

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

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**PHOENIX PARK HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
JUNE 7-10, 2005**

**SUMMARY OVERVIEW**

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC or ‘the Committee’) held its second meeting of the 2005 fiscal year in Washington, D.C. during ‘National Oceans Week’, affording members an opportunity to review a number of timely issues on NOAA’s agenda to continue with improvements over the management of the nation’s living marine resources (LMR) and respond to recommendations made by the President’s Commission on Oceans Policy. Key agenda items included introduction of the Administration’s legislation on ocean aquaculture (the ‘Ocean Aquaculture Act of 2005’), an update on the status of efforts to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management & Conservation Act, and associated initiatives contained in the President’s ‘Ocean Action Plan’ to formalize integration of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and ensure the integrity of the science-based approach to managing LMRs.

The Chair of MAFAC, Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Vice- Chair, Dr. William T. Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, requested the Committee to provide NOAA with on-going feedback and guidance on the offshore aquaculture initiative and to assist with developing an ‘Awards program’ to recognize best stewardship practices over LMRs among various user groups. The Committee agreed to take up these tasks and broke into two working groups (Attachments A and B).

The Chair and Vice-Chair also recognized five retiring members – Don Kent, Mel Moon, Jr., Alvin Osterback, Maggie Raymond and Kate Wynne – for whom this was the last MAFAC meeting. These members served on MAFAC for two consecutive terms (1999-2005) and contributed to the development of a number of key advisory recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service including “A Perspective on the NMFS: Issues & Recommendations” (2001), to improve the performance of the National Marine Fisheries Service and “Strategic Guidance for Implementing an Ecosystem-Based Approach to Fisheries Management” which has been utilized and referenced in ecosystem approach initiatives. Elizabeth Sheehan, who was unable to attend, informed Dr. Hogarth of her intentions not to seek reappointment to a second term leaving seven vacancies to be filled before the next meeting 2006.

In preparation for soliciting new members, the Committee dedicated a day to strategic planning to reorganize the Committee's structure and operations to provide flexibility for addressing the spectrum of issues anticipated in the years ahead.

Below are summary discussions with corresponding transcript pages and resulting reports.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2005**  
**9:00 A.M. Full Committee Convened**

Opening Remarks & Updates:

Chairman, Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, opened the meeting with a presentation and discussion of NOAA's continuing progress toward restructuring NOAA operations to better reflect and support ecosystem-based approaches and implement the President's Ocean Action Plan. In addition, the Chairman Lautenbacher reviewed the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS) and discussed how fisheries science and management can benefit under the GEOSS initiative including the use of unmanned automated vehicles (UVAs). In addition to the list of potential uses, including fisheries enforcement, habitat analysis, coral reef monitoring and charting and mapping, it was suggested NOAA experiment with these technologies to conduct fishery surveys (pgs. 3-58).

Aquaculture:

Chairman Lautenbacher and Vice Chair, Dr. William T. (Bill) Hogarth then discussed the Administration's plan to introduce the "National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005" that afternoon, and requested MAFAC continue to prioritize the issue of aquaculture and provide guidance on how best to proceed forward with this initiative. The need to integrate the Fishery Management Councils and regions into any national, long-term effort was emphasized. Other concerns included the need for NOAA to prioritize this issue regionally and co-locate an aquaculture expert in each region where the permitting would actually occur. The permitting process must be predictable so as not to drive potential investment to international waters south of the U.S. border where no environmental laws or requirements can be enforced. Beyond permitting, NOAA needs to look at other examples such as the development of the agriculture industry over the last 100 years or the multifaceted and integrated approach NOAA employed after Law of the Sea Treaty and passage of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation Management Act (pgs. 58-76).

Awards Program:

Chairman Lautenbacher also requested MAFAC to assist with developing an awards program for NOAA to recognize best stewardship practices in fisheries, referencing the awards program established under the Minerals Management Service that reward best safety and environment practices of the outer continental shelf oil-drilling industry (pgs.76-83).

NMFS Updates:

Vice Chair Hogarth updated the Committee on personnel changes within the agency and briefly reviewed some of his priorities and ideas for the remaining term of the Administration. These include the President's push for dedicated access in fisheries, elimination of overfishing and overfished stocks, and passage of aquaculture legislation. Vice Chair Hogarth mentioned two ideas he would like MAFAC to consider for future input:

- 1) Inclusion of recreational fishing issues within international management forums and developing a consistent NMFS position on the various international tuna commissions; and
- 2) Working with funding foundations to invest in resolving some priority issues rather than continuing to turn to the courts (pgs. 85-100).

Chairman Lautenbacher adjourned the meeting until 1pm to attend a press conference introducing the Administration's "National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005".

Magnuson Stevens Act, Jack Dunnigan, Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries. Jack discussed the overall progress in developing legislation and detailed the current thinking on key issues including ecosystem approach within MSA, overfishing and rebuilding, stocks vs biomass, science in support of management and the various models at work, recreational fisheries registration, observer compensation and liability, and council appointment process (pgs. 102-154)

Ocean Action Plan, Vice Chair Hogarth reviewed the Administration's progress in establishing the structural operations to implement OAP, and the specific elements NOAA Fisheries is responsible for (page 155-169).

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), Dr. Steven Murawski, Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Scientist, NOAA Fisheries Service detailed NOAA Fisheries' strategy and progress for dealing with EAF. Some of the many elements to be considered include operational issues, objectives, national consistency with regional flexibility, responsiveness to changes in knowledge over the long-term. Also mentioned was the need to develop a survey tool for establishing a baseline understanding of what constitutes EAF and developing a measurement to determine effectiveness for any EAF program.

Dr. Murawski reviewed an ongoing National Research Council study looking at the ecosystem effects of fishing that was initiated in Spring 2005. Part of this study is to focus on a number science articles published in recent years to look at the science behind their claims, determine what should science be doing, how can or should a synthesis of global science occur when there is not conformity among the data and conclusions, etc. Dr. Murawski indicated he would like to bring the conclusions of this NRC study back to MAFAC for further discussion (pgs. 172-225).

Strengthening Science & Management, Dr. Murawski continued with the final presentation of the day discussing three initiatives involved with strengthening the science side of management: 1) Determine standards for the best available science (BAS) (National Standard Two – NS2); 2) Implement the Information and Data Quality Act (DQA); and 3) addressing the Ocean Commission’s ‘allocation versus fish-counting’ recommendation.

In reference to NS2, Dr. Murawski discussed the National Research Council report released last year which recommended establishing standard guidelines for BAS, including relevance of the data, inclusiveness, objectivity, transparency, timeliness, and peer review. NOAA Fisheries has since then incorporated these recommendations into proposed revisions to improve National Standard One guidelines. The agency also intends to initiate a large public process to look at these recommendations specifically with regard to NS2. Copies of the report will be made available to members (pgs. 225-233).

Dr. Murawski then detailed the procedures involved with the DQA to ensure peer review and transparency standards for influential scientific information and highly influential scientific assessments that now apply to all government agencies. (pgs. 233-246)

Lastly, Dr. Murawski discussed the issue of ‘separation of science and management’ as proposed by the Ocean Commission and the public’s perception that the integrity of the science is put at risk by the management process. Dr. Murawski discussed the importance of input from the management side into the science in order to determine a range of potential outcomes and forecasts for managing a sustainable fishery. Dr. Murawski referenced the agency’s initiative to begin a process toward developing guidelines to formalize how to bridge the science/management gap and, based on NRC recommendations, begin to run multiple models and report multiple results for a range of potential forecasts. Dr. Murawski requested MAFAC’s future council on this initiative as the agency moves forward (pgs. 246-262).

**4:46 pm Committee Adjourned for the day.**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2005**

**9:00 A.M. Full Committee Reconvened**

Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2005, Dr. Michael Rubino, Director, NOAA’s Aquaculture Program, gave an overview of the President’s legislative initiative introduced the previous day. The legislation establishes the authority and a framework for NOAA to develop a permitting program for offshore aquaculture. Dr. Rubino discussed the spectrum of operational, structural and public outreach requirements and challenges for developing such a program including environmental requirements and procedures, intergovernmental coordination, and multiple laws and jurisdictions. The Gulf Fishery Management Council’s initiative to begin developing a permit process for offshore aquaculture and a number of demonstration sites off Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas

were discussed as potential models as was the state of Florida's existing 'best management approaches for aquaculture'.

Dr. Rubino and Dr. Hogarth requested MAFAC's involvement in providing NOAA with advice on how best to proceed and what strategies to pursue. The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion over the scope of issues to be fleshed out – National Environmental Policy Act, Environmental Impact Statements, consultation requirements with states and fishery management councils, site evaluations and criteria, pursuing a national programmatic EIS followed by region-by-region assessments, species identification, research and development needs, obstacles and disincentives to investment, leasing requirements and longevity, etc..

MAFAC agreed to serve as a sounding board to provide ongoing feedback during the legislative process and policy guidance for the long-term. As the legislative debate takes shape, the Committee will need to be provided information prior to each meeting that the Committee can react to. Various materials were suggested such as a and aquaculture development plan with national goals, a strategy, identification of other governmental entities to be involved, financial support, marketing support and other elements necessary for a national outcome over the next 20 years. These could be provided to MAFAC for the members to react to, comment on and refine.

Aquaculture Breakout Group: At the request of Dr. Hogarth, the Committee developed a working group to flesh out the above suggestion with Randy Fisher designated as the working groups consultant. The following members agreed to serve on the working group: John Forster, Kate Wynne, Tom Billy, Ken Roberts, Alvin Osterback and Tony DiLernia. (Attachment A)

Seafood Health Conference 2005: Linda Chaves, Senior Advisor, Seafood Industry Issues, NOAA Fisheries, gave a brief announcement on the scope and purpose of the Seafood and Health conference to be held in Washington, D.C. December 5-7, 2005.

Development of A Fisheries Awards Program: Dr. Hogarth revisited his desire to have MAFAC assist with developing an awards program aimed at recognizing the stewardship practices and achievements accomplished by various user groups involved with fisheries and living marine resources. Intended as an annual award process from the NOAA Fisheries Service (the National Marine Fisheries Service - NMFS), MAFAC was asked to suggest a name for the awards, identify award categories, criteria, process, review and final recommendation procedures. Dr. Hogarth would like the first awards to be presented in conjunction with the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NMFS to occur in February 2006.

Awards Breakout Group: Jim Cook, Tony DiLernia, Chris Dorsett, Jim Gilmore, Pete Leipsig, Mel Moon, Maggie Raymond, Vince O'Shea (Consultant), Laurel Bryant (Recorder) (Attachment B)

**11:43 AM Full Committee Adjourned into brake out groups**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2005**  
**9 A.M. Full Committee Reconvened**

Aquaculture Breakout Group Report, Dr. John Forster reported out for the group (pg. 4-55). (Attachment A)

Awards Development Breakout Group Report, Jim Gilmore reported out for the group. (pg. 56-113). The formal report is attached. The Committee agreed to review a more extensive draft to be developed by the Executive Director and Jim Gilmore and submitted to the Committee via e-mail later in the summer. (Attachment B)

Strategic Planning: The full Committee discussed at length various options and motions to re-name the current 'Industry Vice-Chair', identify the position's duties and elect a member to serve in this capacity, and reorganize the Committee's structure and operational rules. The role of MAFAC as a national representative stakeholder body was also discussed, including its value as a sounding board for hot-button issues and a repository of historical insights experience for input on long-term issues.

The Committee adopted a draft Meeting Preparation Protocol, and renamed the Industry Vice Chair as the *Committee Liaison* with attending duties to facilitate communication and tasking of members and Subcommittees. The Committee established four standing Subcommittees and an Executive Subcommittee comprised of the Subcommittee Chairs, Committee Liaison, Vice Chair and Executive Director. Clarification on term limits and member participation was developed. (Attachment C)

In anticipation of new members, it was decided that the Vice Chair would appoint interim Subcommittee Chairs until elections can be held at the next meeting in January 2006. A detailed account of the motions, votes and operational decisions agreed to by the Committee is attached. (**Attachment C**)

Administrative Issues: The next meeting will be held the third week in January 2006, Dania Beach, Florida. Rob Kramer offered his facilities and services to assist with coordination of this next meeting.

Vice Chair Hogarth agreed to report back to the Committee on its interest in reviewing draft agency materials in advance of public availability (e.g. legislation), determine what is involved with such a process and what responsibilities would be incumbent on members for having such access. Also, the aquaculture program will continue to communicate with the working group regarding development of a national plan.

Dr. Hogarth agreed to get back to members in the next month with interim Subcommittee Chair assignments.

**4:04 PM Full Committee Adjourned Sine Die**  
**ATTENDEES:**

**MAFAC Members**

Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, Under Secretary for NOAA, (Chair)  
Dr. William T. Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (Vice Chair)  
Tom Billy  
Jim Cook  
Tony DiLernia  
Chris Dorsett  
Bob Fletcher  
John Forster  
Jim Gilmore  
Don Kent  
Rob Kramer  
Pete Leipzig  
Mel Moon, Jr.  
Alvin Osterback (Industry Vice Chair)  
Ralph Rayburn  
Maggie Raymond (Industry Co-Vice Chair)  
Dr. Ken Roberts  
Eric Schwaab  
Kate Wynne  
Randy Fisher (Non-Voting, Consultant)  
Vince O'Shea (Non-Voting, Consultant)  
Laurel G. Bryant (Non-Voting, Executive Director, MAFAC)

**Absent Members:**

Dr. Manuel Pizzini  
Elizabeth Sheehan  
Larry Simpson (Non-Voting, Consultant)

**NOAA Fisheries Service:**

Dr. Rebecca Lent, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs  
Jack Dunnigan, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
Dr. Steve Murawski, Director of Scientific Programs & Chief Scientist  
Dr. Michael Rubino, Director, NOAA Aquaculture Program  
Susan Bunsick, NOAA Aquaculture Program  
Kate Naughten, NOAA Aquaculture Program  
Jennifer Costanza, Office of Admiral Lautenbacher  
Linda Chaves, Senior Advisory, Seafood Industry Issues,  
Carol Rice, Dept of Commerce, Office of Inspector General  
Adam Issenberg, NOAA General Counsel for Fisheries  
Carli Bertrand, Office of Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries  
Elizabeth Etrie, NOAA Fisheries  
Kristen Larsen, NOAA Fisheries

**Guests and Attending Public:**

Frank McCoy, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Manny Duenas, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Kit Simonds, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Margaret McElroy, National Fisheries Institute  
Jim Haussener,

Ted Morton, Oceana  
Richard Smith, Robinson & Cole, LLP  
Roy Morioka, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Mathew D., National Marine Manufacturers Association  
Mark Powell, The Ocean Conservancy  
Elizabeth Fetherston, The Ocean Conservancy  
Dave Whaley, House Resources Committee, U.S. House of Representatives  
Dale Kelley, Alaska Trollers Association  
Paula Terrel, Alaska Marine Conservation Council

Respectfully Submitted,

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Laurel G. Bryant  
Executive Director, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
July 28, 2005



Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee  
Off Shore Aquaculture Legislation Working Group

**Summary of discussion by MAFAC June 8-9, 2005 of a Bill submitted to Congress:**

‘To provide the necessary authority to the Secretary of Commerce for the establishment and implementation of a regulatory system for offshore aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, and for other purposes’.<sup>1</sup>

**Discussion format**

Michael Rubino and Susan Bunsick (NOAA) first provided explanation and analysis of the Bill to the full MAFAC Committee. It proposes framework legislation that will then allow NOAA to develop specific regulations appropriate to different conditions and types of culture, and to changes in technology that may occur in years to come.

A subgroup of MAFAC then met to develop comments on the Bill and advice to Dr Hogarth on its implications and implementation. A list of members of the subgroup, guests, and staff is attached – Appendix 1. A report on the subgroup’s discussion was then presented to the full MAFAC committee, followed by further discussion. Susan Bunsick took notes attached (thanks) – also Appendix 1.

**Recommendations**

1. Use MAFAC as a resource for ideas and comment in working with Congress. Also establish a mechanism (web site suggested) to inform the Committee of progress and to engage the Committee on related policy issues, including but not limited to:
  - a) Approaches to the siting of aquaculture facilities
  - b) Candidate species for offshore aquaculture
  - c) The role of regional fishery management councils (FMCs)
  - d) Development of the details of the permit process for offshore aquaculture
2. Develop a 10-year plan (Aquaculture Development Initiative) and present it to the next MAFAC meeting.<sup>2</sup> The initiative should include:
  - a) National goal(s)

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant prior MAFAC discussion of Aquaculture includes:

- Letter to Dr James Baker, April 2, 1999 - Regarding Draft Aquaculture Legislation, March 24, 1999.
- Report of the Aquaculture Subcommittee, 11 December 2003, New York City, New York

<sup>2</sup> Note that there is already a 2025 Aquaculture Goal (DOC 1999). A conceptual program to reach this goal is presented in Nash, C. E. 2004. *Achieving policy objectives to increase the value of the seafood industry in the United States: the technical feasibility and associated constraints*. Food Policy 29 (2004) p 621- 641. (Provided to MAFAC members in Legislation package, also available at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com) )

- b) Strategies for achieving national goals – e.g. regional demonstration projects
- c) Program objectives and milestones
- d) Resource requirements (including budget/staffing)

### **Points emphasized in discussion**

1. Send the Bill to the FMCs for formal comment. They are and should be a key resource for guidance, outreach, identification of regional issues and priorities, and for implementation of the Bill when it is passed.
  2. However, the FMCs do not have a budget for such work and this limitation must be addressed.
  3. There was strong support for the idea of demonstration farms, a program for which should be developed in parallel with the legislative / regulatory process. There was concern otherwise that there could be years of talk but no action.
  4. Consider methods of zoning for offshore aquaculture. Approaches discussed included:
    - a) By exclusion – i.e. develop maps to define where aquaculture cannot go
    - b) A Minerals Management Service approach – i.e. NOAA take the lead in identifying specific areas for aquaculture development
    - c) Ask FMCs to identify sites, initially for demonstration farms
    - d) Look into EFPs as a way of accelerating permit approval for demo farms
- (Chairman's note: Aquaculture can accomplish quite a lot in only a small area. A few suitable square miles in each FMC region would be sufficient to launch a substantial demonstration program)*
5. A 10-year permit is not long enough to justify investment. If this cannot be increased, there must at least be unequivocal assurance of renewal subject to compliance with other permit requirements. Renewal should not be subject to anything other than compliance with these requirements.
  6. The new regulatory framework for offshore aquaculture development must be accompanied by adequate investment in supporting 'infrastructure' and the necessary research to make this effective. R&D on the hatchery production of juveniles and feeds is especially important. This work needs core funding to underpin grant-funded projects. It may also provide scope for collaboration with USDA.
  7. Criticism of the Bill has pointed to the lack of specific standards included in it. MAFAC understood that this is a 'framework bill' but this distinction needs to be more clearly explained in future public presentations.
  8. The Bill could become unworkable through amendments. There is a need for checkpoints as it goes through the legislative process. MAFAC can be used for this.

9. Critics have challenged the Bill for not having been preceded by a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (LEIS). NOAA's legal position on this should be verified.

## APPENDIX

### MAFAC – AQUACULTURE BREAKOUT GROUP – JUNE 8, 2005

#### List of Attendees

Don Kent/John Forster (co-chairs)

Tom Billy

Tony DiLernia

Chris Dorsett

Randy Fisher

Bob Fletcher

Alvin Osterback

Maggie Raymond

Ken Roberts

Kate Wynne

#### Guests

Randy Cates

Dale Kelly

Conrad Mahnken

Paula Terrell

#### Staff

Susan Bunsick (Reporter & Notes)

Linda Chaves

Rachel O'Malley

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.

June 9, 2005

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee  
Strategic Planning Session  
Summary Report**

Chaired by Vice Chair, Dr. Bill Hogarth, the Full Committee dedicated a half-day to a strategic planning session to reformulate the structural organization and operations of the Committee. Below are the summary results and follow-up items from that discussion. A detailed accounting of the votes and motions taken from the transcripts is further summarized below. All of these changes will be made and reflected on the Committee web page.

**I. Meeting Preparation Protocol**

The draft Meeting Protocol submitted to MAFAC was adopted and Vice Chair Hogarth accepted it for agency implementation. (Attachment D)

**II. Committee Liaison**

The title “Committee Liaison” replaces the previous title of “Industry Vice Chair”.

**Position Description and duties:** to assist the Vice Chair and Executive Director in facilitating communication with the Full Committee, tasking members and subcommittees, tracking follow-up items, agenda formulation and provide signatory authority for documents and communications from the Full Committee. The Committee Liaison assists with managing the meetings, particularly during times when the Vice Chair must be absent. The Committee Liaison serves as the Chair of the Executive Subcommittee.

**III. Four Standing Subcommittees**

***Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management:*** This Subcommittee would advise and review strategic planning elements relevant to the agency’s mission and performance, review and advise on agency budget operations and priorities, and review and provide input on the status of existing management programs within NOAA Fisheries Service, particularly as they relate to the implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, managing recreational fisheries, and implementing the President’s Ocean Action Plan.

***Members:*** Chris Dorsett, Jim Gilmore, Pete Leipsig, and Ken Roberts.

***Protected Resources Subcommittee:*** This Subcommittee would advise and review protected species programs operating under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act.

***Members:*** Jim Cook, Bob Fletcher and Jim Gilmore.

***Ecosystem Approach Subcommittee:*** This Subcommittee will be devoted to providing a format for reviewing programs and initiatives involved with the development and implementation of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.

***Members:*** Chris Dorsett and Ralph Rayburn.

***Commerce Subcommittee:*** This Subcommittee will be devoted to reviewing and advising on emergent social-economic issues such as off shore aquaculture, seafood technology and consumer interests.

***Members:*** Tom Billy, Bob Fletcher, John Forster, Rob Kramer, Ken Roberts and Ralph Rayburn.

#### **IV. Subcommittee Membership Assignments & Rules**

Members may serve on more than one Subcommittee or working group without term limits and based upon their interest and request to participate.

#### **V. Executive Subcommittee**

An Executive Subcommittee is established and comprised of the four Subcommittee Chairs and the Committee Liaison who serves as the Executive Subcommittee Chair. The Committee Vice Chair and Executive Director also serve on the Executive Subcommittee. This Committee assists with agenda development, assignments and administrative issues for Committee business.

#### **VI. Follow-Up Items**

- A. Absent Members:** The following members were absent and therefore, not yet assigned at the time of the meeting: Scott Burns, Tony DiLernia (voted Committee Liaison), Rob Kramer, Manuel Pizzini, Ken Roberts and Eric Schwaab.
- B. Interim Subcommittee Chair Assignments:** Prior to next meeting, the Vice Chair will assign interim Subcommittee Chair assignments to serve until the Full Committee reconvenes under its new membership roster in January 2006.
- C.** During the post-meeting comment period the newly appointed Committee Liaison, Tony DiLernia, requested to serve as an Ex-Officio on all Subcommittees, providing the flexibility to lend support to a subcommittee that most needs it.



JUNE 9, 2005  
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION  
TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY DETAILS

**Motion #1** (Maggie Raymond) – Nominate a new individual to serve as the Industry Vice-Chair, re-named Committee Liaison, formalize that position within the Committee Charter so the person can legally operate in that capacity, and address the structure of the Committee at the following meeting. Motion was seconded (pg. 133-134).

**Substitute Motion to #1** (Ralph Rayburn) – Establish an Executive Subcommittee within MAFAC, the Chairman of the Executive Subcommittee be elected by the Full Committee, and the Executive Subcommittee would be comprised by the Chairs of the Standing Subcommittees – to be determined by MAFAC. Motion was seconded by Tom Billy (pg. 148-149). Substitute motion failed.

Motion #1 – passed (pg. 165)

**Motion #2** (Maggie Raymond) Adopt the duties of the Committee Liaison to “Assist the Co-Chair and Executive Director in facilitating communication with the Full Committee, tasking members and subcommittees, tracking follow-up items, agenda formulation and provide signatory authority for documents and communications from the Full Committee” Motion seconded by Bob Fletcher (pg. 183). Motion passed (pg. 184).

**Motion #3** (Maggie Raymond) “There is established an Executive Subcommittee comprised of five members representing the various disciplines on MAFAC. Subcommittee/working groups will be identified as necessary.” Alvin Osterback seconded. Through discussion reference to various disciplines was removed and the total of five members was clarified to include four subcommittee members the full Committee Liaison.

**Substitute to Motion #3** – Table discussion until there is further discussion until the Committee discusses the committee structure.

**Motion #4** (Bob Fletcher) Adopt three standing subcommittees: Strategic Planning, Budget & Program Evaluation; Current Issues; and Ecosystem Approach to Management. Motion seconded by Ken Roberts. (Pg. 191). Discussion included whether members could serve on more than one subcommittee, should there be term limits and membership be selected by expertise or issue interest? Motion failed (pg. 197)

**Motion #5** (Ken Roberts) – Establish four standing subcommittees – 1) Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management, 2) Protected Resources, 3) Ecosystem Approach, and 4) Commerce. Chris Dorsett seconded and motion was passed (pg. 199).

**Motion #6** (Jim Gilmore) – Motioned that members can serve on more than one subcommittee or working group without term limits and based upon their request to participate. Bob Fletcher seconded and motion passed (pg. 200).

Motion to Un-Table Motion #3 (Kate Wynne) – passed (pg. 201)

Motion #3 was reread to clarify: “There is established an Executive Subcommittee comprised of the four subcommittee chairs and the Committee Liaison.” (pg. 201)

In discussion:

Vice-Chair and the Executive Director were made members of the Executive Subcommittee. Ralph Rayburn seconded. (pg. 201)

Committee Liaison should serve as the Executive Subcommittee Chair. Tom Billy. Ralph Rayburn seconded. (pg. 204)

Lengthy discussion occurred over whether the four Executive Subcommittee members were the Chairs of the Subcommittees or not. Motion #3 was then clearly amended (Ralph Rayburn) that the make-up of the Executive Subcommittee be comprised of the Chairs of the four standing subcommittees, the Committee Liaison, that will serve as Chair of the Executive Subcommittee, and the Vice Chair and Executive Director of MAFAC. Ken Roberts seconded the amendment. (pg. 210).

**Dr. Hogarth read the final Motion #3 as Amended:** “Establish an Executive Subcommittee comprised of four subcommittee chairs and the Committee Liaison who serves as Chair. The Executive Director also serves on the Executive Subcommittee. The Committee Chair and Vice Chair serve on the Executive Subcommittee.” Final motion passed (pg. 211).

**Nominations were held for the position of Committee Liaison.** Tony DiLernia was selected in a close closed ballot vote. (pg. 212-213)

**Motion #7** (Tom Billy) – The Co-Chair (Vice-Chair) will choose interim chairs for the four subcommittees until the next meeting in January 2006 (pg. 216). Motion passed (pg. 219).

Dr. Hogarth conducted a discussion to determine who in the remaining membership wanted to serve on the identified four standing subcommittees. The following subcommittee memberships were established under the new rules. (pg. 218)

**Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management:** Jim Gilmore, Chris Dorsett, Pete Leipsig.

**Protected Resources:** Jim Cook, Jim Gilmore, Bob Fletcher

**Ecosystem Approach:** Chris Dorsett, Ralph Rayburn

**Commerce:** John Forster, Tom Billy, Bob Fletcher.

**Motion #8** (Maggie Raymond) – MAFAC recommends that the Vice Chair report back to the Committee at its next meeting regarding existing impediments to the National

Marine Fisheries Service providing MAFAC with advance drafts of agency legislation and other initiatives. Motion was discussed, modified as written here and passed (pgs. 220-225) In the discussion, several members expressed clarification on what their obligation as a member of MAFAC would be were the Administration to share such information. Dr. Hogarth agreed to explore this issue with NOAA's General Council and report back at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was identified for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2006 in Florida.

May 17, 2005

**MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAFAC)  
MEETING PREPARATION & PROTOCOL**

This establishes a protocol for providing the necessary information to the members of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC or Committee), in order to provide quality advisory recommendations to the administration.

**BACKGROUND**

One of the key benefits of having a federal advisory body is the opportunity for input and guidance from a representative body of national constituencies and stakeholders. Utilized strategically, advisory committees can help build mutual understanding and common ground for moving issues forward in ways more favorable than might otherwise occur. To facilitate this strategic role, an advisory committee must be provided articulate and candid information in advance of each meeting; given very specific questions or issues on which recommendations are being sought; and have access to the staff and expertise necessary for the Committee to fulfil its function. Below is an outlined protocol for providing the necessary information to the members of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC or ‘the Committee).

Established in 1970, MAFAC (or ‘Committee’) is a federal advisory body to the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce. Chaired by the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and Co-Chaired by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, it provides the Secretary with a national representation of stakeholder groups and expertise involved with the use, science and management of our nation’s living marine resources. The Committee advises the Secretary through the development of advisory recommendations on the priorities, strategies and policies to be considered by the Department. Documents are posted at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mafac/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mafac/).

**MEETING PREPARATION:**

**Agenda Selection** – Two months prior to the Committee’s meeting, the AA or MAFAC Executive Director will send notification of the pending meeting dates and provide an opportunity for issues of key concern to be identified. These issues will then considered by the AA for inclusion on the meeting agenda. To ensure adequate time for Committee discussion and action, an effort will be made to limit the number of agenda issues and presentations to no more than three.

**Issue Papers** - The issue items selected will require preparation of an ‘Issue Paper’ and availability of appropriate staff responsible for the subject matter. These ‘Issue Papers’ will serve as the basis for the Committee’s meeting format and focus.

**Preparation** - Issue Papers are prepared for members in advance of each meeting. These Issue Papers are two-four pages in length and provide: 1) a brief overview of the issue(s) at hand, 2) summarize the key points under consideration by the agency, and 3) solicit the Committee's input on one to three specific questions or 'straw-horse' scenarios for which the agency is seeking input and recommendations.

**Due Date** - These Issue Papers are due in electronic format one month in advance of the Committee's meeting so that they may be made available to the Committee membership. If they cannot be completed in time, then under direction of the AA, the subject may be removed from the agenda. The Issue Papers and any associated materials will be posted to the Committee's web page and 30 hard copies made for the meeting binder.

**Staff Presentations** - The primary staff responsible will give a half-hour presentation and discussion to the Committee to go over the Issue Paper and ensure members understand the issues and questions they will be expected to take under consideration.

**Staff Participation** - The responsible staff will participate in the MAFAC Subcommittee or Working Group meetings to assist members, provide the necessary information for the Committee to perform its duty and to follow through with the resulting Committee Advisory Report making particular note of any Tasking or Follow-up items.

## **POST-MEETING REPORTING & FOLLOW-THROUGH**

**Transfer of Final Reports and Meeting Minutes** - Upon completion, the AA will announce availability and distribution of reports via the weekly announcement. Hard copies will be forwarded to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

**Dissemination of MAFAC Reports** – The meeting summary and any reports will be posted onto the MAFAC Web Page and internally distributed to the agency leadership and key staff for any identified tasking or follow-up items. Appropriate announcement of availability will be determined following each meeting (i.e. Press alert, announcement in FishNews, dissemination to Council Chairs and Executive Directors, direct e-mail dissemination, etc.).

**Action Items to MAFAC** – Will be tasked out by the Executive Director as necessary, based on MAFAC requests and recommendations.

**Staff Contact:** [Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov](mailto:Laurel.Bryant@noaa.gov) 301/713-2379 x171 Fax 713-2384