

June 8, 2005

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee  
Awards Development Breakout Group Report**

Jim Cook  
Tony DiLernia  
Chris Dorsett  
Jim Gilmore (Spokesperson)  
Peter Leipsig  
Mel Moon  
Maggie Raymond  
Vince O'Shea – Consultant  
Laurel Bryant – NMFS Staff

***Guiding Principals in discussion:***

1. Should be 'Fish-centric'
2. Should be aimed more toward organizations and groups rather than individuals although individuals would not be excluded.
3. Keep it Non-Political -- Nominations reviewed and selected by MAFAC

DRAFT TEXT Discussed with Full Committee for Ideas:

***Excellence in Fisheries Stewardship Awards***

***About the Awards***

In an effort to better educate the public about the progress being made in marine fisheries management and the need to promote sustainable fisheries practices, NOAA Fisheries Service established the Excellence in Fisheries Stewardship Awards. These awards recognize the outstanding performances and accomplishments of organizations and individuals in the marine fisheries community that demonstrate and promote best stewardship practices reflecting the values and principals of NOAA Fisheries Service and its mission to ensure the sustainable utilization of our nation's fisheries for all Americans.

A cornerstone in conservation law, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) has been a driving force behind sustainable practices and the establishment of a marine stewardship ethic. Last reauthorized in 1996, the MSA embraces science-based management to achieve the national goals of sustainable harvest levels, elimination of overfishing, rebuilding depleted stocks, reducing bycatch and protecting essential fish habitat. Critical to the progress being made in achieving these national goals have been the contributions the marine fisheries community.

These awards allow the public to reward those behaviors and practices most supportive of sustaining our nation's fisheries. Nominated through a public process, these awards recognize contributions in to-be-determined categories.

***Category Ideas – NEEDS CRITERIA/DESCRIPTORS***

- Excellence in Leadership in Fisheries Management: *In addition to innovative management initiatives this category could also include Bill's interest in providing for acknowledgement of Lifetime achievement.*
- Outstanding Innovative Partnerships:
- Effective Cooperative Research:
- Outstanding Fisheries Conservation Program
- Effective Public Education
- Excellence in Journalism

***Nominations & Selections: - IDENTIFY PROCESS***

***Deadline:*** December 31 Nominations are Due. MAFAC will identify final selected nominees at it's Winter meeting. Award ceremony and celebration will be determined. A representative of MAFAC should be present to jointly deliver the awards with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the AA for Fisheries.

***COMMITTEE AGREED THAT:*** Post Meeting, Jim Gilmore will work with the Executive Director to craft an awards program integrating the thoughts and ideas that emerged during full Committee discussion. After review and approval via e-mail, a final document will be submitted to the Vice Chair.