

**Annotated Agenda**  
**MAFAC Meeting – May 22 - May 24, 2012**  
**Seattle, WA**

- 1. Title of Discussion:** Marine Aquaculture Policy & Washington Shellfish Initiative
- 2. Presenters:** Dr. Michael Rubino, Director, NMFS Office of Aquaculture  
Bill Dewey, Public Affairs Manager, Taylor Shellfish Company, Inc.

**3. Objective/Purpose: [Informational]**

- Overview of the NOAA/DOC Aquaculture Policies & Office of Aquaculture program
- Briefing on the shellfish aquaculture and efforts to increase permit efficiency
- Briefing on Washington State's Shellfish Initiative

**4. Background/Synopsis:** MAFAC received briefings on a range of aquaculture-related issues during the last four meetings. During this time, MAFAC provided extensive input on the development of the NOAA and DOC Aquaculture Policies, funding priorities, national initiatives, and off-shore and near-shore permitting. Given MAFAC's ongoing interest in the agency's aquaculture-related activities, Michael Rubino and Bill Dewey will provide briefings on: 1) shellfish aquaculture and permitting efficiency; and 2) the Washington Statue Shellfish Initiative. These inter-related topics are of both regional relevance and national importance while shellfish aquaculture and permitting efficiency are emerging issues in many other regions.

**Permitting Efficiency**

The Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA), a working group within the National Science and Technology Council, established a Regulatory Task Force consisting of senior officials from NOAA, the Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Agriculture. The Task Force is collaborating with the National Ocean Council to identify and resolve conflicts, eliminate duplication of effort, and increase opportunities for concurrent environmental reviews to increase efficiencies, transparency, and predictability in permit decisionmaking for aquaculture. The ultimate goal is to produce a more coordinated and consistent regulatory process that will protect the ocean environment and reduce the time required to make decisions in the permitting processes involved with implementing aquaculture projects in marine waters.

**Washington Shellfish Initiative**

The Washington Shellfish Initiative, launched in December 2011, is an agreement among state and federal governments, tribes, and the shellfish industry to restore and expand Washington's shellfish resources to promote seafood production and water quality and habitat-related restoration efforts. Building off the [National Shellfish Initiative](#), Washington State is investing in a state-wide initiative to further develop and support shellfish resources for Washington's residents and Native American tribes, as well as a thriving and healthy shellfish aquaculture industry. As an outcome of the 2007 treaty rights settlement, many Puget Sound tribes are undertaking shellfish aquaculture to enhance shellfish resources for cultural and economic gain.

**5. Options:** N/A

**6. Preferred Recommendation:**

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Record of Decision:  
Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:  
Assigned to:  
Due Date: