11:30-12:00	30	<b>Update Briefing – Seafood Quality &amp; Safety</b>	Tim Hansen, Director, NMFS Seafood Inspection Program
12:00	60	Lunch	
1:00 – 5:00		<b>Subcommittee and Working Group Briefings</b>	
	1:00-2:00	Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management Subcommittee	Jim Gilmore, Subcommittee Chair
	2:00-3:00	Commerce Subcommittee	Tom Billy, Subcommittee Chair
	3:00-3:15	Break	
	3:15-4:00	Recreational Fisheries Working Group	Bob Fletcher, Working Group Chair
	4:00-4:30	Protected Resources Subcommittee	Bob Fletcher, Subcommittee Chair
	4:30-5:00	Ecosystem Approach Subcommittee	Chris Dorsett, Subcommittee Chair
5:00		Adjourn	

<b>Day 2 – Thursday, November 13, 2008</b>			
Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30	45	<b>Update Briefing – MSRA Implementation</b> Status, incl. NEPA, ACL rules	Alan Risenhoover, Director, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries
9:15-10:00	45	<b>Update Briefing – Budget/Transition</b>	Gary Reisner, Director, NMFS Office of Management and Budget
10:00-10:15		<b>Break</b>	
10:15-11:00	45	<b>Update Briefing - Ecolabeling</b>	Mark Holliday, Director, NMFS Policy Office
11:00-12:00		<b>Vision 2020 &amp; Transition Reports</b> Yearly monitoring/refreshment of 2020 Transition paper and strategies	Tony DiLernia, Vision 2020 Working Group Jim Gilmore, Policy Subcommittee Chair
12:00	60	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00-3:00	60	<b>LAPPs in the Gulf of Mexico – Discussion</b> - NMFS Southeast Regional Office (15 min)  - Gulf Mexico Reg. Fishery Mgt Council (15 min)  - Industry (15 min)  - LAPP – Plans and Funding (15 min)	Phil Steele, NOAA Fisheries, Assistant Regional Administrator Sustainable Fisheries  Robert Gill, Commercial Fisherman, Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council member  William Tucker, Commercial Fisherman, FL  Alan Risenhoover, Director, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries
	60	<b>MAFAC Discussion</b>	
3:00-3:15	15	<b>Break</b>	
3:15-5:00	45	<b>Gulf Aquaculture Amendment Discussion</b> - Gulf Council (15 min)  - Industry (15 min)  - NOAA Aquaculture Program (15 min)	Tom McIlwain, Chairman, Gulf of Mexico Regional Fishery Management Council  Peter Smith Sr. Vice President Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc.  Michael Rubino, NOAA Aquaculture Program Manager
	60	<b>MAFAC Discussion</b>	
5:00		<b>Adjourn</b>	

**Day 3 – Friday, November 14, 2008**

Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30-10:15	105	<p><b>Policies Influencing U.S. Fisheries Infrastructure</b>  <i>Part I – Gulf experience &amp; Response to Hurricane events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NMFS SERO/Report to Congress (25 min)</li> <li>- GSMFC/ Emerg. Disaster Recovery Pgm. and Coastal Recovery (30 min)</li> <li>- Industry Perspective (25 min)</li> <li>- Fishing Communities: Socio-economic Data &amp; Research issues (25 min)</li> </ul>	<p>Phil Steele, NMFS SE Region Assistant Regional Administrator Sustainable Fisheries</p> <p>Larry Simpson, Executive Dir., Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission</p> <p>Harlon Pearce, Commercial Fisherman, Gulf Mexico Council member, LA Seafood Promotion &amp; Marketing Board</p> <p>Rita Curtis, NMFS Office of Science and Technology</p>
10:15-10:30		Break	
10:30-12:00	90	<b>MAFAC Discussion</b>	
12:00	60	Lunch	
1:00-2:30	90	<p><b>Policies Influencing U.S. Fisheries Infrastructure</b>  <i>Part II – Sustainable fishing communities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Industry Assistance (Fishery failure regulations/Disaster Assistance; Vessel Buybacks; Loan Programs) (30 min)</li> <li>- Capacity Reduction Policies (Overcapacity Report to Congress) (30 min)</li> <li>- National Ocean Service &amp; Preserving Working Waterfronts (30 min)</li> </ul>	<p>Gary Reisner, Director, NMFS Office of Management and Budget</p> <p>Alan Risenhoover, Director, NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries</p> <p>Ralph Cantral, Senior Advisor, NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management</p>
2:30-3:30	60	<b>MAFAC Discussion</b>	
3:30-3:45	15	Break	
3:45	45	<b>New Business; Review of Action Items, Next Steps; Time and Place, Agenda Next Meeting</b>	
4:30		<b>Adjourn</b>	