

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

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MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 25, 2011

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The Marine Fisheries Advisory
Committee met at the Hyatt Regency Washington
on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC, Heather McCarty, Chair,
presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

HEATHER D. McCARTY, Chair
TERRY ALEXANDER
RANDY CATES
ANTHONY CHATWIN
PAUL CLAMPITT
BILL DEWEY
PHILLIP J. DYSKOW
EDWIN A. EBISUI
MARTIN FISHER
KEN FRANKE
STEVE JONER
JULIE MORRIS
GEORGE C. NARDI
TOM RAFTICAN
KEITH RIZZARDI
VA'AMUA HENRY SESEPASARA
DAVID H. WALLACE

CONSULTANTS TO MAFAC:

RANDY FISHER

JOHN V. O'SHEA

STAFF PRESENT:

MARK HOLLIDAY, Designated Federal Official

HEATHER SAGAR

JOSHUA STOLL

ALSO PRESENT:

PEG BRADY

LAUREL BRYANT

BRUCE BUCKSON

JUDY GAN

ROGER GRIFFIS

HEATHER MCMILLAN

BRIAN PAWLAK

GARY REISNER

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P R O C E E D I N G S

8:45 a.m.

CHAIR McCARTY: Hello everybody.

You don't have to stop talking altogether. We're waiting for Monica Medina, who is going to be giving the opening remarks in Eric's place. So I just wanted to let you all know where we are at. We are waiting for her to come, so talk amongst yourselves. Thanks for coming.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 8:46 a.m., and resumed at 8:53 a.m.)

Introduction and Agenda Item Review

CHAIR McCARTY: Again, thanks for coming. We're going to start, but we're not going to do anything official yet. Mark was going to pass out some papers that we have to fill in, just a housekeeping thing, so that we can have something out of the way before Monica comes.

DR. HOLLIDAY: So we're going to

1 do a few housekeeping things. We passed
2 around a note about tonight's dinner at
3 Carmine's Restaurant. It's a family style
4 Italian, you sit at big tables and order
5 plates and share them. It's kind of a fun,
6 raucous, family style restaurant. We have a
7 sign-up sheet. It's about a ten minute walk,
8 six blocks away. It's on the other side of
9 town.

10 If it's raining, we'll figure out
11 how to get there in the rain, but it's a
12 decent walk, it's a safe walk. But we have
13 the address. We have a slide to show with
14 directions there if you need to as well.

15 So you show up there at 6:30 at
16 the bar, and the reservations are 6:45. So I
17 encourage you to attend. It's kind of a fun
18 place to get together and break the ice after
19 the meeting.

20 In terms of getting out of here,
21 emergency exits and bathrooms and things, the
22 restrooms are out the door and across the

1 hallway. Basically follow the signage so you
2 can get out. The emergency exit's on the
3 backside of this room as well for your
4 information.

5 What Josh is handing out are each
6 year we are, as a FACA Committee, required to
7 update our statements of financial interest,
8 to ensure that we're not, as individual
9 members, having any conflicts of interests.
10 So, what we've done is like we've done in the
11 past for existing members. But for new
12 members, this is your first time going through
13 it.

14 We're giving you last year's
15 material. You can do pen and ink changes and
16 then sign it. You can take it home with you
17 if it's more complicated than that. But we
18 basically have to update every year our
19 statements of financial interest, so that our
20 ethics lawyers can make sure that we're
21 conducting business according to law.

22 So if you have the opportunity to

1 take a look at and nothing's changed since
2 last year, you can just sign the cover page.
3 If you need to take it home and add things,
4 just pen and ink is fine, and mail it back to
5 us. Also in that file, I believe there's the
6 annual statement that you're not representing
7 a foreign government; another statement of
8 non-disclosure of conflict of interest that we
9 need to fill out.

10 So you can sign those and just
11 hand it back to us here at the meeting. The
12 reason we're doing it now is these all have to
13 be in place and in effect by the 1st of
14 January. So normally we do it at the fall
15 meeting and then we harass you for the next
16 several months to give them back.

17 So cooperation in getting these
18 things back helps us keep on the straight and
19 narrow with respect to the ethics attorneys
20 and the proper functioning of the group.

21 Another housekeeping item, in
22 advance of this meeting, we sent an email to a

1 Google poll, an online poll, to get, to build
2 some consensus towards meeting dates for 2012.

3 If you haven't filled out the poll, the URL
4 link, and we'll post that up on the screen
5 again. But we're going to talk about setting
6 the meeting dates and hopefully the locations
7 for next year's meeting at this meeting on
8 Thursday.

9 So we checked for conflicts, known
10 conflicts with the regional council meetings,
11 Commission meetings, other events, to try to
12 eliminate potential conflicts that members
13 might have, and select it to get about a half
14 dozen dates, for a spring meeting and a fall
15 meeting.

16 So if you haven't had a chance to
17 go and just check whether your availability
18 would be, yes or no for those different dates,
19 if we do that tonight and tomorrow, some time
20 before Thursday's session, we will have a
21 better feel on whether or not we are getting
22 close or we have to look for alternative dates

1 as well.

2 One of the dates that's on there,
3 and I don't know, for those who have seen the
4 poll, notice that there was a date in October
5 of 2012 that was an attempt to just schedule
6 for our Managing Our Nation's Fisheries III
7 Symposium. This was a national symposium
8 that's been held twice, organized by NOAA and
9 the Regional Fishery Management Council, to
10 talk about big picture policy issues.
11 There's an effort underway to do planning.
12 It's still in a very preliminary stage, and we
13 talked a little bit about this at our May
14 meeting, about MAFAC's role in that.

15 To make a long story short, we
16 included the date, the tentative date for that
17 meeting on our Google poll, because we may
18 want to schedule, in order for all the members
19 who attend that Managing Nation's Fisheries 3.

20 We could use the money to get you
21 to that meeting and have a MAFAC meeting,
22 maybe a one-day meeting before the symposium,

1 or one day, you know, somehow to make sure
2 that we could enable MAFAC members to attend
3 that.

4 So that was an option; check your
5 availability at this time. It's in the very
6 preliminary stages. The meeting may actually
7 -- the symposium may not happen. We're
8 planning towards it, planning towards October
9 2012.

10 So all this is doing at this point
11 is not committing you to attend it; it's just
12 asking "Are you available that week in
13 October?", and that's a potential opportunity
14 for MAFAC to participate in that larger
15 symposium. Any questions on the Doodle poll?
16 And again, we'll post the URL if you don't
17 have access to your email.

18 MR. O'SHEA: Mark, on the Managing
19 Our Nation's Fisheries, we're trying to plan
20 the Commission annual meeting right around
21 that time frame. I was curious who's going to
22 be the final decision-maker as to whether that

1 goes? Is that a Council deal, or is that
2 going to be NOAA, or is that going to be
3 together?

4 DR. HOLLIDAY: Yes. It's a group
5 effort. So that right now there's a planning
6 committee made up of NOAA and the Council's
7 executive director. So there's three or four
8 members of each, and they're consulting with
9 the commissions and other people with respect
10 to conflicts or opportunities for planning,
11 sponsorship, participation, et cetera.

12 So Dominic Isaac has taken the
13 lead on trying to find the venue and the time
14 and place from the Pacific Council. We met by
15 teleconference about ten days ago. We're
16 still looking to hold it in Washington, D.C.
17 That was the preference expressed by NOAA and
18 the Council chairs at their last meeting.

19 But beyond that, that window of
20 opportunity in October, there's a Council
21 meeting on either side of those weeks, and so
22 it's a very tight window. I think there's

1 actually a potential conflict with Larry and
2 the Gulf States commission meeting, which is
3 usually that third week in October as well.

4 So as I said, it's preliminary,
5 but that's the information we have. So for
6 planning purposes, we're looking to see your
7 availability either for the MAFAC meeting at
8 that week, or a coincidental meeting with the
9 symposium.

10 MR. O'SHEA: So you're trying to
11 meet right now at a hotel, I suppose.

12 DR. HOLLIDAY: That's why we can't
13 find a hotel. You've got them all booked up.

14 MR. O'SHEA: No, it's in
15 Philadelphia.

16 CHAIR McCARTY: Thanks, Mark. Do
17 you still want to wait for Monica?

18 DR. HOLLIDAY: I think it's 9:00.
19 We can go ahead and start the meeting.

20 CHAIR McCARTY: Go ahead?
21 Alright. So when Monica does come, we will
22 break and have her give her remarks. But in

1 the meantime, we'll call the meeting to order,
2 and thank again everyone for coming. I think
3 we've only got one member who's not here, and
4 then one advisor, Larry, and Cathy Foy, who
5 couldn't be with us, who's going to be greatly
6 missed.

7 So I would like to have the folks
8 up here introduce themselves, the folks you
9 may not have met before, and if we could start
10 right here. I would ask that you introduce
11 yourself. Richard.

12 DR. MERRICK: I'm Richard Merrick.
13 I'm the new chief scientific advisor for NOAA
14 Fisheries.

15 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you, and
16 down here, Judy.

17 MS. GAN: I'm Judy Gan. I'm the
18 new Director of the Office of Communications
19 for NOAA Fisheries.

20 MR. SESEPASARA: I'm Henry
21 Seseapasara from American Samoa.

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, and Bruce.

1 MR. BUCKSON: Good morning. I'm
2 Bruce Buckson, the relatively new Director of
3 the Office of Law Enforcement.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, thank you.
5 And we have some people in the back, staff as
6 well.

7 MS. BRYANT: Laurel Bryant, NOAA
8 Fisheries Office of Communications.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: And then we have
10 our staff over here, and I don't know who this
11 is. Oh, thank you.

12 MS. SAGAR: I'm Heather Sagar.

13 MR. STOLL: Josh Stoll, NOAA
14 Fisheries.

15 CHAIR McCARTY: Very good, and we
16 have Kate Naughten, who's just coming in. I
17 just wanted to let you all know who the staff
18 was that was here. Kate, I'm introducing you.

19 MS. NAUGHTEN: I'm really
20 grateful. That's my introduction today, and
21 thanks very much, Heather.

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, all right.

1 Thanks for coming. Thank all of you for
2 coming. Those folks are all going to be on
3 the agenda later. So I guess we might as well
4 introduce ourselves to those folks who may not
5 know you all. You want to start over here,
6 Ken.

7 MR. FRANKE: Ken Franke,
8 Sportfishing Association of California.

9 MR. NARDI: George Nardi, Great
10 Bay Aquaculture in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

11 MR. CHATWIN: Tony Chatwin,
12 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

13 MR. DYSKOW: Phil Dyskow.

14 MR. RAFTICAN: Tom Raftican,
15 Sportfishing Conservancy.

16 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Martin Fisher,
17 Florida.

18 MR. EBISUI: Good morning. Edwin
19 Ebisui, Hawaii.

20 MR. DEWEY: Good morning. I'm
21 Bill Dewey with Taylor Shellfish Farms in
22 Washington State.

1 MR. ALEXANDER: My name is Terry
2 Alexander from Maine commercial fisheries.

3 MR. CLAMPITT: Paul Clampitt, I'm
4 from the Pacific Northwest.

5 CHAIR McCARTY: Of course you all
6 know Mark.

7 DR. HOLLIDAY: Mark Holliday,
8 Office of Policy.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: I'm Heather
10 McCarty. I'm the Chair. I'm from Alaska,
11 Juneau, Alaska. I'm in commercial fisheries.

12 MR. RIZZARDI: Keith Rizzardi, St.
13 Thomas University in Florida.

14 MR. WALLACE: Dave Wallace. I'm
15 representing commercial fisheries.

16 MS. MORRIS: Julie Morris from
17 Florida.

18 MR. RANDY FISHER: Randy Fisher.

19 MR. O'SHEA: I'm Vince O'Shea,
20 Atlantic States from Arlington, Virginia.

21 MR. CATES: Randy Cates from
22 Hawaii.

1 MR. JONER: Steve Joner,
2 Washington State.

3 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you, and
4 that's Tony over there. He's our sound guy.
5 Alright. I think that's everybody. So we
6 should go to the agenda first, and as I said,
7 when Monica gets here, we'll interrupt
8 ourselves and let her give her opening remarks
9 in place of Eric.

10 As you know, Eric isn't going to
11 be with us this morning or until Thursday.
12 He's not able to be here until Thursday, but
13 apparently he's going to come then. So
14 wherever you see Eric on the agenda, there's
15 going to be someone else making those
16 presentations, and Monica will be giving his
17 opening remarks when she gets here.

18 The agenda review. Mark's going
19 to run us through the action item table. I
20 don't know whether you all recall; maybe a
21 year ago, we started doing that. But we did
22 it toward the end of the meeting, and we're

1 going to do it at the beginning of the meeting
2 now, because that way, we get a sense of where
3 we are with the tasks and the issues that we
4 are dealing with. So that we're going to do
5 right up front.

6 Then Judy is going to speak about
7 the Office of Communications. Then where Eric
8 was going to speak about regulatory programs,
9 Richard is going to speak. He then will
10 follow that up with the science situation and
11 outlook. We're going to do those together.
12 Bruce has graciously agreed to do that, and
13 then Bruce is going to follow Richard.

14 Then by that time, Gary Reisner et
15 al should be here to talk about the budget,
16 and we will have a discussion on the budget at
17 that time. Then we're going to break for
18 lunch. I'm assuming, Mark, that we're going
19 somewhere else for lunch? They're not
20 bringing lunch in.

21 DR. HOLLIDAY: Lunch on your own.

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Lunch on your own,

1 okay. Before that, we'll talk about some of
2 the places around here that might be a good
3 place to have lunch, if you would Mark, when
4 we get there. Eric was going to be here for
5 the Habitat Blueprint, but I understand that
6 Brian Pawlak, is that how you pronounce that?

7 MR. PAWLAK: Pawlak.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: Is going to be
9 here, and well, that's a new spelling of
10 Pawlak. I haven't seen it spelled like that
11 before. Then Roger Griffis is coming to talk
12 about Blue Carbon Initiatives and Climate
13 Adaptation. Interrupt if you have any
14 questions on any of these agenda items.

15 Then we're going to break out into
16 subcommittees in the afternoon. As you can
17 see, Tom Raftican's committee, my committee,
18 Steve Joner's committee on Aquaculture and
19 Commerce, and then we'll adjourn and then
20 we'll have our group dinner, and I hope you
21 all will come. Carmine's is a great place,
22 and here's Monica. We have a seat for you

1 right here, Monica. There you go. Watch out
2 for the table.

3 Opening Remarks

4 MS. MEDINA: All right. I am so
5 sorry to be late. Oh gosh. I don't know what
6 was going on with traffic, but anyway, I was
7 trying to get towards the Capitol from my
8 house, and I just couldn't move.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: Monica, we've just
10 started going through the agenda. As we said,
11 we would interrupt and have you give your
12 opening remarks.

13 MS. MEDINA: Okay. Well, I am
14 really glad to be here and I am actually, I
15 guess, trying to fill in for Eric as well. So
16 I was supposed to be here to just kick off the
17 meeting and say thank you all for everything
18 that you're doing, and give you sort of the
19 perspective of NOAA leadership, which is that
20 we are working very hard on fisheries issues,
21 which you can probably tell just from the fact
22 that we're so scattered.

1 I mean Eric is up in Portland
2 today doing, Portland, Maine doing a meeting
3 on our, evaluating our catch shares system up
4 there, and how we can improve it. Dr.
5 Lubchenco has been all over the country
6 recently, working on fisheries issues. Most
7 recently, she was in Florida last weekend, and
8 addressing the Society of Environmental
9 Journalists.

10 She was on a panel called "Fish
11 Fight," which I think tells you a lot about
12 where we are, which is, I think, working very,
13 very hard to put into place really important,
14 but difficult catch limits all over the
15 country, and that's, I think, a challenge.

16 I mean the Magnuson-Stevenson
17 amendments from 2006, everyone knew they'd be
18 daunting. Everyone knew it would be a
19 difficult job to live up to the new
20 requirements, and I know that all the
21 Fisheries Service has been working very, very
22 hard to put all the rules in place, and still

1 do everything else that we need to do, things
2 like our aquaculture policy and all the work
3 that we do with recreational fishing groups.

4 So we've been really working very,
5 very hard this past year, and the whole
6 leadership team is paying attention to what's
7 happening in fisheries. So you know, we
8 welcome you all being here and your input,
9 your thoughts, your recommendations for us.

10 We really do need all the eyes and
11 ears that we possibly can have out there in
12 all the various parts of the country that
13 you're from, all the fisheries that you here
14 are helping us learn more about and to know
15 what's happening.

16 To put it in a bigger context, we
17 are faced with the reality of budget cuts,
18 which I know you read about and hear about,
19 because they are so much on the mind of
20 policymakers here in Washington, from the
21 President through the entire administration to
22 Congress. Everyone's looking for how to

1 squeeze more out of the money that they're
2 given, and how do as much with a lot less.

3 I'm afraid that the same will be
4 true for the Fisheries Service, that NOAA's
5 budget is being very much taxed by the fact
6 that we also provide weather services that
7 require us to have satellites that are very
8 expensive to buy. As a result, you know,
9 we've had to put a new set of satellites into
10 space.

11 We're starting actually at the end
12 of this week, Friday. We're launching our
13 next generation of satellites, and that should
14 improve weather forecasts, which is, I think,
15 a good thing for everybody. But the cost of
16 these satellites has been extremely high, and
17 to the extent that we needed extra budget
18 money in the last couple of years, we've had
19 to sort of scrimp and save, and luckily we've
20 been able to get some funding from other
21 agencies. But all of that makes the pressure
22 on our budgets even greater.

1 All that said, I think we are
2 optimistic about all the work that we're
3 doing, both on the weather satellites
4 observation side, and on the "wet" side of
5 NOAA. We are continuing to do some work with
6 states and regions on planning for and
7 adapting to climate change. We're continuing
8 to work with various different regional
9 partners on implementing the National Ocean
10 Policy.

11 Dr. Lubchenco actually is
12 testifying tomorrow on Capitol Hill about
13 that, and I think we would be grateful for
14 your thoughts about how that is playing out in
15 the world, because I think we are trying very
16 hard to emphasize the mapping and the thinking
17 ahead, the planning part of it of what we're
18 doing.

19 We've had to scale back that
20 program a lot. But I think the work will go
21 on because of all of -- it's sort of ingrained
22 in what NOAA does, in terms of mapping and

1 charting. So we hope that we'll be able to
2 continue to help shape policy out in the
3 oceans by looking at all the competing uses,
4 and trying to figure out how to best align
5 them.

6 We continue to work with the
7 Interior Department as they're siting new wind
8 facilities and doing offshore exploration.
9 They're planning for offshore oil and gas
10 development in the next five years. They have
11 a five year plan, 2012 to 2017. We continue
12 to work with them, so that they're aware of
13 fisheries issues as they plan.

14 So we're, I think, actively
15 engaged, and despite all the challenges, we
16 remain energized and optimistic about the
17 prospects of -- we're seeing the benefits now
18 of all the hard work from Magnuson-Stevens,
19 and our satellites are coming to fruition, and
20 hopefully all of that will be helpful to
21 communities and will help stimulate job
22 growth.

1 I mean, I don't think that we're
2 intending for any of this to have long-term
3 negative effects. If anything, we hope that
4 the controls that we put in place in the
5 fisheries that were being overfished, will
6 lead to greater productivity and more jobs,
7 and the data so far has backed that up, in the
8 places where those controls have been put in
9 place.

10 So I think, you know, we welcome
11 your thoughts, your input. We are working
12 very hard, as I said, and you know, it will
13 be, I think, a pretty daunting year with a lot
14 of work from Congress, to help them understand
15 how to cut the budgets better, and then a lot
16 of work to try and figure out how to do as
17 much as we possibly can with the money that we
18 will receive in the appropriations process.

19 That's really all I have, but I
20 would love to have a conversation. I don't
21 know that there's more that I can tell you,
22 but I'd be happy to answer any questions you

1 have and I would be grateful for any feedback
2 you could give us, the leadership team,
3 because as I said, we are working very hard,
4 and we want to know how we can do a better
5 job, and we want to get the benefit of all of
6 your experiences and what you are, you know,
7 you're hearing and what you can tell us about
8 how we can do a better job in your part of the
9 country, in your fishery.

10 I know Eric wishes he could be
11 here, but we really are stretched, trying to
12 do as much as we can, particularly in New
13 England where what we've done has been so
14 controversial.

15 So I would welcome questions or
16 comments, thoughts. Anything that you have on
17 your mind, please let me know. If there are
18 things you'd like me specifically to tell Eric
19 or Dr. Lubchenco, please let me know.

20 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. How long do
21 you have?

22 MS. MEDINA: I have until 9:30 for

1 sure, 9:40.

2 CHAIR McCARTY: All right. Do you
3 want to go ahead and call on people when they
4 raise their hands?

5 MS. MEDINA: Sure, absolutely.
6 All right, Terry.

7 MR. ALEXANDER: This is maybe a
8 comment more than a question. I'm a
9 commercial fisherman from Maine, and I just
10 wanted to stress how important it was, even
11 with the budget cuts that we're under now, how
12 with all the catch share things that they're
13 pushing, how important real time assessment
14 and assignment is to the industry, with actual
15 allocations of fish. I just wanted to stress
16 the importance of that. I'm sure that you
17 already knew that, but --

18 MS. MEDINA: No. I mean, I do
19 know that. You know, we have new leadership
20 in the Science Center up there, or we will.
21 We have an opening, and I think that will be a
22 help. I think, you know, we're trying to do

1 more stock assessments next year. We've asked
2 for more funding for that.

3 We've also now just added \$4
4 million for observer costs in New England, to
5 help defray those costs for another year. We
6 have a lot of data coming out today about
7 exactly what has happened with catch shares in
8 New England, and how it's impacted various
9 sizes of vessels.

10 I think there's a lot more work we
11 have to do there, to help get through this
12 very difficult transition period, and there's
13 no doubt that stock assessments and science
14 are a key part of that. Is it Bill? Hi,
15 Bill.

16 MR. DEWEY: Hi Monica. I'm Bill
17 Dewey with Taylor Shellfish Lines out in
18 Washington State. You mentioned that you're
19 going to scale back directly from implementing
20 the National Ocean Policy, and I was curious
21 about that. I know there was a recent hearing
22 in the House Resources Committee that was

1 pretty critical of the Marine Spatial Planning
2 efforts.

3 For our industry, user conflicts
4 are a major issue for us in our ability to
5 grow. So we were looking forward to
6 implementation of marine spatial planning as a
7 potential tool to help with that, and I was
8 curious if you could comment more on the fact
9 that you're having to scale back.

10 MS. MEDINA: Well, we had some
11 riders from the House, and even now the
12 Senate. There are certain members who really
13 think this is the wrong way to go, and you
14 know, that's democracy. So I think we're
15 trying to do what we think is still part of
16 our, sort of our bread and butter, our routine
17 work, without having an added-on program per
18 se.

19 We're going to continue to do a
20 lot of the same activities, and where there
21 are conflicts, hopefully work through them. I
22 mean we always thought of this as a way to

1 resolve conflicts way ahead of an EIS process
2 or Section 7 consultation or anything that
3 would be more regulatory and onerous and
4 definitive.

5 That if you identify these
6 conflicts early enough, you could actually
7 resolve them, because everybody would want to
8 resolve them. They'd want the certainty to
9 know if they weren't going to have a challenge
10 down the road, or have to worry about changing
11 their operations because of something else.

12 I mean, you know, we have a real
13 need to develop more energy in this country.
14 We have a real need to have food security, and
15 that means more production and maximizing the
16 use of the ocean to the greatest extent that
17 we possibly can. We always thought that this
18 was the way to do that, that would minimize
19 conflicts, intrusion, government, you know,
20 kind of government dictates.

21 But others see it differently, and
22 so I think, you know, we understand, you know,

1 or -- the way the Constitution works, and when
2 Congress gives us mandates, tells us that we
3 can't do certain things, we listen. But that
4 doesn't mean that we -- if you have a
5 particular questions, a set of issues, needs,
6 things, information that you need.

7 I mean my vision of NOAA in 40
8 years is one that is making information,
9 critical information, environmental
10 information, natural resource information
11 available to the public, so that better
12 decisions can be made. Things like the fact
13 that we're getting better and better at
14 predicting kind of the water situation in a
15 place like Northern California, where water is
16 scarce and the fights over it are legendary.

17 But if we can give better
18 predictions and forecasts about how much
19 rainfall or snowpack there will be in the
20 mountains of California, so that they can
21 better manage the water system there, it seems
22 to me that's, you know, a better role than

1 having to regulate, you know, as you go
2 basically, the operations of something like
3 that.

4 So I hope that we can keep doing
5 some of the same work, because it's the work
6 that we've always done, and that we won't have
7 even more riders than we've already had. But
8 you know, we are listening to the will of the
9 people, as expressed through Congress. Randy.

10 MR. CATES: Oh, was someone else?

11 MS. MEDINA: Oh, two Randys.

12 CHAIR McCARTY: There are. Randy
13 Fisher and Randy Cates.

14 MS. MEDINA: Randy Fisher, then.
15 Oh, I thought you were raising your hand.
16 Okay. Then Randy Cates.

17 MR. CATES: We have a discussion
18 coming up later in this meeting, but I'd like
19 to bring this up, since you're here. We have
20 a pretty contentious issue occurring in Hawaii
21 with regard to monk seals, and NOAA is trying
22 to take the entire state waters, with the

1 exception of military and Waikiki Beach as
2 essential habitat.

3 That is going to be, I think, a
4 real conflict and a real problem. I have
5 personally met with our state government.
6 They've asked me for some input on that, and
7 the implications of that are far-reaching.
8 This is for a species that is not native to
9 the main Hawaiian Islands.

10 So I question, and Ed might want
11 to comment on that also, I question the logic
12 behind taking a species that's not native to
13 an area, and then creating essential habitat
14 in that area, in the name of protection. It
15 seems really inappropriate.

16 For anyone else that's in the
17 other states, I mean can you imagine if all of
18 your state waters all of the sudden became --
19 your shoreline, your beaches, any area where
20 you have massive amounts of tourism, massive
21 amounts of interaction, and all of the sudden
22 that's essential habitat. It seems

1 aggressive, I guess, is the way I would
2 characterize it.

3 MS. MEDINA: I've only heard a
4 little bit about this issue, but I am aware
5 that it is controversial in Hawaii, and thank
6 you for bringing it to our attention. We'll
7 take a look at it here at headquarters. I
8 don't know that we've had much briefing on it
9 yet, but we have heard that there are -- that
10 it will be controversial.

11 So the hardest part for me, as a
12 non-scientist, is being able to kind of find
13 that line where policy begins, where the
14 science ends and the policy begins. There's
15 no place where it's trickier than in things
16 like the ESA implementation. But I appreciate
17 that you brought it up and we'll take a look.

18 MR. CATES: I'm just curious if
19 you would know, or anyone else, has that ever
20 been done anywhere else in the country, where
21 you've taken an area that's -- say you take a
22 species, and you put it in another area that

1 it's not normally there, in the name of
2 protection. I don't know that's ever been
3 done, or has it?

4 MS. MEDINA: I don't know. Did we
5 move them? Did we locate them there?

6 MR. CATES: Yes, you have.

7 MR. EBISUI: They moved there
8 actually.

9 MR. CATES: NOAA has brought them
10 there, and the main proposal is to actually
11 bring them there, a certain amount of them, to
12 try and give them a leg up, because the area
13 they're in, pups are not surviving.

14 So one of the main parts of the
15 proposal is to take young pups from the
16 northwest Hawaiian Islands, bring them to the
17 main Hawaiian Islands, in the hopes that
18 they'll do better.

19 DR. HOLLIDAY: Heather, it's on
20 the agenda we have for discussion. We have
21 the Chief of the Endangered Species Division
22 tomorrow, to talk about this very specific

1 issue, and the more general issue about
2 recoveries of species and extensions of their
3 range on the islands. We've got it queued it
4 for some discussion, but it's important for
5 those that are here. I'm sorry.

6 MS. MEDINA: Okay, great. Martin.

7 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Good morning,
8 Monica. Thanks for coming. My name is Martin
9 Fisher. I'm a commercial fisherman,
10 vertically integrated in Florida, which
11 basically means I produce, I sell, I
12 distribute, and I retail. I'm really happy to
13 hear that NOAA is interested in creating more
14 stock assessments.

15 But if we don't have the right
16 kind of data, if it's not real-time data, then
17 we're stuck in the same kind of circle that
18 we're stuck in now. We already have a
19 template, at least in the Gulf of Mexico, to
20 create real-time data. I've been asking for
21 this for years.

22 Because of the IFQ, we have real-

1 time data collection at point of sale. We
2 have the template. All we need to do is add
3 more pages, include all the species in the
4 Gulf of Mexico that are caught by fishermen,
5 and have them entered and have that data
6 instantly distributed to the Science Center,
7 instead of relying on log books, which are --
8 they're mandatorily imposed on the fishermen,
9 but there's no checks and balances, and the
10 fisherman can put in the log book anything he
11 wants.

12 Unfortunately, it takes 18 months
13 to verify that data. So we can have all the
14 stock assessments in the world --

15 MS. MEDINA: The lag time is a
16 killer.

17 MR. MARTIN FISHER: But we need
18 real-time data, and we have the ability to
19 have it right now. We don't have to wait any
20 longer. We have it right now. So that's one
21 thing I wanted to say.

22 The other thing I wanted to say is

1 that especially in the Gulf of Mexico and the
2 southwest Atlantic, fishermen there don't
3 necessarily feel that to have viable ACLs and
4 catch limits, that we need a catch share, in
5 order to -- or an IFQ, in order to achieve
6 that. There are many vehicles that we have in
7 our tool box or tools in our tool box, in
8 order to achieve ACTs, ACLs and responsibly
9 manage our resource. I think that sometimes
10 gets lost in the mission.

11 So interesting. It seems that you
12 -- I take your point because, you know, Mark
13 and I worked real hard on the catch shares
14 policy a couple of years ago, and the point
15 there was that catch shares isn't a mandate
16 across the board.

17 It was a tool that we thought
18 could be helpful in some places, and that you
19 all, as fisheries managers and fishermen in
20 particular regions, different fisheries, would
21 be able to decide when you thought it might be
22 appropriate and sometimes, I mean, it's just

1 when -- it's sort of a last resort, when ACLs
2 and other effort controls haven't worked.
3 Sometimes that is sort of the last measure.

4 But it seems like it is working on
5 the Gulf side, in that you can have better
6 data. But I'm not sure maybe if I'm reading
7 more into your comment.

8 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Well, I'm
9 really appreciative of the fact that we have a
10 new tool that was created through the IFQ
11 system. But we wouldn't necessarily, you
12 don't need IFQ to have that tool. I think the
13 Council took it as a mandate from the
14 administration that we should not just
15 consider, but that we should recommend catch
16 shares for our fisheries.

17 I'm just going to get in the weeds
18 for one second. Vermilion snapper is totally
19 underfished. In fact, the Science Center
20 wants us to catch 6.5 million to bring the
21 stock down to a level where we can achieve
22 maximum sustainable yield, and that's why OFL

1 worked. Currently, we're only catching 2.5.

2 But there's a big push to IFQ that
3 species. It's not over-capitalized. It's
4 under-utilized, underfished. It doesn't need
5 an IFQ, and if you express an IFQ into that
6 fishery, then basically what you're doing is
7 you're giving the ownership of the fishery to
8 a very small cadre of people, and limiting
9 access, when we need to increase access.

10 MS. MEDINA: Well, I would be
11 surprised how hard we're working on the catch
12 shares, the ITQ systems that we have
13 implemented and they're big ones on the east
14 and west coast, that there's any huge push
15 from headquarters to do more.

16 But obviously we want people to
17 consider them, and to think of them as a tool
18 that's viable. I mean the whole goal of the
19 catch share policy was for us to try to get
20 smarter about them, so that we could help
21 implement them effectively. Boy, I mean, it's
22 a long learning process. Each one is

1 different, you know, and there are many
2 complications with that.

3 But every system has its
4 complications or its impacts, you know, and
5 so, you know, it's not that this one is --
6 maybe that we're more conscious of them in
7 this one, because we're managing more closely
8 down to the individual vessel, and that, you
9 know, gives us more information, as you said.

10 But it isn't something that we
11 expected would be appropriate everywhere. In
12 fact, we expected that it wouldn't be
13 appropriate everywhere, and that it would be
14 something that people would decide on.

15 So you know, I hope that you'll
16 take this message back to the Council, and I'm
17 sure Mark and others will do the same, that
18 we're wanting to use them where people think
19 them appropriate and we want to help, because
20 they are difficult to design and implement.

21 As for your other comments about,
22 you know, the ACLs working, I'm glad to hear

1 it. I'm very glad to hear it, I mean, because
2 they have represented a huge amount of work,
3 and that 2011, you know, got to have them all
4 in place, was a pretty big deadline, pretty
5 big hurdle to get over.

6 I know the Fishery Service is
7 scrambling, you know, stretching to get the
8 last of them done. But for the most part
9 we've managed to get it done, and hopefully
10 that will bear, you know, fruit. Julie.

11 MS. MORRIS: Can you give us just
12 a quick overview of what was under discussion
13 about risk reduction.

14 MS. MEDINA: Well, I'm trying to
15 think what the various amendments are that are
16 still out there. You know, there are a lot of
17 them on catch shares. There are a few in New
18 England, on our asset forfeiture fund.

19 I didn't touch on enforcement, but
20 that's something that I have worked very, very
21 hard on, and I would be interested in your
22 sense of whether or not compliance assistance

1 efforts are working that we're doing, and
2 that's outreach and communications around
3 enforcement.

4 So there are a couple of
5 amendments on enforcement. I don't think that
6 there's anything else. I can't remember what
7 other amendments are pending. I mean
8 generally catch shares and enforcement are the
9 two big issues for us with respect to Congress
10 and, you know, riders.

11 We haven't seen a whole lot of
12 momentum around amending the Magnuson-Stevens
13 Act, although it was interesting. We were
14 having a conversation about it yesterday,
15 about whether or not, you know, in 2012, we're
16 going to have to have the conversation, or
17 whether we'll need to just postpone it because
18 of all the other things that are happening
19 with respect to budget cuts and changes.

20 But I guess the law needs to be
21 reauthorized soon, and I suspect there will be
22 at some point a conversation, a real one, not

1 just a sort of one off or a temporary fix, but
2 a real one about Magnuson-Stevens. I mean, I
3 think the thing that we are wrestling with
4 right now is the thing that we've been
5 wrestling with for as long as I can remember
6 since my first time in NOAA, which is how to
7 deal with requests for fisheries disasters,
8 and what's in the statute about fisheries
9 disasters that was really hard for us to work
10 with, frankly.

11 We have a new policy and we're
12 trying to do our best with that to make it
13 work. But what is a disaster, what should be
14 a disaster, what does that mean that people
15 should receive or should expect from the
16 government, particularly in a time we're in,
17 in a time when we're not doing well and there
18 are a lot of people who are struggling in a
19 lot of industries.

20 So you know, if I had to guess, I
21 would suspect that -- I think one area that
22 we've worked very hard in that's promising

1 that we wouldn't get changed is the IUU
2 provisions that are new. I mean, that's a new
3 area for us. We've worked very hard to put a
4 great program in place, and we have a lot of
5 partnerships internationally, and that's going
6 to help U.S. fishermen.

7 I would suspect they'll be some
8 discussion about rec. versus commercial, how
9 to fish and that kind of thing, because that
10 is such a big issue, that I suspect there will
11 be a desire to maybe take a look back. But I
12 would be curious what you all think is working
13 and not working in Magnuson, in the statute
14 itself or as we've implemented it. Paul.

15 MR. CLAMPITT: Thank you. I'm
16 Paul Clampitt from the Pacific Northwest, a
17 halibut fisherman. Talking about the tough
18 budget, one of the things that I think you
19 could say to save both fisherman and NOAA and
20 NMFS money would be to implement electronic
21 observing. We're looking at paying \$600 a day
22 for observers, and they use it quite

1 effectively in Canada, and I don't see why we
2 couldn't use it too.

3 I don't see any push for that, and
4 I've been talking about it with people. I
5 could see some movement in that direction.

6 DR. MERRICK: There's a powerful
7 one in the Northeast. It's the first year;
8 the problems we've had at the end of the first
9 year suggest that the only way we could
10 recommend it would be for a long range
11 fishery. The problems remaining there though
12 are getting some idea of the weight or length
13 of the fish, so we're hoping that at least in
14 the Northeast, to have this problem solved in
15 the next year or two. So is that effective or
16 is that actually -- we should have an
17 operational system within a year or two.
18 Hopefully we can do that.

19
20 MR. CLAMPITT: I'm glad we're doing
21 something.

22 DR. MERRICK: Yes. Most of the

1 systems that exist right now are ones that are
2 monitoring catch or providing enforcement.
3 They're not actually quota monitoring, which
4 is two really different sorts of issues.

5 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, yes. It
6 seems to me that, you know, you don't need 100
7 percent observer, you know, to figure out what
8 the stocks are. You could put a camera on the
9 other 90% of the vessels, and they keep the
10 log, you know how it works, so I don't have to
11 explain it all. It seems, you know, the idea
12 that you have to have 100 percent coverage
13 seems --.

14 DR. MERRICK: For quota
15 monitoring, you'd probably have to have
16 something close to that if you're trying to
17 sum up what's being taken, whether it's
18 bycatch or -- but for enforcement, it's what
19 we described.

20 MR. CLAMPITT: You know, one of
21 the things I'm looking at -- and it's
22 November, and I'm looking at the numbers and

1 quotas in terms of species. I don't think
2 they're going to, they're going to lose 30% of
3 the fish. That's a lot of jobs and money, and
4 on top of that, you're losing 30 percent of
5 the fish, and then you're charging, observer
6 presence on top of that is probably greater
7 than \$600 a day. It seems it should be
8 somewhere around that.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: I think we have
10 time for one more question for Monica.

11 MR. JONER: Good morning, Monica.
12 I'm Steve Joner with the Makah tribe, and
13 you've already heard from two or three folks
14 about the needs for better assessment, and the
15 Pacific Council, we're working on science
16 improvements with our SSC in the Science
17 Centers, north and south, and those are really
18 needed.

19 We all know how tough things are
20 budget-wise, but I think that means we just
21 need to prioritize better. We have one
22 rockfish stock, winnows, that are about to be

1 discharged from the hospital. Unfortunately,
2 we have a couple of other species that are in
3 the waiting room, and one of them is sable
4 fish.

5 So we just can't seem to break
6 even on this, or we at least get one out and
7 another one is headed back in. I think that
8 improved assessments will go a long way toward
9 helping us better understand and better
10 manage.

11 Then another big issue for us is
12 groundfish, essential fish habitat and the
13 role of corals and sponges. We think that the
14 role that corals and sponges play as essential
15 fish habitat, it's just not understood, and we
16 really don't have clearly defined goals for
17 the corals and sponges.

18 Right now, we just basically have
19 information on presence or absence, and
20 there's not a lot of information on how they
21 interact with the ground fish. So what the
22 EFH enclosures have done is just made more

1 restrictions on the fisheries. We try to work
2 around those, and of course, we all want to
3 protect the habitat that the ground fish
4 depend on.

5 But I think more information is
6 vital on not just the role that corals and
7 sponges play as habitat, but more information
8 on what our goals should be for population
9 goals for these species, and maybe a better
10 understanding of our habitat goals for the
11 ground fish, and then the two would kind of go
12 together.

13 I think we need to step away from
14 just managing corals and sponges as habitat
15 and start managing them as resources, and by
16 doing that, I think we'd have a lot better
17 understanding of the interaction and a lot
18 better understanding of what we need to do to
19 maintain that habitat.

20 MS. MEDINA: Thank you for that.
21 I know this is a subject that the big boss,
22 Dr. Lubchenco, who cares an awful lot about,

1 since it's her home, and I think Eric has been
2 talking about sort of orienting the thinking
3 in NMFS around science and habitat, you know,
4 without saying it in -- I don't think he's
5 made any mandates or dictates around that, but
6 I think he's thinking about how important
7 habitat is, and trying to orient the Fishery
8 Service more around what is essential habitat,
9 without regulating, without stepping in, but
10 thinking about restoration. I mean, I'm
11 thinking about the Gulf. I've spent a lot of
12 time thinking about the Gulf and restoration
13 there.

14 So your points are well-taken and,
15 you know, I hope that we can continue to do
16 more with less. It's just hard, it's a
17 challenge.

18 MR. JONER: Sure, thanks.

19 MR. RIZZARDI: I want to mention
20 an issue about climate change, and its nexus
21 to fisheries and its importance to the people
22 of Florida. As we deal with sea level rise

1 and the consequence of climate change, what it
2 could mean in Florida is the transformation of
3 our estuaries.

4 With 90 percent of our population
5 on the coastline, there's no place for those
6 estuaries to move to. It's not Alaska.

7 MS. MEDINA: Look at Louisiana.
8 They're out of water.

9 MR. RIZZARDI: So we have a
10 squeeze coming. The people are not paying
11 attention. Our state has stopped implementing
12 its climate laws, has actually tried to repeal
13 the climate laws.

14 Our governor has terminated the
15 Energy Commission and the Energy and Climate
16 Commission, and in the meanwhile, the ocean
17 will continue to rise, and we are not even
18 addressing this issue at a risk management
19 level, which is where it should be.

20 Even if you want to dispute the
21 science, you should at least be looking at
22 this issue as a risk management issue. There

1 are 20 million people in Florida who are not
2 being served by their government right now,
3 and we need to elevate the issue at an
4 awareness level, so that people can start to
5 address it.

6 What I'm not seeing is the reach
7 to the public, so that they understand the
8 consequences and the severity and the
9 interconnectedness of all of these issues.
10 Our coastal well fields are at stake. Our
11 fresh water drinking supply is at stake. Our
12 flood control is at stake.

13 The people of Florida are at risk
14 of going under water, and we're not dealing
15 with the issue.

16 MS. MEDINA: For protection, yes.
17 We are trying very hard. I mean, obviously,
18 we care about all those things. You know, we
19 care about not just the fisheries but also the
20 storm protection, all of the risk factors, and
21 you know, I take your point.

22 I wish there were more we could

1 do. But we continue to, you know, predict the
2 weather and predict it not just today or
3 tomorrow, but in longer term forecasts as
4 well.

5 We have a Coastal Services Center
6 in South Carolina and our Ocean Service that
7 is working with more and more communities,
8 because in the end, you know, government is
9 local and when people want help, and when they
10 realize they need it, you know, we have
11 resources that they can draw on.

12 The other thing I'll say is that
13 the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task
14 Force still is alive and well, and Dr.
15 Robinson, our Assistant Secretary, is actually
16 there, if not today then it's tomorrow, and
17 they continue to work.

18 They are a very successful example
19 of what can happen if people put their mind to
20 it and they don't talk about climate change or
21 not climate change. They just talk about the
22 South Florida ecosystem as a whole, and all

1 the things that need to happen. So I do have
2 some hope that there is integrated and really
3 active engagement in the region between the
4 federal government and a lot of the state and
5 local officials down there.

6 MR. RIZZARDI: Can I follow up for
7 just -- I think the South Florida Ecosystem
8 Restoration Task Force is a good example of
9 regional collaboration. What happens in all
10 of those collaborative exercises is at the
11 end, there's not a single leader, and the
12 leadership is then diffuse.

13 What you get is one city or one
14 locality that does address the issue, but the
15 City of Lake Worth cannot by itself adapt to
16 an entire coastline issue. If we're going to
17 embrace adaptation solutions, if we're going
18 to embrace mitigation solutions, they have to
19 happen at a regional level.

20 While there may be planning
21 discussions underway, there's no regional
22 leadership, there's no state leadership and

1 there's no national leadership in Florida
2 right now.

3 MS. MEDINA: Well, I recognize
4 that there's a new governor in Florida and
5 he's made a lot of changes.

6 MR. RIZZARDI: Yes ma'am.

7 MS. MEDINA: And that is a
8 challenge.

9 MR. SESEPASARA: My name is Henry
10 Sesepasara.

11 MS. MEDINA: Yes.

12 MR. SESEPASARA: I'm from American
13 Samoa, the U.S. Territories. We have a very
14 international concern in fisheries development
15 and management. We are located in an area
16 where our territory is boxed in by other
17 foreign EEZs, like Western Samoa. The
18 independent Samoa state is only 40 miles west
19 of us.

20 We have Tonga, the kingdom of
21 Tonga which is south of us. Then the French
22 Polynesia in the east, Tokelau in the north.

1 So we're sort of boxed in here and we do have
2 an international concern here where as a U.S.
3 territory, we are part of the Western Pacific
4 Fishery Management Council, and we are subject
5 under a lot of management regulations,
6 compared to our neighbor islands, independent
7 state of Western Samoa, who are not part of
8 the U.S., and their fisheries is more into the
9 development stage, rather than to the
10 management stage.

11 We are subject under all these
12 other federal regulations, and yet these other
13 countries are not. So we do have that
14 problem. As far as management, just yesterday
15 I read the issue on the two powerful nations
16 competing in that area, which is China and the
17 U.S., and China is pouring a lot of funds for
18 the development of fisheries in these
19 countries.

20 If you ever have a chance to come
21 down and observe the fisheries in the two
22 Samoas, the American Samoa Territory and the

1 independent Samoa, our fishery development is
2 no comparison to the development of fisheries
3 in independent Samoa because of the funds that
4 are coming in from China, developing that.

5 So it's a just a concern that we
6 want to express here for our federal
7 government to look at it.

8 MS. MEDINA: I appreciate that.
9 We have a Deputy Assistant Secretary for
10 International Fishing, Fisheries, Russell
11 Smith, and he's in the Pacific today, meeting
12 with I forget which of the commissions. I
13 can't remember which one he's at today.

14 But we continue to work on those
15 organizations in order to have better
16 coordination. We understand that there are
17 competitive, real competitive issues. We also
18 have a new Secretary of Commerce, and one of
19 his first trips will be --

20 Well, his two first trips are to
21 China and APEC, and these are also places
22 where we have tried to engage. We have the

1 former Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke, in
2 China, and Dr. Robinson is actually going to
3 China next week himself for a discussion about
4 oceans. So we'll continue to raise the issue
5 and to work on it.

6 I'm sorry I have to take off. I
7 wish I could stay longer. I hope that you --
8 I mean I looked at your agenda. My gosh, you
9 guys have a lot to do. So we appreciate all
10 of the input that you're going to give us over
11 the next couple of days.

12 Again, I know Eric wishes he could
13 be here, but you've got a lot of our
14 leadership team here, ready to work with you
15 and to take all your feedback, and we'll make
16 sure that Dr. Lubchenco gets a report on both
17 what you've told me this morning and more
18 broadly what you're going to discuss over the
19 next three days.

20 So thank you very much for taking
21 the time away from your businesses, from
22 coming here from away from home to be with us

1 and to give us the benefit of your wisdom, and
2 good luck. Thanks very much.

3 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you. Thanks
4 so much for coming.

5 MS. MEDINA: Sure.

6 CHAIR McCARTY: And we do have a
7 lot on our agenda that you talked about. So
8 you'll get our -- here's your purse.

9 MS. MEDINA: Yes. I can't go
10 without that. Bye.

11 Agenda Review (continued)

12 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. Let's get
13 back to the Agenda Review. We were on the
14 beginning of the day on Wednesday. We are
15 going to talk about National Ocean Policy
16 implementation. It sounds like Monica's
17 asking for our input on how the National Ocean
18 Policy is playing out there. I wrote that
19 down.

20 I think we'll probably have plenty
21 to say and give it back to the leadership. So
22 I look forward to a good discussion there.

1 The next piece is we asked at the last meeting
2 for a discussion on the marine cadastre.
3 We're going to get more of it. We're going to
4 have a number of people here doing that.
5 Mark, who is going to be leading the
6 discussion on the National Ocean Policy
7 implementation, since Eric's down for that?

8 DR. HOLLIDAY: We have one of the
9 senior policy advisors from NOAA, who's going
10 to talk to us -- and the National Ocean Policy
11 process.

12 MS. MORRIS: Excuse me. It's
13 really hard to hear. I know a number of
14 people are having trouble, so let's all try to
15 speak up. I'm having a really hard time just
16 keeping up.

17 DR. HOLLIDAY: Yes. Tomorrow,
18 we'll have the representative from NOAA
19 policy, Jessica Hamilton Keyes, who will be
20 talking to us about the National Ocean Policy,
21 on Eric's behalf.

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, thank you.

1 Then we have implementing the NOAA Aquaculture
2 policies. We're having Michael Rubino from
3 the Aquaculture office. Then we're having
4 someone, Jeff Payne, who you've not met, I
5 don't think before, from I guess the NOS
6 Coastal Services Center. Is that person from
7 here, from D.C.?

8 DR. HOLLIDAY: The Coastal
9 Services Center is in South Florida.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, okay, on the
11 Caribbean strategy. Then we're going to have
12 more subcommittee meetings. One of the things
13 that we need to deal with is Cathy Foy not
14 being here for the Protected Resources
15 discussion, and we probably need to have
16 another member of that subcommittee lead that
17 discussion.

18 I asked for a list of those
19 people, because I don't know who is on that
20 committee, but we need to appoint somebody
21 else. The Recreational webinar, the
22 Recreational Fisheries webinar, as you can

1 see, is going to take place that afternoon.
2 Russ Dunn and Forbes Darby are going to be
3 part of that, and Ken Franke is going to lead
4 that.

5 We have also at the same time a
6 discussion of what I call the Revision 2020,
7 which we started out, as you know, with a
8 small group of people who met on the phone.
9 Actually, it turned out to be almost a
10 committee of the whole, which was great, and
11 that group is going to get together again
12 here.

13 We have some work done already,
14 and we're going to be continuing that work
15 here on Wednesday afternoon. On Thursday, we
16 have the Ecosystem Subcommittee report and
17 discussion, a report out from the Strategic
18 Planning and Budget Committee, a report out
19 from the Protected Resources Subcommittee and
20 the Commerce Subcommittee.

21 We've allowed plenty of time for a
22 discussion. I think that's one of the changes

1 that we've made in the agenda that I think
2 will be good, is that we'll have a lot of time
3 to discuss what comes out of those committees,
4 rather than having it sort of a hurried
5 project at the end of the meeting. Ken.

6 MR. FRANKE: For a, from a
7 planning standpoint, a product of the webinar
8 will be our recommendations for the vision
9 plan. So we'll come back to you with a
10 summary of those for the group to review.

11 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you. One of
12 the things that we discussed at the
13 Subcommittee on Revision 2020 was that the
14 subcommittees that already exist would play a
15 role in that if they wish to, and some of the
16 subcommittee recommendations, I hope, will be
17 focused on the work that we need to revise
18 Revision 2020.

19 I think that's true of the
20 Aquaculture committee as well. George
21 suggested that the Aquaculture Committee deal
22 with that in their breakout session.

1 MR. RAFTICAN: Heather, one of the
2 things coming up, we've got a number of chairs
3 that are going to be rotating off MAFAC, and
4 it's probably time to address some new
5 leadership there too.

6 CHAIR McCARTY: That's a very good
7 point. My understanding is that the
8 leadership team is those subcommittee chairs.
9 Is that correct, Mark?

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: Yes, they will be
11 appointed, yes.

12 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. So we will
13 talk about that at the end of the meeting. A
14 couple of things that Mark and I spoke about
15 when we were putting the agenda together that
16 aren't specifically on the agenda, that I
17 thought we would talk about at some point is
18 one of them is MSA reauthorization, and I
19 noticed that Julie brought it up.

20 I know that last time it happened,
21 NMFS played a pretty substantial role in the
22 NSA reauthorization process. So I thought

1 perhaps we could discuss that briefly, with a
2 view towards having it on a future agenda.

3 Coming from the grassroots of MAFAC, I think
4 it might be useful and Monica, of course, did
5 say that too.

6 So I thought we could have a short
7 discussion on that, even though it's not
8 specifically on the agenda. The other thing
9 that isn't on the agenda specifically that I
10 think we need to have a brief update on is the
11 Managing Fisheries 3 meeting.

12 If you recall, at the last
13 meeting of MAFAC, we discussed what MAFAC's
14 role might be in that conference, and I would
15 like to talk about that a little bit more,
16 because I think we can play a role, and I
17 would like your thoughts on what that might
18 be.

19 DR. MERRICK: That, and our effort
20 to reauthorize, are going to be tied together.

21 I mean, Eric's viewing Managing Our Nation's
22 Fisheries as the beginning of the process, for

1 us to start to understand what we want to ask
2 for in the next authorization.

3 CHAIR McCARTY: Makes a lot of
4 sense. That's good. Those are the two things
5 that I had on my list. Are there others that
6 you think are issues that we should add to t
7 he agenda at some point? The floor is open
8 for suggestions, if you think there's things
9 that have been left off this agenda that need
10 to be assessed? Well, as we go, we may be
11 adding things.

12 So the next order of business is
13 for Mark to go over the action item table. It
14 will be up on the screen, I presume?

15 DR. HOLLIDAY: Yes. Josh, you
16 emailed this to members this morning, so we've
17 been updating as events changed. You'll
18 recall from the last meeting, we had a number
19 of action items that were part of our report
20 out of the May meeting in Key West that we
21 sent forward to Dr. Lubchenco, we sent forward
22 to the Commerce Secretary as part of the lead

1 summary. We copied that to all members as
2 well.

3 Then we tracked the actions that
4 are in this report out during the course of
5 the months between meetings, and those who had
6 responsibilities, whether they were NOAA
7 people who were directed to take some action,
8 or staff or even a subcommittee of MAFAC were
9 asked to follow through on that.

10 Our game plan in Key West was for
11 several of these actions to have subcommittees
12 or members of MAFAC lead efforts to try to
13 continue the momentum we generated, and work
14 on items between meetings. That's still a
15 work in progress, in terms of carrying that
16 idea out.

17 But we do have a lot of progress
18 to report on the actions that we looked at at
19 the May meeting. Josh, is this going to be
20 scrolled through? Am I going to be able to
21 scroll through here?

22 (Pause.)

1 So the first area of interest and
2 my point here this morning, I mean I'm not
3 going to go cell by cell through the
4 spreadsheet, but the general categories that
5 we looked at is the May meeting, we had
6 presentations from the deputy director of the
7 Aquaculture program and staff on the
8 implementation of the NOAA Aquaculture policy
9 and the DOC aquaculture policy, some very
10 specific recommendations with respect to
11 implementation of actions, initiatives, as
12 well as follow through on the role for MAFAC.

13 We've got an update and discussion
14 for the subcommittee on the Commerce
15 subcommittee schedule. But I think if we can
16 go through them sort of one at a time, they're
17 pretty consistent, which is a good thing with
18 the directions that NOAA was going in, in
19 terms of implementing the three main points,
20 implementing the Gulf of Mexico fishery
21 management plan amended for aquaculture.

22 So there's indications that this

1 is one of the action activities through the
2 Southeast Regional office, and if you can
3 scroll to my right, get that last cell where
4 the action is listed. Thanks.

5 I think we're on target, you know,
6 it's actively underway through both the
7 regional office in St. Pete and the
8 Aquaculture program in headquarters. You see
9 the different time lines there. The second
10 recommendation talked about the National
11 Shellfish initiative. Again, these are things
12 that were consistent with --

13 If you remember the timing, we
14 were making these recommendations just prior
15 to the formal rollout of the policy itself.
16 So we were kind of anticipating that these
17 things might be part of the actual document
18 that came out. We were correct in our
19 assumptions. So the directions on the
20 initiative were part of that. If you can
21 scroll down. It's just a senior eyesight
22 moment.

1 CHAIR McCARTY: I can't see it.

2 DR. HOLLIDAY: I'm just trying to
3 see what number four was. So this idea was
4 the transfer of knowledge and the best
5 practices or the process of transferring, have
6 the Gulf Council adopted, approach the
7 aquaculture issue with the Gulf of Mexico to
8 other the councils, and just scroll to the
9 right.

10 We've been working through the
11 Office of Legislative Affairs, trying to
12 convey some information about supporting bills
13 or helping draft legislation that would help
14 clarify the approach to aquaculture, both
15 through the national policy, but also -- I
16 think the bottom line is there is a
17 combination of Council activity and national
18 guidance on how to approach implementation of
19 permitting and management of aquaculture
20 choices in the EEZ. That's what the focus of
21 this was.

22 So one of the next action items

1 from Friday was to update the ten year plan
2 that MAFAC had helped with, helped the
3 aquaculture program develop several years
4 ago.

5 So the response we got from the
6 aquaculture program was that the focus of
7 their energies was not so much on the ten year
8 plan but on the very specific activities for
9 the different, the three different issues that
10 were announced, and we said it was a policy.

11 So I think the action here was
12 received by the program, but they said they
13 were not going to be updating the ten year
14 plan as a unique document, but working on the
15 elements of that document, and that's where,
16 when Michael and Kris Sarri are coming to the
17 talk to the Committee on the aquaculture
18 topic.

19 We'll hear some more about the
20 details of that, the differences between the
21 ten year plan and the components of the
22 different issues. So if you could just scroll

1 over to the right for row 5. So we scheduled
2 subcommittee in advance of the presentation,
3 so they're going to meet before the NOAA
4 representatives.

5 So if we can queue these questions
6 from the action items in advance, and make
7 sure that we're in agreement about what we
8 want to hear, both from the NOAA level and
9 from the department level, which was one of
10 the other actions. I don't know where it is.
11 Josh, was to have someone from the Department
12 who was responsible for the DOC aquaculture
13 policy implementation come and address us? So
14 Kris Sarri is one of the senior policy
15 advisors at the Department responsible for
16 implementation at the DOC level, which she'll
17 be here to talk about, what other bureaus are
18 going to be asked to do, implement DOC policy,
19 talk about the intersection between the NOAA
20 policy and the DOC policy.

21 So you know, most of these are
22 works in progress under aquaculture. There's

1 activity on them, but there's no, we haven't
2 completed the actions themselves or the
3 initiatives, but they're underway. So these
4 are sort of interim status reports of people
5 within either the aquaculture program, leg
6 affairs, or at the Department level, who are
7 taking the actions following up on this.

8 And again, Michael Rubino sits on
9 the joint subcommittee for aquaculture. He's
10 taken the MAFAC recommendations forward to
11 JSA, to make sure that their long-term view on
12 the strategic development of issues. I think
13 you're one down. Yes, it's on six. So
14 Michael is taking that representation with him
15 to two committees, to work on achieving that.

16 Tech transfer is one of the big
17 initiatives that's row seven, three down,
18 outline.

19 MR. CATES: Mark, can you tell us
20 where that is, what's the status of that?

21 DR. HOLLIDAY: The tech transfer
22 issue?

1 MR. CATES: Yes.

2 DR. HOLLIDAY: To get the most
3 recent data, I will ask that you wait for
4 Michael to get that report, because there are
5 recent developments that I think that he'd
6 like to talk to you about. Curiously enough,
7 MAFAC asked and we actually we created an
8 Office of Aquaculture. How about that

9 (Laughter.)

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: So it was officially
11 -- it's no longer an aquaculture program.
12 It's an Office of Aquaculture in the
13 headquarters architecture. I think reporting
14 back, in terms of Michael will be here and his
15 staff will be available to continue to brief
16 us on the specifics of what these initiatives
17 were.

18 But from an action table, I think
19 aquaculture is a fairly good example of the
20 request that MAFAC made, and the
21 responsiveness of NOAA. I'd give this a
22 passing grade. They're relatively responsive

1 or receptive to the ideas; they are quite
2 parallel or an affinity between what MAFAC
3 wanted to have happen and what has happened
4 since then.

5 CHAIR McCARTY: There's no date on
6 it.

7 DR. HOLLIDAY: It was coincident
8 with the creation of the policy. So soon
9 after that, it was structurally created.

10 MR. CATES: Maybe I just missed it.

11 DR. HOLLIDAY: I requested
12 something, but maybe it wasn't widely -- they
13 had to bring new business cards. I remember
14 that.

15 (Laughter.)

16 DR. HOLLIDAY: Who is it under?
17 How does it work in the hierarchy?

18 DR. HOLLIDAY: It's reporting to
19 the Director, the ever-popular Sam Rauch,
20 Office of Regulatory Programs.

21 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay.

22 MS. MORRIS: Created in 2004.

1 DR. HOLLIDAY: The program. If
2 you're talking about the designation.

3 MS. MORRIS: Right.

4 DR. HOLLIDAY: If you could scroll
5 on down, please. Okay. So that, I guess, was
6 the last of the aquaculture one, and then the
7 Recreational Subcommittee met and we have a
8 briefing from Bob Williams about the status of
9 the Marine Recreational Information Program
10 and the different initiatives associated with
11 planning from the Rec Fish Coordinators around
12 the country.

13 We have NOAA staff who are serving
14 as point people in each of our regions, and
15 the feedback from the Rec Fish Subcommittee,
16 the recommendations that Ken presented and you
17 voted on led to much of what we're going to be
18 covering on the webinar with the Rec Fish
19 Committee. So we're going to bring together,
20 and then we take this sort of altogether.

21 The Rec Fish Coordinators have
22 been working with the Rec Fish Working Group,

1 again that's the MAFAC appointed individuals,
2 to develop recreational plans for each region.

3 I know that's a lot of recreational in that,
4 but the working group, working with the
5 coordinators to develop action plans, and
6 several of the items within those action plans
7 were focused on communication, improving
8 communication, looking at developing lists,
9 distribution lists, key informants, fishing
10 clubs, magazine writers, editorial boards, to
11 help develop a regional network to promote
12 sort this up and down the chain of
13 communication on policy questions, technical
14 questions.

15 So this has been embodied in the
16 Rec Fish Action Plans that we'll hear a report
17 on the content of those plans. These are
18 draft plans that have been developed over the
19 summer in consultation with the Rec Fish
20 Working Groups and Coordinators.

21 We'll get the report out during
22 the webinar. You will see the regional

1 stakeholder organization. Ellen thinks that's
2 part of the focus action plans. The Rec Fish
3 Committee also asks that we more clearly
4 highlight who these people were, who are these
5 coordinators, and we took an action to go back
6 and recommended that they receive some
7 visibility on the website.

8 You saw that they were already on
9 the website, but they were varied, trying to
10 find where they were. So we tried to improve
11 that presence on the website, so people know
12 where to contact the recreational
13 coordinators. Go ahead, keep scrolling.

14 Again, so that this, Row 13, is
15 again related back to the action plans, this
16 regional action plan we'll hear about during
17 the webinar. The last, I think 14 is the last
18 one. Is there a 15 for rec? 14 is the last
19 one.

20 There's been a number of
21 discussions between the Rec Fish Working
22 Group, which is the element of MAFAC, and the

1 relationship between that and the
2 subcommittees, the recreational subcommittees,
3 in trying to find meaningful input for the Rec
4 Fish Working Group, to see if we can offer
5 comments on them.

6 So we have this sort of triangle
7 of Russ Dunn and the Rec Fish Coordinators on
8 the NOAA side, working with Ken and the
9 subcommittee on MAFAC, and then a third point
10 of the triangle, we have this group of
11 technical regional specialists from the
12 constituency that comprise the Rec Fish
13 Working group, and trying to make sure that we
14 develop sort of the strategic -- here's a
15 chance that NOAA would benefit from the input
16 of the subcommittee. The subcommittee wants
17 to have the Rec Fish Working Group provide
18 advice and counsel on very specific questions
19 of how this would play out in their region or
20 what their regional ideas are. This last item
21 was to try to develop a more, I'm not trying
22 to be pejorative, but a more substantive role

1 for the Rec Fish Working Group for the
2 subcommittee, who has ideas of what they could
3 work on.

4 I feel they're being under-
5 utilized, they're not, some of them are very
6 involved in very specific projects with the
7 Emirate Program, but not all of them. So the
8 goal here was to ask NOAA to work with Russ
9 and his Rec Fish Coordinators, to develop more
10 of sort of a game plan. You know, through the
11 course of the year, what do we want these
12 groups to be working on.

13 I think what we've got to report
14 back about what that strategy would look like
15 during the course of the webinar. One of the
16 reasons we're holding this webinar is to get -
17 - this would be the first time the Rec Fish
18 Working Group and the subcommittee and the Rec
19 Fish Coordinators will all be meeting
20 virtually, but meeting together at one time.

21 Each group has met with each
22 other, but not as a whole. I think this would

1 be a very helpful time to clear the air on
2 some of the strategies and some of the
3 objectives for the Rec Fish Working group.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: Can I ask a quick
5 question?

6 DR. HOLLIDAY: Please.

7 CHAIR McCARTY: Is the Rec Fish
8 Working Group, it's an ad hoc committee? It's
9 not -- it doesn't have a life of its own that
10 goes on indefinitely. Is that -- I can't
11 remember whether it has a life or not, in
12 terms of time.

13 DR. HOLLIDAY: Its life is
14 currently through May of next year.

15 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay.

16 DR. HOLLIDAY: So MAFAC approved
17 its creation in Silver Spring for a one-year
18 period. We requested an extension for another
19 year last spring to extend it for another
20 year. Those appointments, then, will either
21 expire or we will vote to continue its
22 existence beyond that.

1 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, thank you.

2 DR. HOLLIDAY: So it's not a
3 permanent committee. You're correct. It's an
4 ad hoc committee.

5 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay.

6 DR. HOLLIDAY: Okay. Can you just
7 scroll up again please? Down, I'm sorry. So
8 we had Emily Lindow, who was the policy
9 advisor to Eric for NOAA on energy policy at
10 the May meeting in Key West, talking about our
11 interactions with BOEMRE and our other,
12 development of a national, I mean a NOAA
13 energy policy.

14 I think the actions here had to do
15 with broader communication between the
16 committee and the participation of NOAA in
17 these various activities. I think this is
18 maybe symptomatic of sort of how do we involve
19 committees more fully in providing advice and
20 counsel to NOAA, so that when we are sitting
21 at the table representing NOAA in these
22 interagency forums, we have the benefit. As

1 Monica was asking in a more a casual way, I
2 need to know what your thinking is or what
3 your advice is. We're trying to structure
4 more formal interactions between the committee
5 and the developer on these energy issues.

6 I don't think these are sort of
7 ongoing long-term actions, but I don't think
8 we've gotten an informal structure put in
9 place beyond what we've talked about in May.
10 So I think there's an area of real potential
11 in this that we still need to work some more
12 on.

13 But clearly, these are -- energy
14 is one of the clear drivers of the CMSB
15 process, and to be engaged in that through the
16 energy entry portal, I think, is a very
17 productive and a very strategic role that
18 MAFAC has identified for itself, that may be
19 in its interest, for the Smart From the Start
20 Program, the discussions we had there about
21 these intersections with fishing and living
22 resource stewardship.

1 So I think this is some area that
2 hasn't seen a lot of work since May, and
3 should probably be subject to more scrutiny.

4 Keep going, Josh. Now these, I
5 think, all of these were along the same lines
6 of developing more of a working relationship
7 between NOAA and the Department on these
8 energy issues, and taking this up as one of
9 our newer initiatives, newer subject matter
10 initiatives for the committee.

11 I don't think we, I mean this was
12 discussed in the Ecosystem Committee, I think,
13 at the May meeting. But we need to discuss
14 whether or not that was, is in a Strategic
15 Planning and Policy Committee activity in the
16 long term, or is there a need for an Energy
17 subgroup to focus on it.

18 I think there needs to be some --
19 I would recommend there be some discussion
20 about the people on the committee who have a
21 particular interest in it, maybe even a
22 subgroup, where energy might help provide a

1 more formal point of contact between NOAA and
2 MAFAC. It's something to think about as we go
3 through this, as we go through this meeting.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: So perhaps put it
5 in the Ecosystem Committee to talk about at
6 this meeting?

7 DR. HOLLIDAY: Have a --

8 CHAIR McCARTY: Add it to that,
9 okay, if the Committee agrees to it.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay.

11 DR. HOLLIDAY: I think we're
12 pretty close to have a couple more. So some
13 are very specific actions. Just go over that
14 one. That's correct. So we're having
15 representatives, both from the National Ocean
16 Service and the Marine Fishery Service,
17 talking about this National Information
18 Management System that's being developed to
19 support coastal marine spatial planning.

20 One of the sources of data that we
21 heard about in May is Multi-Purpose Marine
22 Cadastre. People wanted to hear more about

1 that, so we have the staff support to brief us
2 on that, as well as what National Marine
3 Fishery Service are providing from its data
4 holdings, to support the cadastre and the
5 National Information Management System and the
6 CMSB. So that's being done.

7 We drafted as a committee
8 recommendations relevant to the Restoration
9 Task Force. We sent, during the public
10 comment period, a very specific letter from,
11 signed by Heather to the Task Force, with your
12 recommendations. There wasn't any particularly
13 -- there wasn't a direct response back. I
14 didn't get anything. I don't know if you got
15 anything directly from the Center or its
16 staff.

17 So that was the major
18 recommendation of what we had to follow up
19 with. Strategic Planning. We did have a
20 conference call just prior to the meeting, the
21 Revision 2020. So that's a work in progress
22 that we're undertaking at this meeting, have

1 time set aside to push the ball down the
2 field. Again, one of our intentions is to try
3 to work on this, you know, maybe in the
4 summertime, probably just right up to the
5 point of this meeting.

6 But again, I think we are learning
7 how to do this between the business and it's
8 elusive, because once we leave these meetings,
9 we all go back to our real jobs and our paying
10 jobs, I should say, and getting people to
11 remember the ideas between meetings is
12 sometimes difficult.

13 Did you skip over the Managing
14 Fisheries III? So between May and now, as I
15 alluded to earlier, there's been very little
16 specific progress on Managing the Nation's
17 Fisheries III. We had, as you recall, invited
18 a member of the council coordination committee
19 to attend the MAFAC meeting, as part of this
20 improving communications and liaison, and the
21 chair of this committee would attend the CCC
22 meeting.

1 The representative from the CCC
2 couldn't make this meeting, and couldn't find
3 an alternate who could represent him at this
4 meeting. So there's good intentions here, but
5 there hasn't been a whole lot of dialogue at
6 this planning level yet to come to specifics
7 of the conference.

8 But it's on the, it's still on the
9 radar screen for planning purposes, and I
10 suspect things will heat up. As we clarify
11 what the budget is for Fiscal Year 2012, that
12 will guide a lot of our decision-making about
13 how practical it is to have a 400 person
14 workshop symposium if we're not able to pay
15 for some of our essential services.

16 Whether it's just the optics or
17 not, I think we'll be facing that. So when
18 that's clarified, I think we'll have some
19 further information. Randy, is that you
20 waving?

21 MR. RANDY FISHER: Well, the
22 fisheries conference, it seems to me that

1 there may be -- I just don't understand the
2 logic of having a meeting right before the
3 election, because a lot of this could change.

4 The administration could change
5 and the narrative could change. So you're
6 going to have a meeting where nobody's going
7 to be in town anyway. I think they're all
8 going to be out stomping around the woods
9 trying to get a vote somewhere.

10 So it just seems to me that it may
11 be wiser to wait until March or sometime after
12 elections, so we know kind of a little bit
13 more of what's going on.

14 DR. HOLLIDAY: That point's been
15 made. It's the January meeting of the CCC
16 where this will be brought up again, and I
17 think that will probably be a decision point
18 of go or no-go and the timing issue will
19 probably be addressed then.

20 Frankly, if we wait long enough,
21 the decision will be made for us, that we
22 won't have enough time to plan for something

1 for October.

2 MR. RANDY FISHER: Oh, and I know
3 you're having a hard enough time for a number
4 of things.

5 DR. HOLLIDAY: Yes. But your
6 point is well-taken, and we've discussed the
7 tradeoffs of bringing it to Washington when no
8 one's here doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: Good point.

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: Well, that's the
11 Multi-Purpose. Is that a subgroup?

12 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. Okay.

13 DR. HOLLIDAY: So this next is
14 this requesting information from NOAA
15 regarding how the agency currently establishes
16 priorities. We have an open, which is going
17 to be bringing it to the Aquaculture
18 Subcommittee.

19 Last few weeks we sent out an
20 email from NOAA Sea Grant, who runs the
21 Aquaculture grant program, looking for ideas
22 and initiatives from MAFAC for their grant

1 cycle.

2 So this is sort of, it was, it
3 grew out independently almost of the request,
4 whether it coincided with this meeting. So I
5 wanted to bring it to the table and explain it
6 to the subcommittee for action at this
7 meeting. So we'll follow up with that with
8 the subcommittee, and they'll come back to the
9 table with the recommendations of the whole
10 committee.

11 Kris Sarri, that's will be here to
12 discuss the, you know, DOC policy, and this
13 was a lessons learned or best practice
14 recommendation for the members, and so when we
15 do get our new board members for the spring
16 meeting, we'll fill that in. Josh reminded me
17 that we had developed a new member handbook.

18 We had a new member handbook that
19 had been around for many years, was out of
20 date. So we updated it and I think we had
21 posted it to the members-only section of the
22 MAFAC website. We'll go through and remind

1 people how to get on that with the password.
2 But I don't want to say it on the record so
3 we'll have to change the password.

4 So there is a new handbook that
5 would help give some orientation to new
6 members, but we'll also set aside time for a
7 briefing of new members, to help them in the
8 transition.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: Excellent. Just
10 have them come a half day early?

11 DR. HOLLIDAY: Something like
12 that.

13 CHAIR McCARTY: That's good. This
14 is very helpful.

15 DR. HOLLIDAY: So this was our
16 time to -- again, this is more of -- it's a
17 tool, as opposed to a public document, that
18 we're just using it as a spreadsheet to keep
19 track of things. This again is posted, to
20 keep you posted on the member side, and as
21 things can get changed over time, we try to
22 keep it up to date as best we can.

1 CHAIR McCARTY: Excellent. This
2 is very helpful, thank you. Is there a
3 question over here?

4 MR. DEWEY: If I can just make a
5 comment, and I appreciate your moving this to
6 the front of the agenda instead of the end,
7 you know. I think it helps refresh our
8 memories as to what actions we took at our
9 last meeting, instead of having it be at the
10 end of the meeting as an afterthought. Oh
11 yes, we should have dealt with that at this
12 meeting or something like that. So I
13 appreciate that.

14 Is there, as Josh was scrolling
15 the right-hand side, the staff task and notes
16 wasn't visible. I was trying to keep track
17 with you on my computer with the email
18 version. But are there -- I mean are there
19 are things that stand out in your mind, Mark,
20 that we need to focus on, because we haven't
21 followed up on a particular action?

22 DR. HOLLIDAY: When I looked at

1 this the last time, the thing that struck me
2 was more on the energy end than the National
3 Ocean Policy stuff. I think there's interest,
4 but I don't think we have a game plan as well
5 structured as some of the other initiatives.

6 I think we have a strong budget
7 component and planning for that, and the
8 energy and the National Ocean Policy piece and
9 how that spills over to the ecosystem.

10 So I think that's, as I mentioned,
11 the area where we can have some more
12 discussion about that. It might identify
13 someone to take the lead and work with us.

14 CHAIR McCARTY: One of the things
15 that we talked about, I can't remember whether
16 we talked about it publicly or whether it was
17 just you and I, Mark. We talked about looking
18 at the subcommittees themselves, and trying to
19 determine if they were still the appropriate
20 subcommittees, and trying to maybe revamp that
21 a little bit, the Commerce Subcommittee.

22 Maybe we should call it the

1 Aquaculture Subcommittee. Maybe we should
2 have another subcommittee that deals just with
3 energy and that sort of stuff. So maybe on
4 the agenda, we could do it right after the
5 break in the afternoon, have that discussion
6 right before we break into subcommittees, if
7 that would work, Mark. Does that sound okay?

8 DR. HOLLIDAY: Today?

9 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes, right before
10 we break. That means after the break. Okay.

11 Do other people have questions or comments
12 about the task sheet? I think it's very
13 great. I guess one thing that would be
14 helpful, I guess I didn't realize that it was
15 on the website under members only.

16 So it would be good at some point
17 to go through what all is in that area of the
18 website. Of course, I didn't know that. So
19 that would be very useful, to be able to see
20 it between meetings and to keep track of it
21 yourself when you had questions.

22 MR. RIZZARDI: Is that something

1 that he could just walk us through now, to
2 show us how you do it?

3 CHAIR McCARTY: You know what? We
4 are so late, and we have people here to speak,
5 and I'm just not sure --

6 MR. RIZZARDI: Okay, I understand.

7 CHAIR McCARTY: --that we're going
8 to get through it. But I would like to do
9 that at some point.

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: Okay. We'll do
11 that.

12 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. So with
13 that, I think we should go to the first one of
14 our guest speakers, and that would be you,
15 Judy. Thank you for coming.

16 Update on NMFS' Communications Office

17 MS. GAN: Great.

18 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you for
19 coming.

20 MS. GAN: Thank you very much. I
21 appreciate the opportunity to be here this
22 morning, to meet -- I met many of you as I

1 came in this morning. I look forward to
2 meeting the rest of you later today or at the
3 dinner tonight.

4 Our Office of Communications was
5 established by Eric Schwaab earlier this year,
6 as a way to align and strengthen and
7 coordinate our communications efforts. Now
8 that's not to say that communications had not
9 been going on, and in fact many of you
10 probably worked with Kate and Laurel and
11 others on our team.

12 But this is, was really Eric's
13 vision to have an office reporting directly to
14 him, to coordinate efforts across the agency.

15 Our objectives at the 40,000 foot level are
16 twofold. First of all, to inform, engage and
17 inspire our workforce. To understand, we have
18 about 4,000 people in NOAA Fisheries, about
19 1,000 of them sitting with us in Silver
20 Spring.

21 The rest of them are forward
22 deployed. So they're the ones who are out

1 there dealing with you all every day and our
2 other stakeholders in the environment. So we
3 really need to do a better job, I think, of
4 informing and engaging that workforce.

5 The second major objective is to
6 generate public awareness, stewardship and
7 support for our agency's priorities from a
8 centralized perspective. Specifically, just
9 looking ahead to this fiscal year, to give you
10 a sense of some of the things we're working
11 on, our priorities include fisheries and
12 aquaculture; our Turning the Corner campaign
13 on our efforts in ending overfishing and
14 rebuilding stocks, and ensuring a sustainable
15 supply of seafood for our nation.

16 Secondly, on the protective
17 resources side, next year is the 40th
18 anniversary of the Marine Mammal Protection
19 Act. So we're using that as an opportunity to
20 highlight our progress in that regard.

21 Thirdly, international fisheries. A really
22 growing concern for us, as you all deeply

1 appreciate.

2 So leveling the playing field for
3 our fishermen and focusing on the challenges
4 of IUU fishing is another campaign that we're
5 launching. Ecosystem challenges, specifically
6 the Habitat Blueprint, which we're launching
7 within NOAA Fisheries, extending to other NOAA
8 line organizations. I don't want to steal any
9 of Brian's thunder. He'll be here later to
10 talk to you about that. But we do have a
11 communications effort to support that.

12 Recreational fishing, we just
13 talked about that. With the roll out of the
14 Regional Plans and the MRIP, the new way of
15 accounting for those fisheries, pulling that
16 out.

17 We've got a recreational fishing
18 national communications plan that we're
19 working on. Then finally, maybe sort of
20 wrapping around all of this is a focus on
21 science, promoting our efforts, highlighting
22 our achievements and our scientists, and

1 probably most significantly, providing a
2 better context for our management and
3 enforcement actions.

4 So building our science
5 communications capacity, that's something that
6 Richard and I will be working on over the next
7 several months. So just as an example of one
8 of our, just to highlight one of our major
9 initiatives over the last few months, just to
10 give you an idea of what we've been working
11 on, is this Turning the Corner campaign.

12 This has been a broad engagement
13 campaign, with key messages that we've been
14 delivering consistently over multiple channels
15 and venues. We have first of all developed
16 and are aggressively using new social media
17 outlets to tell our story, and we're getting
18 good returns on that.

19 We have strengthened and leveraged
20 our relationships with our external partners,
21 who in turn are effectively amplifying our
22 messages for significant announcements such as

1 the rollout of the Status of Stocks in July,
2 and many of you maybe were partners with us in
3 that, so thank you for that.

4 Capitalizing on events for the
5 industry and other elements of the Boston
6 Seafood show, the MSA 35th anniversary this
7 past year, World Ocean Day and most recently,
8 a signing ceremony with EU, the EU
9 commissioner, Maria Damanaki, as an
10 opportunity to tell our IUU, talk about our
11 commitment to ending IUU fishing.

12 Apart from that, and you all have
13 probably seen these regional seafood festivals
14 and other opportunities, that maybe we've been
15 doing for many years, but we're trying to
16 sharpen our messages and deliver sort of
17 consistent themes and messages at all of these
18 events in our fishing communities.

19 So I'd like to thank you all for
20 your support, and moving ahead, maybe ask for
21 your help with three things. First of all, I
22 think this would be an ideal group to test our

1 messages, to see how they're going to play
2 across your -- with you as fishermen, with you
3 representing fishermen or in your communities.

4 Secondly, one of the things
5 particularly of interest to us in this turning
6 the corner campaign has been to identify
7 success stories, to really show the human
8 dimension of our efforts, and also to
9 illustrate the challenges of some of the
10 things that we're doing.

11 You know, it's one thing to be
12 putting out a lot of statistics about
13 rebuilding, you know, 21 stocks in ten years.

14 But what does that really mean, you know, and
15 I think to help us drive that message a little
16 bit more effectively, if we had more success
17 stories and impact stories from around the
18 country I think that would be very helpful.
19 So I think this group could be very helpful in
20 that regard.

21 The third thing is we will be
22 launching a redesign of Fish Watch, which is

1 our strategic information source. You all are
2 probably familiar with that, and I believe
3 that this group could, in an informal sense,
4 just provide guidance on that as we evolve
5 that platform, and secondly, maybe at some
6 point down the road, we wanted to establish an
7 advisory board for Fish Watch.

8 This group could be maybe a group
9 to help facilitate, you know, the
10 substantiation of a group like that, to just
11 again, provide us with some realistic input
12 and feedback on the usefulness of that
13 platform to people in the industry and in the
14 environment here.

15 So that's in a nutshell what we've
16 been working on and what we're doing. I'd
17 like to maybe open it up for any questions or
18 comments or suggestions of things we should be
19 focusing on, or anything you have to say.

20 Vincent.

21 MR. O'SHEA: Thanks Judy, good
22 morning. You know, I'll speak bluntly. I

1 think the press and the rhetoric coming out of
2 New England has been a big distraction for
3 NOAA, and one of the things that bothers me a
4 bit is the source of the information is
5 limited to a relatively small number of
6 outlets, and there's a lot of misinformation.

7 The New England Council has sort
8 of stepped into the water recently, to try and
9 push back a bit, clarifying Council actions
10 and clearing the air on this. So my question
11 is I'm wondering what sort of dialogue is
12 going on inside of National Marine Fisheries
13 Service, to try to maybe do a bit more to
14 engage the Council, support the Council and
15 perhaps the councils to push back on some of
16 this stuff.

17 I realize it's a Council decision.

18 I would seem to me that absent that response
19 from the Council, collectively we're all
20 letting somebody paint the picture of what's
21 going on some of these issues.

22 MS. GAN: Yes, that's a really

1 vexing issue, and something that I know, like
2 you said, it's like taking up a lot of time
3 and if you witness Eric, you know, up in New
4 England yet again today.

5 From my perspective, having worked
6 in the private sector and coming into
7 government a few months ago, you know, I'm
8 starting to appreciate that there are certain
9 things, certain paths that are maybe closed to
10 a government agency that would not be closed
11 to private industry.

12 One of the things that we have
13 been trying to do, particularly in New England
14 is, you know, there's sort of one media outlet
15 that is generating a lot of this stuff, that
16 is unfortunately getting a lot of political
17 attention, which is why I think it's getting a
18 lot of national attention.

19 So one of the things that we've
20 tried to do is to engage some of our partners,
21 people in the industry, to come forward and
22 talk about situation on the ground there.

1 That this is not what is being painted. Sure,
2 it's a difficult time up there. They're going
3 through the transition. But there are a lot
4 of folks up there who are not suffering, who
5 actually do fairly well.

6 So we are trying to get out third
7 parties to come forward, and we were
8 successful in that regard, leading up to Dr.
9 Lubchenco's recent testimony up there. So
10 we're just kind of just starting that process.

11 We'll probably do more of that. We could
12 probably use help from people in this room on
13 thoughts and suggestions of where to go with
14 that kind an approach.

15 The only thing is we've been
16 looking at other media outlets, the Boston
17 Globe and others, who maybe have a little bit
18 more, we'll have a better day in court with
19 them.

20 MR. O'SHEA: Just a follow up. So
21 the editorial boards with the press --

22 MS. GAN: Right.

1 MR. O'SHEA: And Boston Globe and
2 some of the more credible media outlets.

3 MS. GAN: Yes. In fact, we were
4 trying to organize one, with the Portland
5 paper today, and I just couldn't make that
6 work. But that's something he wants.

7 MR. O'SHEA: And the
8 ridiculousness of it, and this will be my last
9 comment, they've painted the picture that NOAA
10 was putting the number one dollar volume
11 fishing port out of business.

12 MS. GAN: Yes.

13 MR. O'SHEA: I mean that's
14 incredible. There's more money coming into
15 that port than ports in Alaska.

16 MS. GAN: It really defies logic.
17 It's probably a political issue, it sounds
18 like --

19 MR. O'SHEA: Thanks for letting me
20 share. I've got tell you, Judy, I'm glad to
21 see you here.

22 MS. GAN: Thanks, I appreciate it.

1 CHAIR McCARTY: Other questions?

2 Go ahead, Terry.

3 MR. ALEXANDER: I'm one of those
4 guys in New England, and I think where we made
5 our mistake, where NOAA made that mistake was
6 when we were implementing Amendment 16, we
7 didn't share what exactly we were
8 implementing. We didn't tell people that -- I
9 was there, but a lot of people didn't know
10 that these sales were mandatory in 2011. A
11 lot of people didn't know that if we didn't
12 have a catch share in place, they'd have 24
13 days to sea counting that 2 to 1. So they'd
14 have 12 days to sea each.

15 So I think that that communication
16 didn't get out there, because we were so
17 focused on getting catch share into there,
18 that we didn't tell the people what the
19 alternative was. They're going to have a lot
20 of people, especially in our sector, talking
21 about that.

22 Yes, we need some improvements,

1 but I think it's going to be ten years from
2 now, we're going to think of it as a whim, you
3 know. Today, it still needs some
4 improvements, needs some work. But I think
5 when you're implementing something like that,
6 you're going to need to share it with the
7 people, the stakeholders, what they're
8 actually going to -- what the alternative
9 would be if we didn't have this, you know.

10 MS. GAN: No, I hear you, and I
11 think -- I really do, Terry. That's been,
12 from my perspective, maybe a hard lesson
13 learned up there. What they are doing, you
14 know, witness the thing that's happening
15 today.

16 I just want to give a shout out to
17 our folks in New England, the outreach and the
18 communications team at the regional office and
19 the Science Center, who are really opening the
20 aperture, doing a lot more -- having a lot
21 more workshops.

22 They're trained people in plain

1 language just so that the permit letters and
2 all are, you know, mere mortals can understand
3 the English in these letters. I honestly
4 think that, you know, it's sort of of
5 necessity they've had to do these things.

6 But I think we'll see some best
7 practices coming out of that region as a
8 result of all of this stuff, that we can maybe
9 use in the other regions as well, to do a
10 better job of just regular outreach and
11 communication, to your point, you know, just
12 being out there and explaining in ways that
13 people can understand what we're doing, what
14 the implications are, you know, instead of
15 just waiting for the shoe to drop.

16 MR. ALEXANDER: I was at the
17 meeting when the allocation was decided, and
18 there was maybe six fishermen in the room.
19 I'm like, this is the biggest vote in the
20 history of the New England Council when
21 there's nobody here. You know, there was a
22 whole lot of NGOs there, but not many

1 fishermen.

2 CHAIR McCARTY: Other comments.

3 Now is your chance.

4 MS. GAN: I'll be around later.

5 CHAIR McCARTY: I have a couple of
6 things.

7 MS. GAN: Sure.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: One of the things
9 that I've noticed in the Alaska region, and I
10 don't know whether this is a common elsewhere,
11 is that there seems to be some sort of
12 hierarchy of decision-making as to who can
13 speak and who can say what when.

14 I think it's a very constraining
15 atmosphere, because I think nobody can express
16 sort of outrage, and sort of response to a
17 silly story like the people that are on the
18 ground dealing with those issues.

19 A lot of times I've noticed that
20 those people don't speak, that there's either
21 sort of a delayed reaction from the PR people
22 in the region, or even worse, a delayed

1 reaction that goes up the chain somewhere and
2 then comes back down, and the story's gone,
3 you know. It's two weeks into it and finally
4 we get a response from NMFS.

5 Meanwhile, you know, we're all
6 going why don't they say something, why don't
7 they say something. I don't know who makes
8 those decisions. I don't know how that works
9 on the national level. But I think there's
10 nothing better than an immediate response that
11 says no, that's wrong.

12 Whether it comes from the Council
13 or from the regional folks, the Science
14 Centers, anywhere, just so there's an
15 immediate response that is, you know,
16 recognizable by the public.

17 MS. GAN: Well I think, you know,
18 part of it is we're sort of dealing with this
19 environment of NOAA -- I don't want to sort of
20 pass the buck that way. But there are
21 policies and procedures and things that we
22 need to live with.

1 That said, I think the first step
2 is creating messages that people, that we
3 disseminate to folks. The second step, to
4 your point Heather, is empowering people to
5 use those messages.

6 That's a process that will have,
7 that I think we need to work with, because if
8 there's, you know, we know there's a small set
9 of issues, and we just need to have the
10 talking points and the messages ready to go,
11 people ready to use them, so when something
12 happens, we can deal with the delay. We'll
13 have to work through the cross-procedural
14 issues. But hopefully, you know, empowering
15 people.

16 I do agree with you. You can
17 avoid a lot of things by starting nipping
18 things in the bud before they become a
19 national crisis.

20 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. It's way too
21 slow. Randy, and then Bill.

22 MR. CATES: I'd like to reiterate

1 that a little bit, but in a little different
2 context. I was at a meeting recently in
3 Hawaii, and there was quite a few local NOAA
4 folks there.

5 NOAA shirts, NOAA posters, and a
6 lot of statements were made about our
7 commercial fisheries and aquaculture, and by
8 environmental groups, a lot of misinformation.

9 The problem that I saw was the
10 NOAA folks basically just sat there and kind
11 of nodded, and maybe it's their personalities,
12 that they don't want to speak up. But it
13 almost becomes an acceptance, like the
14 statements are true, because nobody's
15 countering it.

16 I think that's a real problem,
17 where if you go -- when you look in the press,
18 you would think that our fisheries have
19 completely collapsed. But the facts are
20 different, and somehow we've got to encourage
21 NOAA to stand up and speak the science, and
22 not just be silenced on the science.

1 MS. GAN: Yes. I think the
2 question is did they know the answer, or do
3 they understand the situation, which is
4 something, I think, we're going to try to work
5 to address, or they knew it and they just
6 didn't feel empowered to.

7 MR. CATES: You know, statements
8 were being made that commercial fishing is
9 totally unregulated and the ocean's being
10 overfished, and these slanderous statements
11 are being made. If you have a NOAA
12 representative standing right there, it would
13 be very easy for them to say wait a minute.
14 We do, under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, manage
15 our fisheries. It's mandated by law and this
16 is what we do. Instead what's happening is
17 the silence treatment, and the press picks up
18 on that.

19 MS. GAN: Yes. That's
20 unfortunate. Very true. Bill.

21 MR. DEWEY: Judy, I just want to
22 compliment your shop on your efforts. You

1 have a big task before you, and I appreciate
2 what you're trying to do. So I guess I would,
3 to your list of things that you want, that
4 MAFAC would potentially help with.

5 I think you should and can look to
6 us as leaders in our industry and spokespeople
7 in our industries around the country, so when
8 you have significant events happen in
9 fisheries or aquaculture, you know, work with
10 us proactively ahead of those events, so that
11 you don't just have six fishermen in the room
12 for a significant amount of time.

13 You know, potentially working with
14 you to develop op-eds that might be
15 distributed around the country on different
16 issues, show that there's stakeholder support
17 for lots of actions. I think there's lots of
18 opportunity there, and certainly from our
19 segment and your staff has been great as we
20 move forward in the Northwest towards this
21 December 9th event with Dr. Lubchenco and the
22 governor on the National Shellfish Initiative,

1 trying to make sure that we've got all the
2 right communications in place for that event,
3 so that some of our shoreline opponents don't
4 steal the show and take it in the wrong
5 direction.

6 MS. GAN: Thanks Bill, I
7 appreciate that. I appreciate your support.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: I'd like to add to
9 that too. I think that's very important. One
10 of the conversations I had with Eric a while
11 back was how you may use MAFAC members, not
12 for advice in a setting like this, but we're
13 glad to give you that advice and we'll work on
14 these things that you brought to our
15 attention. But also in the other direction,
16 to use MAFAC members more actively in
17 outreach.

18 I think that you do have a lot of
19 people here who would be very willing to do on
20 an individual basis, and I think that's a
21 really good idea.

22 MS. GAN: Great, great.

1 Appreciate that, absolutely. Randy.

2 MR. CATES: Bruce had kind of an
3 interesting situation. I think, I like the
4 fact that the organization made a change.
5 That's important. But I also think that you
6 should contact some people out in the regions,
7 and I'll give you an example.

8 At the west coast big fisheries
9 conference they had not long ago, some
10 recreational people made some fairly
11 outlandish statements. So then the panic sets
12 in because Eric was there. So what Eric does,
13 you know, call up the recreational guys and
14 what are we doing in the Northwest for
15 recreational fisheries.

16 So then the phone calls start
17 happening to the region. The reality of it is
18 that everybody should realize that some people
19 are going to make statements because they're
20 good at making statements, and don't panic,
21 because in that particular area we're doing a
22 lot of stuff in recreational fishing.

1 There's no way in hell to satisfy
2 what they want to do, and they're very close
3 to being in situations where you are going to
4 get into a huge debate over whether or not
5 NOAA should be supporting the removal of
6 gillnetting. I can just see that happening.

7 So the caution is when this starts
8 happening and everybody starts wondering,
9 running around headquarters, trying to figure
10 out what they need to do, we need a good plan
11 to tell people out there, the media, or
12 whoever it is, and test the water before
13 everybody starts a big panic.

14 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you, Judy.
15 I think we're going to have to move on, and
16 thank you for you and your staff for coming,
17 and please stay as long as you like. Dr.
18 Merrick, yes. I apologize to the people that
19 are waiting. Gary, you may have a very short
20 time by the time we get to the Budget, but we
21 might need to reschedule.

22 DR. MERRICK: I know Eric would

1 like to be here, because I'm looking at my
2 email coming from him back and forth, and it's
3 probably good that he's there. There are a
4 number of issues that come up. I'd rather be
5 here with you guys.

6 Well, I'm going to just give you a
7 thumbnail sketch of who I am, so you know that
8 I'm not the same person as the guy before me.
9 I'm taller obviously.

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: You've got hair.

11 NMFS Science Outlook

12 DR. MERRICK: I have some hair,
13 and then I'll go through this presentation,
14 which is actually sort of a higher level one
15 than I would normally give as an overview of
16 what we're doing, what we're supposed to in
17 the next two or three years for managing
18 science.

19 A lot of this will be backfilled
20 by the presentations that are going to be
21 given today and tomorrow on habitat and
22 aquaculture. So I'll just touch on those

1 things, and then at the end I can go back and
2 go to a couple of the questions that were
3 asked earlier like monk seals, and see if I
4 can perhaps provide you something clearer than
5 what you heard before.

6 I started with NOAA in '83, and I
7 was a fishery observer, and walking around the
8 Shelikof Strait next to Kodiak. I spent the
9 first half of my career working for the Alaska
10 Center, so most of my time was actually in
11 Alaska, because I worked with the North
12 Pacific Council ostensibly. I was on the plan
13 team for the Gulf and Bering Sea, so I
14 developed a pretty good idea of how that
15 council operates and how a council can
16 operate. I think they do a pretty good job
17 there.

18 I do a lot of ecosystem work with
19 them, and I was the lead biologist in Steller
20 sea lions in the Alaska center, for better or
21 worse.

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Worse.

1 DR. MERRICK: It was calm when I
2 left. It just fell apart when I left. So in
3 '97, I moved over to the other coast to Woods
4 Hole, and I've been there until about a month
5 or so ago. I came there basically to build
6 their protective species program.

7 I worked with them, worked with
8 that program for seven or eight years, and
9 then I took over as a division chief for what
10 there is called the Resource Evaluation and
11 Assessment Division.

12 That includes the fish guys. So
13 all the stock assessments that were coming out
14 when we were on the East Center were coming
15 out under my signature. I was also in charge
16 of the Social Sciences branch there as well as
17 the Protected Species branch. So I have a
18 pretty broad idea of the kinds of stuff we did
19 with respect to science.

20 I'm a biological oceanographer by
21 my trade. I have degree in marine resource
22 management as well, and my Ph.D. is in

1 fisheries. So I've got a somewhat different
2 background from Sissenwine and Murawski. They
3 were stock assessment scientists. I understand
4 stock assessment scientists and the science
5 but I couldn't do an assessment. But I
6 understand what this is.

7 And coming here, I've had some
8 people say well gosh, we've had three chief
9 scientists. They all came from New England.
10 Why is that? I suspect it's because of the
11 chaos in New England has been continuing over
12 the years, and they want somebody at
13 headquarters who can also deal with the chaos,
14 because it's a lot like headquarters, except
15 it was in Woods Hole and Gloucester.

16 So that's who I am. This is the
17 kind of environment I like to work in. The
18 presentation I give here is not the usual
19 presentation I would give, but it's sort of
20 the canned presentation folks have given me,
21 and it does give a good overarching view of
22 what we're doing for policy and for science

1 right now.

2 In the future, my presentations
3 will be a lot lower level, so bear with this
4 one. But there's some important things in
5 this, and it will touch on a lot of the
6 arguments that Eric wanted to touch on, and
7 originally recognize that he was going to do a
8 half an hour presentation on the regulatory
9 outlook, and then also do one on science.

10 So I've tried to pull some of his
11 key points into the discussion. Other parts
12 will be picked up like this first part of the
13 discussion is about budget, very briefly
14 talking about where we are.

15 Gary's going to come back and talk
16 more about this, but I think the point we need
17 to make right now is that we've had a number
18 of years of pretty good budgeting. It's been
19 going up relatively well for fisheries, and
20 now we're down somewhere in this domain.

21 The orange is what the House is
22 talking about for FY '12. This is the

1 President's budget request. Likely, it's
2 somewhere in between. So less than we've had.
3 But the drivers are still the same, you know.
4 We still have to do the same things we were
5 doing before, and in some cases even more.

6 I think that most of the centers
7 are in the process of trying to ramp up the
8 frequency and the quality of the stock
9 assessments, and that was one of the things I
10 started in the Northeast Center before I left
11 there, was to come up with a way to start
12 doing stock assessments on either an annual or
13 a biannual basis, every one or two years
14 instead of every four or five years.

15 That's going to take additional
16 resources. I'll just have to reprogram it,
17 because I don't see the money coming. But I
18 think all the centers are pressed for the same
19 thing, and right now, with the decline of the
20 budget, we still intend to try to deal with
21 these high priority management issues.

22 Remember, the centers are out

1 there basically to try and support the
2 managers. We're not just there to do science.
3 We're not an academic institution. My view of
4 the centers is that we're there to make sure
5 that whatever management decisions are being
6 made are supported by the best quality
7 science.

8 So when you talk about us needing
9 to have better quality assessments, we hear
10 that and we want to do that. But the good
11 news is that, tough as it's been to switch to
12 this ACL regime, it's really pushing us
13 towards being able to end overfishing, and
14 also to reduce bycatch. And those are good
15 things.

16 Despite all the pain that we're
17 getting, for example, in New England, we're
18 making progress there. One by one, we're
19 rebuilding stocks, and that's just that, as we
20 look towards the next reauthorization
21 management and through management of the
22 nation's fisheries, that we need to be

1 thinking about that, how we want to position
2 ourselves in the next Act, because the
3 National Standard 1, which is what has driven
4 us towards the point of being able to rebuild
5 these stocks, will become less and less
6 important.

7 Probably one of the things we're
8 going to see is the shift more from single
9 species to ecosystem-based approaches in
10 management. All the councils are working on
11 it at different paces. So if you look at the
12 North Pacific Council, they're way down the
13 road on that.

14 Other councils, like the New
15 England Council or the Mid-Atlantic Council,
16 are just starting. The idea is that we want
17 to get them all up about the same point.

18 But as we make this shift from
19 worrying about single stocks, which is what
20 really the Magnuson Act's been focused on, to
21 try and deal with recovering single stocks,
22 either building plans or worrying about

1 bycatch of single stocks or protected species,
2 for that matter, fixing those problems lets us
3 shift and to change our paradigm of how we're
4 going to approach management in general.

5 Then there's the issue of how we
6 respond to climate change, and this is one of
7 my major goals, is to get all the centers
8 really up to speed on being able to provide
9 management advice here on climate change, to
10 the regional offices and to other parts of the
11 government, and also to help the states.
12 You'll hear more about this from Roger Griffis
13 this afternoon.

14 One of the big issues in many
15 areas has been protected species issues, and
16 every region seems to have their own sort of
17 issues, and whether it's dealing with water
18 and pesticides in California, or dealing with
19 Steller sea lions or monk seals or right
20 whales, every region has something there.
21 This will remain a major issue on the
22 management side. It remains a major issue on

1 the science side, trying to provide good
2 advice.

3 But let's go to the science part.
4 There are four themes to me that seem crucial
5 for the agency, as we move forward over the
6 next five to ten years. Dealing with
7 ecosystem-based approaches to management,
8 climate change, improving the quality of our
9 surveys and the assessments that come out of
10 that, and then transitioning to more advanced
11 technologies that can make all these other
12 things work better.

13 I will touch in more detail on
14 each one of these topics. So this is the
15 ecosystem-based approach to management,
16 basically that says we're moving from a single
17 sector or a single stock approach to something
18 that's more integrated, and it's likely that
19 each region is going to have a somewhat
20 different approach to this.

21 Catch shares is actually sort of a
22 transitional way of dealing with that. It's a

1 lot of different ways of how you can deal with
2 catch shares, but the idea is we now start to
3 be thinking about whole systems. New England
4 has been one way, one sort of implementation
5 of that. Those places where they decide to
6 use catch shares will probably have different
7 approaches.

8 But I'm agreeing with what
9 Monica's saying. I don't think the agency
10 says we have to follow that approach. There
11 may be other fisheries where that may not be
12 the approach. But the reason that we, you
13 know, we want to move to an ecosystem-based
14 approach to management is this shifting away
15 from the very narrowly focused issues to
16 looking at whole systems.

17 A lot of that is because these
18 single stocks are interacting with each other.

19 If you look at New England, for example, if
20 you look at squid, look at Loligo fishery,
21 there's a strong interaction there with
22 butterfish. You can't solve the butterfish

1 rebuilding situation without understanding
2 what's happening with Loligo. And as we look
3 at that more, it appears that there's
4 something else going on.

5 In the most recent stock
6 assessments we do for butterfish, what we find
7 out is that the Loligo fishery, which has a
8 lot of bycatch, in theory, of butterfish, has
9 no real effect on the recovery of butterfish.

10 The F is so low that something else is going
11 on in the ecosystem. And without taking the
12 ecosystem approach, we're not going to be able
13 to understand that.

14 So the agency's heading in that
15 direction, and it also points towards how
16 we're going to deal with all these different
17 factors, these different parts of human
18 interactions with fisheries, with coastal
19 resources. We can't do that on a single stock
20 basis. We'd have to look at it regionally.

21 The rubric that the agency is
22 using, and I'm learning about this from the

1 work, and this is something people talk about
2 much in New England, is integrated because
3 it's an assessment program.

4 Basically, it's a process for
5 implementing ecosystem approaches to
6 management, and it's basically like any other
7 planned process. We start off identifying how
8 you're going to do this, work your way through
9 by gathering data, doing analyses and then
10 coming up with an evaluation of how you're
11 going to implement it, and then monitoring it.

12 Nothing really novel here, but
13 it's a process for how we're going to
14 implement this. Basically, the way the agency
15 is doing this, almost every region has an IEA
16 as a pilot program. So there's a really good
17 one on the Kona Coast in Hawaii. It's being
18 held up as an actual model of how you can
19 integrate these parts together.

20 And CMSP ultimately is another
21 part of how we're going to implement ecosystem
22 approaches to management. This is sort of one

1 of the management rubrics to this. For our
2 part, fir NMFS, you know, NMFS doesn't really
3 have the lead on CMSP, but we will continue to
4 provide support to NOS. No matter what
5 happens in the legislative world, the science
6 part of the agency will continue to gather the
7 data that's necessary for this.

8 Climate change in a lot of ways is
9 similar to the issues that we have with CMSP,
10 that we don't seem to be getting Congressional
11 support for dealing with climate change. I
12 use climate change here. When I go up on the
13 Hill on Thursday, I can't say "climate
14 change," okay. So I have to be careful with
15 the words I use.

16 There, I've been told the best way
17 to handle that is probably to talk about what
18 the effects are of climate change, and not to
19 invoke the term. It's an interesting time.
20 But you know, we have lots of issues that
21 we're trying to deal with this with the
22 science side within the agency. A lot of

1 these you're perfectly aware of.

2 Sea level rise is clearly an issue
3 in Florida. We are not ignoring that, but the
4 unfortunate part is we can't do much about
5 either sea level rise or getting the state to
6 develop an adaptation strategy.

7 We can provide guidance, but it's
8 the same with a lot of states. It's an
9 interesting time, again, for science, and
10 particularly when you see situations like
11 this, where it's clear something's happening
12 in the Arctic, and everybody has heard about
13 all this part, the decline of the sea ice.

14 If you've worked in the Bering
15 Sea, it's just amazing to see what's happening
16 there with respect to ice. The agencies, both
17 the Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS are
18 really aware of this. This was the reason
19 that polar bears are listed. This is the
20 reason we're considering listing most of the
21 ice field species.

22 We're seeing critters up in the

1 Chukchi and the Beaufort that we haven't ever
2 seen. But what a lot of people may not be
3 aware of is it isn't just an Arctic phenomena.
4 For example, off the coast of the Northeast
5 U.S., we've seen most commercial fish stocks
6 shift distribution.

7 There have been two recent papers
8 that have been produced by the Northeast
9 Center showing what's happening here. For
10 commercial fisheries, this could be bad news
11 or it could be good news. It depends what you
12 want to fish on. It's probably not
13 particularly good if you want to fish on
14 Atlantic cod. It's probably shifting farther
15 north.

16 The weird things that are
17 happening in the Gulf of Maine could be
18 related to that. I mentioned the Gulf of
19 Maine because we're just in the process of
20 concluding the most recent Gulf of Maine cod
21 assessment, and again, that stock does not
22 appear to be rebuilding, despite very light

1 fishing pressure.

2 Yet on the other hand, we have
3 croaker moving up farther north. I mean
4 that's a significant commercial fishery in the
5 Mid-Atlantic. So there are winners and losers,
6 and the advice we're trying to provide to the
7 regional offices, in this case, for example,
8 is: if you've seen shifts in distribution,
9 what does that mean to the fisheries
10 management plans? How can we adapt to that?

11 So to do that at the center level,
12 the difficulty is most of the information
13 that's available is these really large-scale
14 sorts of general climate models, and how we
15 get it down to the point -- so we can worry
16 about the Gulf of Maine, or the Mid-Atlantic
17 bight. That's the part where NOAA's group,
18 working together, can provide a solution.
19 It's a nice thing. This is one of the
20 advantages of fisheries being within NOAA,
21 that there's a lot of information coming out
22 of NOAA that then could be used by us to do

1 more stock assessment models. So here's an
2 example. This is the Bering Sea, looking at
3 pollock recruitment, and the effect that that
4 has on commercial fish stocks.

5 This is a climate-based model that
6 the Alaska Center developed, that started off
7 with information coming back from ocean
8 conditions. It was built into the stock
9 assessment model, suggesting there would be
10 lower recruitment, and warm years, and this
11 went on and eventually went to the SSC, and it
12 resulted in a decrease in the pollock
13 assessment for 2011, I think, or '12.

14 So the hope is that this sort of
15 information, where we can tie climate data
16 stock assessment models, is going to be the
17 next step in most of the centers. That will
18 provide better advice, particularly for future
19 recruitment of many of the fishery stocks, and
20 better advice for fisheries managers.

21 That's what happened with the
22 quota. It went from 1.6 to 1.3 million tons.

1 If you've got a lot of fish, that's okay. You
2 can probably survive that. There are other
3 situations where this may be crucial to
4 rebuilding.

5 We're also dealing with salmon.
6 There's another example in the Pacific
7 Northwest, looking at what different climate
8 regimes are going to do to improve salmon
9 survival. So you know, the agency continues
10 to try to do the science that's necessary to
11 support the manager's understanding of
12 climate, and trying to get this into the
13 management process.

14 In many ways, there's a learning
15 curve for both the science side and the
16 management side, particularly for the
17 councils, on how they're going to deal with
18 getting this additional advice.

19 Surveys. Now this has
20 traditionally been what we do, and that's why
21 we have these big white ships, and that's why
22 we do, you know, bottom trawl surveys. That's

1 why we do hydroacoustic surveys, basically to
2 do abundance assessments. But as we've gotten
3 good at some species, we're beginning to find
4 that there are other species we're not very
5 good with. Those are the data-poor species,
6 and then what the impacts of climate change
7 would be on this.

8 So this is a big learning regime
9 for us, trying to improve our stocks and
10 improve the reliability and the precision of
11 the stocks, because it's becoming -- in many
12 cases, these weaker stocks are limiting the
13 ability of fisheries to be prosecuted.

14 We're trying to increase the
15 number of stock assessments we do each year.
16 We've made some progress and we've fallen back
17 a bit, and we expect to move ahead again in
18 the future. A lot of this has been because of
19 expanded funding under what's called the ESA
20 Line, the Expanding Stock Assessments line.

21 This may be one of the places
22 where we could see an increase in the FY '12

1 budget, hopefully, because clearly there's a
2 need in many regions, particularly in Florida
3 and New England, for more frequent stock
4 assessments. We're hearing the word from the
5 Pacific Council as well, that there's a need
6 for more assessments there as well, more
7 frequent ones.

8 In the long run, we can't keep
9 doing business like we've always done it, we
10 can't keep relying on these big ships. We
11 need to have more technologies that allow us
12 to collect more data and do these surveys
13 faster, getting more data back faster so we
14 can update the data faster.

15 Electronic monitoring isn't the
16 only answer, but it can be really helpful,
17 recognizing that there's a couple of different
18 suites of data that we collect. There's data
19 that comes back from our surveys, the so-
20 called fisheries independent data, and there
21 are a variety of new technologies that can be
22 useful there, including more advanced use of

1 acoustics, optics. We're developing towed
2 bodies that will allow us to videocam the sea
3 floor, and we're using that in New England and
4 also it's coming on in Florida, to improve
5 assessments in New England for scallops.

6 Improved use of acoustics for
7 hydroacoustic surveys for herring, for
8 example. But that's the fisheries independent
9 data. The fisheries dependent data, including
10 both the dealer data, which would profit from
11 having better and faster dealer data reported
12 back as landed, and it's interesting how
13 different regions have gotten to that
14 differently.

15 In New England, most all fish
16 stocks, all landings are electronically
17 reported within 48 hours. It's the sort of
18 thing you would think is a no-brainer, that it
19 should go nationally, and we, the centers
20 would support that, and faster reporting of
21 data coming back from the observers, faster
22 reporting of data coming back from onboard

1 ship, and the electronic VTRs really helps us
2 in those situations where it's been
3 implemented.

4 I think Florida has, or the Gulf
5 has that on some fisheries, electronic VTRs.
6 So New England, as I heard yesterday, New
7 England -- my understanding was that it's VTR
8 log books.

9 MR. DEWEY: You mean the video?

10 DR. MERRICK: Log books,
11 electronic log books, yes.

12 MR. DEWEY: Yes, in the shark
13 industry and where else?

14 MS. MORRIS: It's a trial. It's a
15 pilot in charter boats.

16 DR. MERRICK: There's a pilot in
17 New England as well. The assessments, what
18 takes so long to do those assessments, is it
19 just takes so long to get the data back.

20 MR. ALEXANDER: We've been doing
21 that pilot in New England for about ten years
22 now.

1 DR. MERRICK: Yes, I know, and
2 this summer, it was supposed to go public. We
3 had five boats that wanted to do it. So your
4 guys have been doing it, but trying to get it
5 away from and migrated out to other boats, for
6 some reason they're either nervous about it or
7 we've had slow acceptance.

8 But the Northeast region is
9 dedicated to getting that online and going
10 fully operational for all vessels, in the
11 groundfish fishery at least.

12 MR. ALEXANDER: Nobody's going to
13 do it first. You're going to have to be safe.
14 You've got to do it.

15 CHAIR McCARTY: So hold on one
16 sec, guys. Do you want to take questions as
17 you go?

18 DR. MERRICK: I'm almost finished.

19 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay.

20 DR. MERRICK: Let's circle back.
21 Electronic monitoring, another really
22 important thing. That's something that we're

1 pursuing, and both Alaska and the Northeast
2 are pursuing it as new technologies.

3 A lot of the issues we've got,
4 though, with things like electronic monitoring
5 or with the optics from the towed HabCams is
6 you've got a lot of data coming back, a lot of
7 video images. What do you do with them, you
8 know?

9 I don't think we want to be in a
10 situation where we're going to have an
11 observer just sitting there watching this all
12 the time. So we have a variety of programs
13 developing imaging analysis software to speed
14 that up. The whole thing is through all this,
15 all this advanced stuff and sampling
16 technologies, that we want to improve the
17 speed we get the data back, the amount of
18 data, but we don't want to reduce the quality
19 of it. That's tough. I think we're dedicated
20 to doing that.

21 We're also dedicated to moving
22 away from reliance on these big ships, using

1 other sorts of platforms. I think at least
2 four of the centers right now are
3 experimenting with autonomous vehicles, the
4 gliders, that if you turn loose and they can
5 go back and forth and back and forth on their
6 own, either collecting hydroacoustics data,
7 mapping the bottom, listening.

8 So there is other technologies
9 coming out. We're not going to see them right
10 away, but our hope is that within five to ten
11 years, they'll become a major part of what's
12 going on for our sampling of the ocean. Then
13 there's a lot of other issues. Most of these
14 you're going to come back to, like the habitat
15 issue and the aquaculture and recreational
16 fishing.

17 Social sciences has become a
18 really big issue in some of the regions. We
19 don't have enough and we're expanding that.
20 We recognize how important that is. Then
21 international science, whether it's in the
22 South Pacific or in the North Atlantic. It

1 remains important to continue to develop our
2 modes. Our Office of Science & Technology is
3 now working on a coordinated science plan. So
4 this will remain a major issue, and we're
5 ramping this up.

6 Finally, you know, if he had kept
7 that last tablet when he came down, on how to
8 approach ecosystems management, it would be a
9 lot simpler. As it is, we've got to sort of
10 invent as we go along.

11 CHAIR McCARTY: What do you say,
12 only God knows what ecosystem --

13 DR. MERRICK: I think so. I keep
14 wondering at times what it was supposed to be,
15 because everybody I talk to, every center I
16 talk to and every region I talk to has a
17 different view of it.

18 CHAIR McCARTY: Right.

19 DR. MERRICK: Maybe we're never
20 going to coalesce. I want to circle back on a
21 couple of things. One was the monk seal
22 issue. What's happening with the monk seals

1 thing, and I know it's confusing, is that we
2 are moving pups out of the Northwest to rehab
3 centers on the main islands. They're not
4 being released there.

5 They're then being taken back to
6 the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and released
7 there after they're three years old. So they
8 stay in a rehab center. There are monk seals
9 that are migrating naturally and establishing
10 residence in the main islands, and that's
11 where the critical habitat issue has come up.

12 I checked with that. That comment
13 period will reopen. It will be open for
14 another 60 days. But it's really important
15 that comments from your group go into that,
16 because unlike a listing, critical habitat can
17 consider economics, okay? So if it's a
18 potential that it could be a major economic
19 impact, comments need to go in.

20 Then lastly, recognize that
21 critical habitat does not prohibit anything.
22 It's not a prescriptive action. It's more an

1 action that says we're aware that this piece
2 of habitat may be important to the species.
3 We want to evaluate any federal action that
4 might impact. Yes.

5 MR. CATES: Jeff Walters in Hawaii
6 gave a presentation and talked about releasing
7 the pups in Hawaii, not -- one of the
8 recommendations was to hold them in
9 facilities, and I think that's where the
10 controversy is occurring, is -- are we going
11 to take the pups and release them, and then
12 track them, and then when they get big enough,
13 take them back to the main Hawaiian Islands.
14 That's what the public is hearing as the
15 proposal.

16 DR. MERRICK: I just checked with
17 the deputy director of the Pacific Island
18 Center, Mike Seki, and what he told me was
19 those animals will be kept in a rehab center
20 and then taken back. So I'll go back and
21 check it once more and get back to you.

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Sounds like an

1 outreach problem.

2 MR. CATES: The other issue has
3 been what, just for people's knowledge, what
4 has occurred in the past is when monk seals
5 have migrated to Hawaii, when they land on the
6 beach, they're basically protected in the area
7 that they're at, you know. So if they land in
8 a certain area, the public's asked to stay a
9 certain feet away, and there's been no real
10 controversy.

11 What's proposed now is to make all
12 state waters, with the exception of maybe one
13 percent, be essential habitat. How that
14 affects everything is, if you're going to have
15 to put in a sewer line, if you're going to
16 have to rebuild a marina, a launch ramp,
17 anything you've got to do now, you've got to
18 go through a very rigorous process for all
19 state waters.

20 That's where the state of Hawaii
21 and the states' rights people, the governor
22 included, is going: time out here. This

1 affects everything, tourism, you know,
2 commercial fishing. Everything changes now,
3 and that's where the --

4 DR. MERRICK: Well, I suggest that
5 you comment back, make a real strong comment
6 to that effect, and I suspect the state rule
7 as well.

8 MR. CATES: I have one other
9 question. How do you encourage the scientists
10 within NOAA to reach out to the private sector
11 for new technologies? The reason I bring that
12 up is over the years, I've worked with the
13 local science center, with monk seals and
14 other issues, and there's a lot of knowledge
15 in the private sector that could be applied
16 for NOAA projects.

17 There seems to be this reinventing
18 the wheel, so to speak and I've always been
19 puzzled by that, that there's -- for example,
20 in aquaculture, you know, there's a lot of new
21 technologies with netting, pens, that can
22 apply when NOAA ends up with a monk seal

1 that's in distress, or you have a rare species
2 whale that needs to be held in captivity.

3 Somehow we're not bridging the gap
4 between the private sector and government on
5 the new technologies that could be applied, to
6 make it cheaper and better.

7 DR. MERRICK: I know that happens
8 in some regions, and not as well in others.
9 There's a lot of different ways you can do it,
10 obviously. I mean a lot of it is personality-
11 driven. So people need to be open to talking
12 more. If you have something specific, let me
13 know, and I can talk to Sam Pooley, who works
14 for me as a center director, and get his folks
15 to start listening more, if that's an issue.

16 MR. CATES: In fact, I would just
17 encourage that, to meet more and reach out.
18 If they're going to take on an issue, there
19 might be some technologies already in place
20 that could really benefit them.

21 DR. MERRICK: And part of it may
22 be outreach in general as well. It sounds

1 like people need to start listening to each
2 other, and then maybe Judy's folks could help
3 that too.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: Do you have one
5 more point that you were going to make?

6 DR. MERRICK: Nope.

7 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. There are a
8 number of people that want to ask questions.
9 I have to warn -- I've got the three of you.
10 I have to warn everyone that we are way
11 behind, through no fault of our own, and we
12 don't want to miss the Budget presentation,
13 which is scheduled for an hour. I asked if he
14 can do it in less than an hour, he can. But
15 we have way less than an hour before lunch
16 break.

17 So I just wanted to warn you, and
18 of course, we have to hear from Bruce as well.

19 So I'm just letting you know where we are
20 time-wise. I have Martin, Tom and Paul.

21 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Richard,
22 thanks for your presentation. It says here

1 that you're a chief. That means you wear the
2 most feathers in your head dress?

3 DR. MERRICK: I missed what you
4 were saying.

5 MR. MARTIN FISHER: I'm sorry?

6 DR. MERRICK: I missed that part.

7 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Oh, I'm sorry.

8 It says here that you're chief of the Science
9 Advisory to NOAA, which means you wear the
10 most feathers in your head dress. One of my
11 frustrations, and it was pointed out to me
12 yesterday, is that I was circumventing the
13 process with this data collection thing
14 because of real-time data that wasn't going to
15 the Council.

16 After thinking about that all
17 night, I recognized this morning that the
18 reason I've done that is I wasn't getting any
19 support, and in fact active resistance at the
20 regional Science office level, for doing such
21 a thing, and that there wasn't any support
22 within the Southeast Science Center or that

1 SERO, for bringing our data collection for
2 Gulf fin fish into the real-time world.

3 So I'm just asking if there's
4 anything that you can do, since you seem to be
5 a proponent of that kind of data collection,
6 of that approach.

7 DR. MERRICK: Well, I need to
8 figure out, find out what's going on, because
9 --

10 MR. MARTIN FISHER: We already
11 have the tools. We already have the tools
12 operating through the IFQ system. All we have
13 to do is add pages.

14 DR. MERRICK: And this is in which
15 district?

16 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Gulf, I'm
17 sorry. Grouper, snappers.

18 DR. MERRICK: Snapper, okay.

19 MR. MARTIN FISHER: All the
20 fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

21 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, Tom.

22 MR. RAFTICAN: Yes. Regarding

1 that ecosystem-based approach, you know,
2 traditional looks back, if you take a broad
3 scale-look at how we've managed resources -- I
4 mean, I know in California specifically, we
5 managed for abundance early on with our
6 resource management. Then recently, in the
7 last half of the last century on, it was: how
8 do you deal with the depletions, and then -- I
9 mean our entire focus.

10 You have, you know, an abundance
11 estimate, but the abundance estimate seems to
12 be coming up, you know. You have this level,
13 it was like we're okay. Are you doing
14 anything on an ecosystem basis for managing
15 for abundance? I mean, we hear marine mammal
16 assessments out here.

17 It appears, you know -- and
18 whether this is dolphin on east coast or seals
19 and sea lions on the west coast -- that these
20 -- certain elements of the ecosystem are
21 throwing the ecosystem out of balance. I
22 mean, you know, we're really trying to design

1 the Japanese garden here.

2 But when you do it, you know, is
3 anything being done to focus on the areas
4 where there are more than "the natural," and
5 that are the cause of real changes in the
6 marine systems out there?

7 DR. MERRICK: That's obviously an
8 interesting and limited question, having spent
9 most of my career studying forage ecology of
10 marine mammals. There's very little data that
11 suggests that anywhere in the world, that
12 marine mammals now control the abundance of a
13 whole stock. But there's lots of data where
14 they have localized effects, and the agency,
15 through MMPA, does allow for the removal of
16 mammals in those sort of situations. That's
17 what's going on in the Columbia again, with
18 California sea lions.

19 But there are very few cases where
20 it's Steller sea lions or California sea lions
21 or marine mammals in general control the
22 abundance of commercial fish stocks. What's

1 usually controlling the abundance of
2 commercial fish stocks is predation upon fish
3 by fish.

4 Not to argue the science, but
5 that's basically, that's what's out there in
6 most of the literature. But how we're dealing
7 with that larger issue of looking at a whole
8 system and trying to understand what should be
9 the ecosystem balance for fish, or for fish
10 and marine mammals, we have not done that from
11 the marine mammal side.

12 MR. RAFTICAN: I wasn't asking to
13 fix it. I was just saying that maybe it
14 should be one of the bullet points up there,
15 maybe you're looking at it, so that -- mainly
16 so that folks in this room understand that
17 this is a total picture you're taking, and
18 that we're trying to manage towards that in
19 the long run.

20 DR. MERRICK: And that's the goal,
21 and different systems or different regions are
22 approaching it differently. In New England,

1 the approach there is to include marine mammal
2 predation, as well as the predation in looking
3 at the -- what a system can produce.

4 I think in a lot of cases,
5 especially on single-stock cases, where you
6 don't understand why the stock's not
7 rebuilding, it may be that marine mammal
8 predation could be important in some cases.

9 So it is an issue that is being
10 addressed, we should be doing in all of the
11 regions. It's just that right now, you know,
12 most of the stock assessment scientists are
13 doing stock assessments. Trying to get them
14 off of there, to be able to look at these
15 larger pictures, it's tough right now. But
16 that's where we're headed. The big issue, I
17 think that's going to happen, is once
18 everything appears to be rebuilt, then what do
19 we do?

20 I know in the whole system, are we
21 going to harvest everything at that high
22 level, or do we have some sort of a system-

1 wide -- like you have in the Bering Sea, which
2 is less than the sum of the ADCs. Then what
3 do you do with that lower amount? How do you
4 parse that out between different fisheries?

5 I mean, those are issues that
6 social scientists are going to have to deal
7 with, and I think that's one of the reasons
8 why we need to have more social science
9 presence, because the allocation issues -- I
10 think within ten years, the allocation issues
11 are going to be the big deal in all of the
12 councils. I know it already is in a couple of
13 them, and that it can become even more of a
14 big deal. I think the social sciences are the
15 way actually to deal with that.

16 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, Paul.

17 MR. CLAMPITT: Thank you, Heather,
18 and I wanted to go back, to talk a little bit
19 more about this electronic data capture. You
20 mentioned that 100 percent observer coverage
21 is needed, and are we reaching crawfish, or is
22 this extra?

1 DR. MERRICK: If you have a
2 fishery that you're trying to manage in
3 something approaching real time, which
4 certainly goes with a catch share fishery or
5 with trying to monitor the ACL, you've got to
6 have either really high observer coverage, or
7 you have a really well-developed approach to
8 extrapolating from the coverage you do have.

9 In New England, we have about a
10 third coverage, and the result is we get a
11 discard estimate of the stuff that's random
12 that's reasonably good, and the council's
13 accepted that sort of precision. Useful for
14 management. So that's an alternative that I
15 can represent.

16 MR. CLAMPITT: That's interesting,
17 because I was an observer also back in '78 to
18 '80, and we relied on ten percent coverage,
19 and seemed to be happy to do that. But now,
20 for some reason, we have to have 100 percent
21 of the ACL, and we don't see why.

22 DR. MERRICK: You know, it varies

1 to a certain degree between regions in our
2 philosophy of how they're going to do it
3 between councils, and I think a lot of it is
4 how much you trust: (a) the precision of the
5 sample approaches, and a lot of people don't.

6 They'd rather see 100 percent so you don't
7 have to worry about the precision.

8 The other is the feeling that if
9 you have 100 percent observer coverage,
10 fishermen's behavior will change, and they'll
11 conform more to what you want them to do.
12 It's either been spoken or it's been implied
13 in a number of fisheries, that that's a reason
14 to go 100 percent observer coverage. If you
15 have a sampling, then the fishermen you're not
16 looking at are going to do something else that
17 you don't want them to do.

18 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, I guess, you
19 know, the one other question is how much of it
20 is actually used for stock assessment, because
21 it seemed like in our fisheries, you know, if
22 you look at the -- if you go to the SACs and

1 you look at what data they usually come up
2 with, stock assessment is trawl surveys, you
3 know, and the long-line surveys.

4 You don't see hardly any observer
5 data. It seems like they're observing it just
6 using bycatch, figure out with the bycatch.
7 Now maybe I'm wrong, but it seems like --

8 DR. MERRICK: It would depend on
9 the reach and how they did the stock
10 assessments. I'm familiar with the Alaska and
11 the Northeast. In both those cases, the
12 observer data is really critical. That's
13 where you get the weight of commercial
14 fishery, the right weights between the size of
15 the fish and the weights --

16 MR. CLAMPITT: Yes sir.

17 DR. MERRICK: -- the length
18 frequencies, and where you get information on
19 the economic aspects of the fishery. There's
20 a lot of data that comes back from that that
21 we wouldn't -- I don't have any other source
22 for.

1 MR. CLAMPITT: All right. Thank
2 you very much.

3 DR. MERRICK: You're welcome.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: We're going to
5 have to move on, okay. Thank you, Dr.
6 Merrick.

7 DR. MERRICK: You're welcome.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: I appreciate it
9 very much. Bruce.

10 MR. BUCKSON: I think it's still
11 morning. Good morning.

12 CHAIR McCARTY: Just barely.
13 Office of Law Enforcement Update

14 MR. BUCKSON: I'm going to try to
15 shift over here, so maybe I can see some
16 folks. I was going to stand up. For me,
17 standing up is not much different from sitting
18 down. So we'll keep -- we'll think about it -
19 - we'll keep it seated and try to see.

20 Just a brief intro, a little bit
21 about me, and then I want to talk a little bit
22 just about where we are with some enforcement

1 issues. I have recently retired from the
2 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
3 Commission. Spent 29 years in conservation
4 law enforcement, and when I left Florida, I
5 retired as one of the deputy directors, have
6 been in that position for a couple of years,
7 and have worked my way up.

8 I actually spent some time in the
9 fabulous Florida Keys as an officer and other
10 parts of Florida as well. So I've got the
11 ground level experience. I left, I retired
12 July 31st, and began this position on
13 September 6th. It was interesting. I was
14 explaining that I made some visits all over
15 the capital area, done some Hill visits and
16 some Congressional visits.

17 As I was preparing to meet with
18 Senator Kerry, along with some of his staff,
19 when I was talking to some of their staff, I
20 explained exactly what I did to -- just
21 explain to you all, that I retired July 31st
22 and September 6th started this position.

1 One of the staff, a young lady on
2 staff looked at me and she just said: Why?
3 That she knew the history of the NOAA OLE.
4 And I made the mistake of sharing that little
5 story with Senator Kerry, and he looked at me
6 and he said: You know, that's a legitimate
7 question. I've actually found that that's
8 probably true.

9 There's a lot of issues going on
10 with NOAA Law Enforcement, and I had the
11 opportunity over my 29 years to serve as the
12 law enforcement liaison to the councils and
13 commissions that affected the Gulf of Mexico
14 and the Atlantic, and one of the things that I
15 noticed -- and one of my passions that
16 developed over the years -- was being able to
17 explain what the importance is of law
18 enforcement to the fisheries management
19 process, and trying to get the group's law
20 enforcement representatives plugged into the
21 process all along the way.

22 I think it's critical to see

1 success. Without compliance to the
2 regulations, really all the work the managers
3 do in the background and the recommendations,
4 the advice which you give to the management
5 folks really is not of much value if you can't
6 get compliance.

7 Now I'll tell you also that I
8 started back with those councils and
9 commissions in mid-1995, mid-'90s I guess it
10 was. So I spent a lot of time with those
11 councils and commissions, and I came to
12 realize that conservation law enforcement is a
13 little bit different than normal law
14 enforcement.

15 This is one of the messages that
16 I've been passing on to folks, internally as
17 well as externally. I never really wanted to
18 be a cop. I have a lot of respect for law
19 enforcement officers. I appreciate what they
20 do and how they do it, and in Florida, we
21 become fully certified law enforcement
22 officers, as in most states, the conservation

1 law enforcement folks do.

2 We've got all the training. We're
3 prepared to handle the situations and --
4 little side trip here. Two years ago, we had
5 an officer in Florida who was shot seven times
6 with a .45. It was only his training and
7 experience, and his will to live and his being
8 tactical, based on the training that he had,
9 that actually saved his life.

10 So it's important in conservation
11 law enforcement to have the training and the
12 experience to be able to handle those
13 situations, because you just don't know what's
14 going to happen in certain situations. But I
15 will also say that over my career in 29 years
16 with Florida -- and even now with what we deal
17 with in conservation law enforcement -- most
18 often is, 90 percent of the folks we interact
19 with are either recreational fishermen trying
20 to have a good time, or commercial fishermen
21 trying to make a living.

22 And it is -- that's why I say

1 conservation law enforcement is a little bit
2 different. We need to be able to understand,
3 in following along with what Judy's job is in
4 her office, a big part of what we do is
5 interaction with the folks to be able to gain
6 compliance, before we have to actually take
7 the enforcement actions.

8 That suits me fine. It's not real
9 measurable for a law enforcement agency, and
10 that's quite often the only thing you see, is
11 the number of citations, violations and those
12 types of things. But we don't do a great job
13 of recognizing those folks, and ourselves, for
14 doing a good job and gaining compliance with
15 the regulations.

16 So enough about me. I noticed at
17 your meeting about a year ago, the one in
18 October, that you had an enforcement
19 presentation and update, and you allocated an
20 hour and a half, and there was a 26-slide
21 presentation that we were given. This year,
22 there's 15 minutes for me, and I have

1 absolutely no presentation. I would like to
2 tell you that that means that everything is
3 well, that all is well on the enforcement
4 front.

5 That's not quite the case. We are
6 still working through some of the ID issues,
7 Inspector General's reports, and a lot of that
8 I'm sure you're familiar with. Julie and
9 Vince were talking about it. If nowhere else,
10 it's in the media a lot.

11 I think that we believe that we're
12 headed up the right road. My continual
13 message is we want to look to the future.
14 Continuing to hash over the past, for a lot of
15 external folks and also for our folks, is not
16 going to get us to the place where we need to
17 be, to be able to do the job that we're
18 supposed to do.

19 I'll tell you, we haven't stopped
20 working. It may appear that way in certain
21 parts of the country, but we have not stopped
22 working. We've got a great corps of

1 investigators and officers, who are dedicated
2 to the mission concerning protecting the
3 nation's resources, and I continue to hear the
4 good reports about things they do.

5 That's one of the things that we
6 do too in the Office of Law Enforcement, do a
7 little bit better job of explaining to folks
8 some of those sidebars that quite often aren't
9 always making the press. A little side trip
10 on that, but we get, internally we get weekly
11 reports, and I'm trying to figure out how we
12 can glean some things from that, to make it
13 more public.

14 But a few weeks ago I read a
15 report out, a weekly report out of our Alaska
16 office, and one of the enforcement officers up
17 there was on vacation with his family, and
18 I've never been to Alaska, but it certainly is
19 very remote and a lot of open areas.

20 He came across a gentleman who had
21 been mauled by a grizzly bear, and so he
22 actually restructured his entire vacation, his

1 family, and they did -- his wife is also a
2 medical emergency person, and they were able
3 to take care of him, probably saved this
4 gentleman's life.

5 So those are the stories, the
6 passion of the officers and investigators that
7 we have. They come from a background of
8 having been involved in the wilderness, the
9 woods and the water, and those are the parts
10 of our folks that I want to be able to explain
11 a little bit more about.

12 As I said, the biggest part of our
13 job is trying to gain compliance with the
14 regulations. I don't, our message is not how
15 many arrests have we made. Our message is
16 compliance. That's what we push hard.

17 Another little side trip about
18 personnel. Obviously, you've been keeping up
19 with the negative press, I guess. It's been
20 about two years we've been dealing with this.

21 You got a good report from Alan Risenhoover
22 last year, and let me rephrase that. You got

1 a detailed report from Alan Risenhoover. I
2 don't think it was that good, but it was a
3 detailed report from Alan last year.

4 That's taken a toll on our morale
5 internally within our office as well, which
6 I'm sure you can expect. I spent some time in
7 the Pacific Coast when I first came aboard
8 with a Pacific Council meeting, and also some
9 of our staff in the Northwest and Seattle
10 area.

11 It's even trickled to that area.
12 For the most part, they don't feel it quite
13 the way they do in the Northeast, but it has
14 trickled to that area as well. So that that's
15 another part of my personal mission, is to
16 work hard to able to improve that. I think
17 there's lots of ways we can do that, and most
18 of it's just telling our story, or having
19 others tell our story, as a matter of fact.

20 Let me just mention a few things
21 that have happened over the last year since
22 you had the report from Alan, and let me stop

1 there and just tell you what a great job that
2 I think that Alan's done. He actually
3 dedicated the first month that I was there to
4 spending time with me, and helping me get up
5 to speed.

6 I told him a couple of different
7 times that I was watching this, and when I had
8 applied for the position, I thought boy, it
9 would be nice to be part of helping out,
10 working through some of those issues. When I
11 got here, I said boy, it was sure nice not to
12 be part of working out those issues. They've
13 done a great job of getting us very far down
14 the road of being able to accomplish the
15 recommendations of the IG's report.

16 Just a few things that happened.
17 OLE hired a new director, replaced the interim
18 director, Alan Risenhoover. So that was one
19 of the things, the goals that I think
20 everybody had, and Alan was probably at the
21 top of that list of those folks that wanted to
22 get that taken care of.

1 You know, we actually haven't even
2 let him go completely yet. There's still some
3 issues that he is --very plugged into, and I
4 appreciate that. One of the other things is
5 we recently, I wish I could remember the date,
6 I apologize. But it was October of this year
7 or beginning of October, where we hired a new
8 special agent in charge of the Northeast
9 division.

10 That's Logan Gregory. He's been
11 part of the agency. Actually, he started as
12 an intern in the Office of Law Enforcement
13 down in the Florida area. But 18 years with
14 the Office of Law Enforcement. He gets the
15 picture. He knows what our mission is, where
16 we're headed, trying to rebuild trust, build
17 trust and rebuild trust, and that's certainly
18 one of the things that he's already made as a
19 priority, and actually is going to be at the
20 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
21 within the next week.

22 I think it's next week or the week

1 after. It's the week after, I guess, so I'm
2 looking forward to spending some time with
3 folks there as well.

4 You may have heard, and this is in
5 combination with our General Counsel office,
6 but we contracted the administrative law judge
7 with EPA, instead of -- we've moved from a
8 long-standing relationship, a 17-year
9 relationship with the ALJs of the U.S. Coast
10 Guard, and that was based on recommendations
11 of the Inspector General's report.

12 You probably also heard that we're
13 working hard to look at what our mix of
14 enforcement officers and special
15 investigators, special agents and criminal
16 investigators are. That's a nationwide view
17 of how we are looked, how we're deployed, and
18 we began that with adding enforcement officers
19 in the Northeast part of the country.

20 The primary goal is to reach out
21 and be the face of NOAA Office of Law
22 Enforcement with the industry representations,

1 to be able to answer questions and more on the
2 compliance end of things. That continues to
3 move forward.

4 I expect that getting that mix
5 exactly right is going to take some time, but
6 we're committed to doing, making that one of
7 our primary goals. One of the other things
8 that we did in the New England area was a
9 former commercial fisherman, Don Frye, we
10 hired as a compliance specialist.

11 He works directly with a lot,
12 primarily in the Northeast fisheries. He's
13 spent time up to Maine and down to Virginia.
14 So that's, it's been very successful. He's
15 not only been able to give input to the
16 fisherman on regulations, and work with them
17 on gear configurations and things like that,
18 but they've actually been able to send things
19 back through him, through the Northeast
20 Office, the regional office, about things,
21 reporting processes and other things that
22 could be, potentially be problems. So that's

1 been actually a real good interaction with
2 them.

3 One of the other things that you
4 probably read about, there's been a shift in
5 the oversight of the asset forfeiture fund.
6 That's one of the funds, that's the fund
7 that's been under heavy criticism, for how it
8 was used. That actually, the NOAA comptroller
9 is oversight of that.

10 There's a very detailed process
11 which seems to be working well. It hasn't
12 slowed down the use of the fund, but it's been
13 able to get a good review and a checks and
14 balances on how the fund was used.

15 There's been some audits of that
16 fund as well, and I won't go into those
17 details. That's primarily been handled
18 through the comptroller's office and we'll let
19 them handle that.

20 That kind of leaves us with where
21 are we headed, what's left to do. We've still
22 got, we're expecting a couple more Inspector

1 General Reports. Some of them will be
2 addressing some enforcement issues, and my
3 biggest goals, my primary goal is first and
4 foremost is build trust and rebuild that
5 trust, and try to spend time in these
6 councils, commission meetings and also
7 meetings with industry.

8 I spent about three hours in
9 Gloucester with five fishermen and one of the
10 attorneys, with Steve Roulette [ph], who has
11 been very vocal and active in this whole
12 process. It was a very good interaction, I
13 think. I was real proud of myself when you
14 get locked in a freezer. So I was able to
15 walk out of there and it was good for -- it
16 was very beneficial for me, and hopefully it
17 was for them too.

18 We'll be doing follow-ups of
19 those. It doesn't necessarily always have to
20 be me, but it does have to be somebody within
21 those offices, and that's one of my big pushes
22 as well, to make sure that that happens.

1 One of the other priorities is the
2 workforce analysis, to be able to make sure
3 that we get good distribution of the
4 enforcement officers/investigators, and
5 actually kind of coordinate that with our
6 state partners and our Coast Guard partners as
7 well, to make sure that we don't have an
8 overlap of responsibilities or duplication of
9 effort anywhere.

10 The internally as well, which
11 really probably is not a huge impact on this
12 particular group, but we have a National
13 Enforcement Operations manual, which we'll be
14 going through in detail, and making sure that
15 it's up to date of where it's supposed to be,
16 and we're going to probably put a pretty short
17 turnaround on that.

18 Then the final thing is we need to
19 keep doing our job. It's important for us to
20 work hard to gain compliance, and we're part
21 of the process, and we intend to stay plugged
22 in and moving ahead. I continue to tell our

1 staff internally we're looking to the future.

2 That's being able to continue to do what
3 we're tasked to do with our mission, and that
4 may have been a little longer than 15 minutes,
5 but that's all I have for you. Thanks.

6 MR. RIZZARDI: Are there questions
7 for Bruce?

8 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Bruce, thank
9 you very much. I'd like to give the Southeast
10 region kudos. I've been dealing with law
11 enforcement there for many, many years, some
12 tense moments and some not, and Special Agent
13 in Charge all the way down to individual
14 agents. Nothing but good to say.
15 Professionalism, respect, great interaction
16 with the community, and can't say anything but
17 good about OLE in Southeast.

18 I do have a question for you,
19 though, in terms of some of the state
20 partnerships,

21 MR. BUCKSON: Yes

22 MR. MARTIN FISHER: -- in regards

1 to enforcing like IFQ regulations. In Texas,
2 there seems to be something that's happening
3 that seems to be specific to one port, where
4 if there's a clerical violation in terms of
5 how much quota is in the count when a boat
6 comes back to the dock, Texas Parks and
7 Wildlife are seizing the fish, not notifying
8 NOAA, doesn't become a federal issue, and
9 they're basically going for the money.
10 They're doing fines and restitution for fish
11 they don't even manage.

12 It's becoming a problem, and I
13 just wanted to bring it to your attention.
14 But again, thank you very much. Whatever
15 they're doing in the Southeast is great.
16 Thanks.

17 MR. BUCKSON: Thanks, appreciate
18 that. I'll, I don't have an answer for you on
19 Texas. I don't really doubt that -- making up
20 stories like that. So I will look into it,
21 though. Just a comment about the Southeast
22 division. One of the things that we actually

1 committed to, and this is related to the IG
2 report, we put a freeze on hiring our
3 enforcement officers -- not enforcement
4 officers, but our special investigators, and
5 we do have a lot of vacancies, and we've got
6 some supervisory vacancies as well.

7 One of those vacancies is a deputy
8 director in my office that works for me.
9 We've temporarily assigned Tracy Dunn out of
10 the Southeast division to help me out for a
11 couple of months here in headquarters, and I
12 won't tell him that you had nice things to
13 say. I'll tell him we had a problem that was
14 brought up about the Southeast division.

15 I've known Tracy for years, worked
16 with him as a partner when I was in Florida.
17 It actually has been of huge benefit, and
18 that's really good to hear, that we've got
19 good relations with them.

20 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Well, we're
21 going to miss him down there, because he's top
22 notch.

1 MR. BUCKSON: Well, he made it
2 very clear to me, and I assume he's still on
3 that same track. A lot of folks like him.
4 His goal is not to stay in that position.
5 He's there to help you. So you'll have him
6 back.

7 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. I think we
8 are going to have to move on.

9 MR. BUCKSON: That's fine.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you. Thank
11 you, Bruce. Thank you so much. I'm sorry
12 about the short time period. We'll, I
13 imagine, fix that next time.

14 MR. BUCKSON: Actually, I thought
15 that was a compliment, that things were going
16 well.

17 CHAIR McCARTY: Thanks. I think
18 we're going to Gary Reisner. Gary, we have,
19 as you know, very little time for an hour long
20 presentation. So hopefully you can do it in
21 half an hour maybe, and we can go --

22 MR. REISNER: Probably my part

1 will be less than half an hour, and Peg is
2 going to take five to ten minutes.

3 Budget Briefing

4 MR. REISNER: All right. I'm
5 going to touch on all these issues fairly
6 quickly. I'll spend a little more time on the
7 Congressional action. Can you hear? Okay.
8 I'll try to see how long I can talk louder.
9 It may be less than a half hour.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: I think we want to
11 -- is this presentation on the website?

12 MR. REISNER: Yes, it is.

13 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay.

14 MR. REISNER: Richard went through
15 a lot of this, so I'm not going to spend a
16 whole lot of time here. Just to say that this
17 ACL development has been a very difficult
18 process. We've got 25 FMPs in place now with
19 ACLs. We have about 20 to go, that we hope to
20 finish in the next two to three months, and at
21 that time, then all of the fishery management
22 plans will have ACLs in place.

1 As you know, we've reopened the
2 Gulf after the spill in April. Our habitat
3 work continues on the Recovery Act. I'm going
4 to skip through these, but I would ask you to
5 look at them, because they are -- we've done a
6 lot in a very difficult year, with very
7 uncertain funding in FY '11.

8 Richard touched base on this
9 chart. I just wanted to show you over in the
10 far right-hand corner the red line, \$800
11 million, is the House marked account. The
12 orange line is the Senate mark. The green
13 line, just to the left, is what our request
14 was. It's sort of an outlier in this process
15 anymore.

16 So here's a highlight of what's in
17 the '12 actions. I mentioned the President's
18 budget and I gave a presentation on this down
19 in Key West. Where we're at right now, NOAA's
20 operating under a continuing resolution. It's
21 supposed to go through November 18th. That
22 resolution is operating at the FY '11 levels

1 minus about 1-1/2 percent.

2 But when you look at the House
3 mark, you see that the FY '12 mark has a
4 potential to be at about 800 million, which is
5 about 166 million or 17 percent below the
6 spend plan level. The Senate mark, while a
7 little better, is still 70 million below the
8 House mark.

9 So our number at the end of the
10 day is going to be somewhere between that
11 House and Senate mark, I suspect closer to the
12 Senate mark. But frankly, I don't know that.

13 There's one more set of numbers I want to
14 touch base with, and that's if the debt
15 reduction Supercommittee doesn't reach
16 agreement, and if Congress does not pass a
17 debt reduction bill by the end of the year,
18 there will be an automatic sequester.

19 That sequester will be about, I
20 mean it will depend on where we are with the
21 budget itself. But it will be seven, eight
22 percent below whatever the enacted level ends

1 up being in '12. So in this case, it's
2 substantially below these numbers.

3 Let me talk for a second about
4 where we are at on each of these items, and
5 give you some summary. As I indicated, things
6 aren't looking real good. If we were to have
7 the House mark, we would probably have to do
8 position reductions, I mean over 150 people
9 plus contractors.

10 This depends on how many people
11 decide to retire, how many people resign. But
12 it could have a potential impact of staffing,
13 in addition to programmatic -- substantial
14 programmatic reductions and external funding.

15 The Senate bill is not quite as
16 bad, more on the order of maybe 70, 50 to 70
17 FTE would be affected, a number of contractors
18 and clearly programs. Let me just talk about
19 that a little bit. We'll start with protected
20 resources here.

21 At the 144 million that the House
22 has here, it's pretty much cuts across the

1 board. There is a large reduction in the
2 species recovery grants program that we've
3 been trying to build up. It gets back down to
4 about six million.

5 Big cuts are ESA, MMPA, stock
6 assessment work, Section 7 consultation would
7 probably fall behind, and we would find
8 ourselves using some fairly strong
9 precautionary approaches, as we develop, take
10 reduction plans and permitting processes.

11 The Senate is not quite as bad,
12 but it's still below the spend plan level and
13 our budget. It does fund marine mammals and
14 turtles at about the enacted level or a little
15 above. But with the bottom line of 177, those
16 protected programs have to, you have to offset
17 the reductions within the other programs.

18 So you're still looking at
19 significant cuts in species recovery grants
20 and protected ESA consultation and Marine
21 Mammal Protection Act take applications.

22 Fisheries research and management

1 programs. The 395 in the House bill is about
2 43 million below the '11 Senate plan. As
3 Richard indicated, it does provide funding for
4 stock assessments, a little above what we had
5 requested in the expanded stock assessment, or
6 a little above the Senate mark of \$10 million.

7 However, it cuts survey
8 monitoring, and it cuts some fishery things,
9 and significantly, if there's significant cuts
10 in NOAA MAO, which is where our vessels are,
11 and if that were to come to pass, MAO is
12 talking about having to put ships up, dock
13 them, not go out, on the order of maybe five
14 vessels out of the nine that do fisheries
15 work.

16 So any funding that we get for
17 stock assessments is going to have to go
18 towards funding for ship time, probably ships
19 or charter ships. So I don't think you're
20 going to see the increase that Richard talked
21 about, if these marks come about.

22 MALE PARTICIPANT: The Science

1 Board.

2 MR. REISNER: Well, the Fleet
3 Council and yes, and our Science Board.
4 Again, the Senate bill is not quite as bad.
5 It does provide about 15 million for advanced
6 stock assessments, which is our requested
7 level. It provided funding for the fisheries
8 statistics work.

9 However again, it's still below
10 kind of the enacted level and below the
11 request, and in order to offset that \$15
12 million increase and other increases, you're
13 going to see even greater reductions in other
14 programs. So survey monitoring and the
15 council programs.

16 The enforcement is funded pretty
17 much at the same levels as it was in the '11
18 spend plan, and observers are funded at, in
19 the Senate about a million dollars above the
20 spend plan level, and in the House it's about
21 equal to the spend plan level. So we'll have
22 our observers out there anyway.

1 Habitat conservation and
2 restoration, again it's about -- the House
3 mark is down below the, excuse me, the spend
4 plan level. Most of that reduction is in the
5 habitat conservation management side. So we
6 would be seeing reductions and cuts in our
7 hydropower licensing program, relicensing
8 programs, reductions in the deep-sea coral
9 work that we have, and a significant reduction
10 in the capacity related to essential fish
11 habitat -- work.

12 The Senate side, I'm sorry. On
13 the House side, conservation, the restoration
14 side of habitat is in a little better shape.
15 It's funded at about 22 million, which is
16 about a million and a half above the spend
17 plan level. On the Senate side, again there
18 are some reductions, but it's about equal to
19 the spend plan levels, still below our request
20 level. So some of the increases that we had
21 proposed for larger watershed restoration work
22 wouldn't be funded in that.

1 Within the other activities,
2 aquaculture, in the House mark is funded about
3 3.6 million, and that compares to six million
4 in the spend plan and eight million in our
5 request. So it's going back down to the
6 levels in the '08 request level. The Senate
7 mark funded aquaculture at our request level.

8 The other thing about this House
9 mark is in addition to this discussion I've
10 had about the programmatic areas, they haven't
11 -- they also took our \$16 million reduction in
12 administrative efficiencies, and that hasn't
13 been spread yet. But that would have to come
14 off of these programs, in addition to the
15 discussion I've been having here in the House.
16 In the Senate, again it's not quite as bad.
17 They did fully fund aquaculture at our request
18 level of \$6 million, about a \$2 million
19 increase over the spend plan level and they
20 did fund cooperative research at about 11
21 million, which is about a million over the
22 spend plan level.

1 However again, in order to meet
2 those, have those increases and still meet the
3 reduction within the categories, the
4 information analysis and dissemination is
5 going to be cut by about 30 percent. This is
6 where a lot of the money goes for basic
7 development and reporting. So it has an
8 impact on our assessment activities.

9 Another area that we have to
10 absorb reductions is in our facilities
11 maintenance line. We have facilities,
12 particularly on the science side around the
13 country that need repairs and operating costs,
14 and that will be cut 25 to 30 percent also.

15 Now I'm not sure that will be a
16 real cut there, because in fact we're going to
17 have to pay our bills for oil and gas and
18 water anyway. At least we won't do some of
19 the repairs we might have otherwise done. But
20 some of that's going to have to be absorbed
21 within the program.

22 In addition, the NEPA line, where

1 we have funding of about \$8 million is being
2 cut 25-30 percent, and that's money that goes
3 to our regional offices to support NEPA
4 activities and some of that money goes to the
5 councils. The Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund is
6 funded at \$65 million, which is equal to our
7 request. It's below the enacted level, but
8 it's equal to our requests.

9 Again, suffice it to say it's
10 going to be a difficult year in '12. I
11 mentioned the sequester, and I would say if we
12 look at the operating budget, which is the
13 subtotal for operations, research and
14 facilities, this 910, 710, 811, that's really
15 our operating budget levels. I mentioned the
16 sequester on the order of eight percent, and
17 those numbers -- if the House mark were
18 enacted and they didn't reach an agreement on
19 the debt, that number could go to 654.

20 Now that's just a pro rata
21 reduction. That's not to say that that's what
22 would happen within NOAA. NOAA may decide

1 that they want to keep doing weather, and so
2 you could see larger reductions here. They
3 may have to do satellite operations. But if
4 it were at the 80 percent, this number instead
5 of 710 would be 654.

6 The Senate number would be 746.
7 Again, we're getting below or around the
8 levels that were in the FY '08 spending. So
9 it's going to be a tough year, certainly
10 tougher than last year.

11 I would hope that we -- they're
12 working on a minibus, which includes the House
13 with the CJS bill. So we may have a bill by
14 the 18th, if we're lucky, and frankly whatever
15 level it is, I would like them to pass the
16 bill so I can see what it is, and we can work
17 through that with as much time as possible.

18 This afternoon, you're going to be
19 talking about budget priorities, and you can
20 see, in the past we've talked about budget
21 priorities, but generally in an increasing
22 environment. I would ask you to take it

1 seriously, because we have some significant
2 decisions that we're going to have to make
3 this year and probably in the coming years.

4 If you recall FY '13, that budget
5 will come out in February, the President's
6 budget anyway. But as you get into calendar
7 year 2012, that's an election year. I can
8 guarantee you, I would put money on it, that
9 you're not going to see an appropriation in
10 October.

11 You may not see it in November
12 after the election. Congress may decide, like
13 they did the last time, to say look, we have a
14 new Congress coming in, let's pass the buck
15 and let them make a decision in January or
16 February. So we can see a budget extending on
17 into the March time frame again.

18 With that happy picture -- oh, one
19 other thing I did. We did put together your
20 cross-cut table in the format that you have,
21 and we have it set up with the House and the
22 Senate marks, and that's in your, on the

1 website.

2 So you'll be able to use that this
3 afternoon, along with the granting criterion
4 that has been used within NOAA, and some of
5 the pair-wise rankings that Heather and Mark
6 are going to be asking you folks to be looking
7 at also. Merry Christmas.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: Thanks. Does
9 anybody have any questions for Gary? If not,
10 we should move on. Do you want come up here?
11 You want to sit right here.

12 MS. BRADY: I'll stand if you
13 don't mind.

14 CHAIR McCARTY: Oh, that's fine.

15 MS. BRADY: My name is Peg Brady.
16 I'm the strategic planning lead for NOAA
17 Fisheries in the new SEE process.

18 I scrolled back through agendas
19 about a year ago, and I believe you received a
20 presentation from Paul Doremus regarding the
21 NGSP, the Next Generation Strategic Plan,
22 which I know many of you had active

1 involvement. I believe you have, your
2 Strategic Planning Committee worked actively
3 with PPI in providing input.

4 I'm just going to sort of scroll
5 ahead here a year later and tell you a little
6 bit about where we are, and these slides are
7 on your website, so feel free. There's only
8 six, and there's no numbers. So I just wanted
9 to say that that it's a real pleasure to get a
10 chance to meet you folks. I've heard an awful
11 lot from my colleagues. I've not had a chance
12 to interact with you directly.

13 So this is a great opportunity for
14 me, particularly the input you folks provided
15 in the Next Generation Strategic Planning
16 process.

17 So just a little bit about the
18 background, a little bit more focused view on
19 Healthy Oceans Goal, which is largely the NOAA
20 Fisheries portfolio. So when you look at the
21 diagrams and you see Healthy Oceans, think
22 NOAA Fisheries.

1 Then a little bit about what we're
2 anticipating for the '12 to '18 planning
3 process. Gary's given you a bit of a picture
4 for '12 and partially '13. We are just now
5 beginning the cycle to look at '14.
6 Obviously, there's a lot of things that can
7 happen between now and '14, but obviously the
8 agency needs to plan ahead and at least look
9 at the landscape that we're dealing with.

10 Just to scroll back to NGSP, if
11 you look at the final document, I don't know
12 if anyone has had a chance, this was approved
13 finally last, by the end of -- towards the end
14 of fall of last year 2010. This just one
15 slide is essentially a schematic sort of
16 representing how we have organized ourselves
17 since the NGSP was adopted.

18 Simply what it says is, and we
19 call this finally the place mat slide. It
20 looks like a place mat from a restaurant,
21 maybe from the NOAA cafeteria, I don't know.
22 If you look at the borders, that represents

1 the foundation that supports a lot of the
2 strategic goals, and four goals being in the
3 middle, climate, weather-ready nations,
4 Healthy Oceans in the lower right, and then
5 also our coastal goal.

6 The perimeter represents the
7 supporting structure that helps us advance
8 those strategic goals. Each of the goals are
9 divided into a number of key objectives, and
10 when you go into the plan, you will see that
11 Healthy Oceans has four major objectives.
12 That's how we plan and prepare ourselves for
13 each of these budget scenes.

14 This is just simply a wiring
15 diagram. Again, if you are familiar with
16 other parts of NOAA and want to know where a
17 program can be found in this C structure, this
18 would be the diagram to get you to see where
19 that is. So you can see on the lower right,
20 Healthy Oceans in the list of the four
21 objectives, and then the Fisheries, the office
22 that's responsible.

1 I mentioned the four objectives.
2 These are the four major objectives that you
3 find in the NTSP, a defined Healthy Oceans,
4 i.e., NOAA Fisheries. Within each of these
5 objectives, the plan had identified evidence
6 of progress. There has been a lot of concern
7 that these plans get developed, but we don't
8 have a way of sort of benchmarking ourselves.

9 But if you go into the plan,
10 you'll see we've identified evidences of
11 progress for each of these four objectives, as
12 you can also see in the rest of the plan.
13 Just as an example, on page 16 of the plan,
14 one evidence of progress is increased
15 understanding of the role of habitat in
16 providing ecosystem services, just one example
17 of the number of -- evidences that we would
18 look at.

19 In each of these objectives,
20 you'll see priorities have been identified,
21 and they track quite nicely with, thank God,
22 Richard's presentation from this morning. So

1 I just wanted to say that what we're looking
2 at going forward, in preparing for '14, are
3 these.

4 Now mind you, we depend on this
5 annual guidance, AGM, the Annual Guidance Memo
6 that you folks probably are familiar with
7 that. That is a public document that's
8 released by Dr. Lubchenco.

9 We don't have a final draft right
10 now. But I just wanted to point these four
11 out. These look to be what we will be
12 planning for in '14, and they're very
13 consistent on tracking back to some of your
14 comments in the plan for the NGSP, as well as
15 many of the priorities that Richard had
16 highlighted earlier.

17 So again, we are about to embark,
18 as I say. We finished the '13 process,
19 provided the input into the budget formulation
20 phase, and now we're going into planning for
21 '14 and would be prepared to submit a number
22 of recommendations as they relate to these

1 four priority areas.

2 I will point out that one of the
3 biggest challenges, as you can see from Gary's
4 presentation, is how can we do the job with
5 less. We are going to spend a considerable
6 amount of time working with our partners
7 across the other goals, as well as the
8 enterprises, and it's going to be incumbent
9 upon us to be working smarter and more
10 efficiently, to try to not duplicate but
11 hopefully better compliment going forward.

12 So this again is a more
13 streamlined process than we were familiar with
14 in the past, and hopefully will lead us to
15 more defensible budget as we face sort of
16 these lack of funds. So again, I'll just
17 close there. I know lunch is not too far
18 ahead here, so again, thank you very much for
19 the time, and I appreciate the opportunity to
20 chat with you.

21 CHAIR McCARTY: I was just --
22 thank you. Thank you very much. I was

1 looking at this top one here, and that, the
2 ecosystem-based management objective includes
3 coastal and marine spatial planning. Is that
4 --

5 MS. BRADY: Ideally, well, the
6 challenge that we're faced with. I'll put my
7 other hat on for a second. I've been involved
8 in developing the action plans under the
9 National Ocean Policy, and there's a lot of
10 debate right now about how the two intersect.

11 Clearly, the administration and obviously the
12 public wants this to be a far more seamless
13 presentation of activities between EDM and
14 CMSP.

15 I can't say that we're there yet,
16 but we are working -- Mark is the Fisheries
17 effort with regard to working with NOS on
18 that. But yes, the plan is that the two would
19 work hand in glove. In some regions, it's
20 probably going to be far more effective.
21 There's some regions that are far out in front
22 on this. Some are just learning more about it.

1 As we talked about moments ago, for as many
2 people that we have around the table to talk
3 about EBM, you get that many definitions.

4 So we have spent that, a considerable
5 amount of time trying to better define EBM for
6 the ocean policy documents.

7 CHAIR McCARTY: So a question for
8 you and Barry maybe, is there a framework that
9 we should work from, in giving you our
10 thoughts on priorities? Is it the framework
11 of these goals and is there a framework?
12 Should we start somewhere and start putting
13 numbers on things? Is there a way to do it
14 that's most efficient, that would be most
15 helpful for you in terms of budget priorities?

16 MR. REISNER: I think you can do
17 it either way. It's always easier for me and
18 from my perspective, we can build the budget
19 up in these categories. If you do it at this
20 higher level, then there's always an
21 interpretation question over them with how do
22 I allocate, translate it to the budget

1 framework. So my inclination is to say where
2 you have the chance to do it at the budget
3 levels, that that's the better way to do it
4 and to provide the guidance.

5 CHAIR McCARTY: So we're going to
6 do some work on that in the subcommittee.

7 MR. REISNER: Right, research --

8 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. Some
9 research.

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: That's what we're
11 looking at.

12 MS. BRADY: Now I did check on the
13 time line of the annual guidance memo, but
14 it's still not final. So I'm hoping to see it
15 in another two weeks. So again, these are
16 draft, but this is sort of -- this is where
17 the weather vane is pointing to these four
18 right now, for at least our goal of --

19 MR. REISNER: I believe this would
20 have been final a month ago.

21 CHAIR McCARTY: You've already
22 done this and prioritized these things, in

1 view of your budget situation.

2 MR. BUCKSON: Yes, but we've been
3 working through the FY '13 budget. That is
4 over at OMB. It went to OMB last month. So
5 that budget is under review with OMB right
6 now, and what Peg is talking about really is
7 the start of the FY '14 process.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, thank you.
9 You know, we've talked about this budget
10 prioritization a couple of meetings, and Eric
11 has also highlighted that as something that he
12 wants from us. So I'm just trying to figure
13 out -- yes, the most efficient way to get it
14 done actually.

15 MS. BRADY: Dr. Lubchenco will be,
16 as I say, issuing this guidance shortly. From
17 that, really, our process really kind of kicks
18 in gear for '14. So that's -- the timing is
19 right, I guess, I would say a couple of weeks
20 for '14.

21 CHAIR McCARTY: For '14. Okay.

22 MS. BRADY: Or at least giving an

1 indication --

2 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you. Are
3 there other comments or questions from
4 anybody? Thank you, Peggy. No, seeing none,
5 thank you. Thank you very much. I mean we
6 don't like it.

7 Yes, it's miracle. Thank you. So
8 Mark, we have lunch and we'll try and get back
9 when we're supposed to, but we may not. So we
10 may be a little late getting back from lunch.

11 Do you have any suggestions? Josh is doing
12 the lunch slide.

13 MR. STOLL: These are some places
14 that are close by, and also a brief reminder.

15 We have an RSVP list for dinner tonight,
16 6:45. So if you haven't signed it but are
17 interested, I'll be in the back.

18 CHAIR McCARTY: All right, thank
19 you.

20 (Whereupon, at 12:25 p.m., a
21 luncheon recess was taken.)

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A F T E R N O O N S E S S I O N

1:43 p.m.

CHAIR McCARTY: I feel like we're almost all here, but maybe not. I think we're almost here, all of us, so I think we'll just start, and people can catch up when they get here.

Vince and Randy maybe are the only -- and Steve, I guess. There's Randy. So hope you all had a good lunch. We're back to the agenda, and we're going to have a presentation on the Habitat Blueprint by Brian Pawlak and not Eric.
NMFS Habitat Blueprint

MR. PAWLAK: Ready to go? I was just told to talk really loud -- our official communications staff said talk really loud. So I usually do that pretty well, but it might be hard in this room. So if I start fading off, please yell at me to speak up.

So I appreciate the invitation here today to talk about the NOAA Habitat

1 Blueprint. It's kind of the next big thing.
2 It's probably the biggest thing from my
3 office. I'm presently the acting director of
4 the Office of Habitat Conservation within
5 Fisheries. So it's probably the biggest thing
6 going on in our office right now, and it's a
7 big thing for Eric and for the agency as well.

8 I guess a bit of background. I
9 think the agenda said Eric was going to give
10 some opening remarks. Obviously, he's not
11 here, but I've usually have been given the
12 context that this Blueprint's been put
13 together anyways, by giving some of Eric's
14 charge to us in developing the Blueprint.

15 His charge to us, almost when he
16 very first came on into the agency as AA, he
17 started talking about a systems approach to
18 managing the nation's fisheries. He started
19 talking about holistic approaches and things
20 beyond just managing fisheries, just managing
21 effort, just managing gear, things beyond
22 that.

1 That's, I think, near and dear to
2 his heart, because he comes from the
3 Chesapeake Bay obviously, where the Chesapeake
4 Bay has, you know, obviously they have direct
5 fishery issues and fishing impact issues. But
6 they have a lot of water quality issues, a lot
7 of habitat issues, obviously the whole oyster
8 connection to habitat and water quality is a
9 very solid connection to the Chesapeake Bay.

10 So he often was talking about
11 those connections and what can we do more in
12 NOAA Fisheries, to make those links and
13 connections to habitat, from habitat to the
14 fisheries we manage.

15 Also, the other thing Eric has
16 passed on to us, in having us take this charge
17 on to build a new model for habitat and
18 resource management to the agency, is he
19 talked about the revised Magnuson-Stevens Act,
20 and the 2011 deadline to put ACLs in place.

21 That's coming to a close, and
22 we're pretty close to having the tools in

1 place and the mechanisms in place to end over-
2 fishing, and to start rebuilding some of the
3 stocks that have yet to be rebuilt.

4 So in turning the corner to ending
5 over-fishing, Eric has asked, his leadership
6 and the Habitat Office specifically, what's
7 the next big thing for fisheries? If we're
8 successfully moving down the track to the path
9 of ending over-fishing, how do we ensure that
10 rebuilt stocks stay rebuilt? What else do we
11 need to do to add capacity to the fish
12 populations, beyond the fishing regulations
13 that we work on most of our day at the agency,
14 the bulk of the agency.

15 So his thoughts and discussion on
16 that, his evolution of that thinking is when
17 we first came in is that really what we should
18 be thinking about is habitat and protecting
19 habitat, conserving habitat, restoring
20 habitat, to allow fisheries to maintain the
21 rebuilt status, or even allow fisheries to
22 grow further, and that there's impacts to

1 fishing and fishing communities, beyond just
2 that of fishing and a mixed raft of uses.

3 His solution to this, although
4 it's the solution is an oversimplification, is
5 to look at the habitat issues here. So my
6 yelling, I'm going to have to stop along the
7 way to get water along the way too. So what
8 Eric charged the Habitat Office and his
9 leadership council to do is to go look at
10 habitat and come up with an approach and
11 different model for addressing living marine
12 and resource management issues, that would
13 allow us to look at some these things beyond
14 the fishing.

15 So I stop on the title slide here.
16 Usually, titles slides are a complete
17 throwaway, sunset or sunrise on them, whatever
18 you want. It's a nice fishing boat. But I
19 stopped here, because the explanation, the
20 language underneath here, that it's a
21 framework to improve marine resources in
22 communities is important, and not just a

1 throwaway.

2 Because by using the term
3 "framework," is it meant for something yet to
4 still be built? That's one reason we're here
5 today to talk to you about it, to help us
6 build this out and we have considerations and
7 thoughts from you guys of what needs to be put
8 in here.

9 So there's things to build upon in
10 this Blueprint. There's still a structure and
11 kind of a mechanisms and approaches underneath
12 this framework that need to be developed. So
13 I just want to highlight out it's not a done
14 deal. It's not absolute exactly how we're
15 going to proceed, although the big principles
16 and approaches we want to take are highlighted
17 in here.

18 So the Blueprint, the big overview
19 is that we all know NOAA's objective is to
20 have healthy habitats and thriving resources
21 and communities. That's pretty obvious. Our
22 goal in NOAA and NOAA Fisheries is protect and

1 restore habitat for our managed species. That
2 includes threatened and endangered species,
3 and to protect and conserve habitats at risk,
4 and that runs the gamut of corals, shellfish
5 and wetlands.

6 Again, just for context, I think
7 this group, just as well as anyone, knows NOAA
8 Fisheries priorities, which is to end over-
9 fishing, rebuild stocks, recover threatened
10 and endangered species. We have aquaculture
11 as a focus and a priority, and we have a small
12 thing going on in the Gulf, recovering, trying
13 to recover the damage from the Deepwater
14 Horizon oil spill.

15 I lay these out here, and just to
16 lay these out again. I'm sure you guys have
17 seen these probably thousands of times. But
18 the idea of the Habitat Blueprint is not
19 necessarily to change these priorities or
20 these overall overarching goals and
21 objectives. The goal of the Blueprint is to
22 find ways and approaches through habitat

1 conservation efforts, to help us achieve these
2 goals.

3 So what is the NOAA Blueprint
4 specifically? It's an approach to change the
5 way we do business and improve that, improve
6 the way we do business by focusing on habitat
7 conservation for the priority species and
8 priority habitats, the things we care about.

9 It's hopefully to look at a way to
10 make decisions in a broader context, rather
11 than single impacts, single industry, single
12 kind of linear decision-making is to look at
13 things in the ecosystem context, and also
14 using the habitats and the habitats we need at
15 working other agencies, other partners,
16 whether that be NGOs, states or other federal
17 entities, to help us put their resources in
18 places that help us manage and protect our
19 resources as well. So it's the leveraging
20 concept.

21 Impossible to see here from where
22 you're sitting probably, unless you've got one

1 pulled up on your computer. What this is, is
2 the little diagram from NOAA's Next Generation
3 Strategic Plan. I'm not sure how familiar you
4 are all with that.

5 But the point here is that
6 protecting healthy, having healthy habitat is
7 really underlying and central to sustaining
8 fish populations, sustaining marine and
9 coastal communities, recovering protected
10 species, and for improving water quality, all
11 those things that I think most people here
12 would be able to kind of spit back quite
13 easily.

14 But the key in putting this up
15 here is that when we built this Blueprint, it
16 was internally driven within NOAA Fisheries,
17 although we're already talking to NOAA about
18 it and other parts of NOAA about joining in
19 the effort, is that instantly we have a
20 connection to why it's important to NOAA, and
21 NOAA has already bought into the importance of
22 looking at this and this approach, to helping

1 NOAA move its objectives along.

2 So it's not just issue-centric and
3 just something that the National Marine
4 Fisheries Service wants to do.

5 So there's four key approaches to
6 the Blueprint. One is to implement regional
7 habitat initiatives, which I think you guys
8 have already got copies for, in your read-
9 ahead materials, establish geographic
10 priorities for how we might focus those
11 efforts, implement a systematic approach and a
12 strategic approach to our habitat science, and
13 also looking at strengthening our policy and
14 legislation, and even potentially creating new
15 policy and new legislation to promote the
16 habitat concepts and the Habitat Blueprint.

17 So today, I'll primarily focus on
18 number two and four. I'm largely looking for
19 MAFAC's feedback on two and four. It's my
20 understanding it is on the science activities
21 and the HAIP and those kind of things and
22 things which I commented on before, and

1 there's additional time to comment on that
2 later as well. But I'll probably focus on two
3 and four most heavily.

4 So the first item though here is
5 the Habitat Blueprint's regional habitat
6 initiatives. Really what these regional
7 initiatives are is a way to get started now on
8 implementing the Habitat Blueprint. So when
9 Eric Schwaab was having his conversations with
10 his leadership council of what can we do next
11 on habitat, he got a lot of great ideas from
12 the science centers, a lot of great idea from
13 the regions.

14 But it was really hard to come up
15 with gee, what's the one thing we should do?
16 What's the one, two, three, four, five things
17 we should focus on as an agency, for making
18 this thing work and getting it off the ground,
19 and kind of kicking off the new approach
20 initiative, that would get some attention, get
21 some interest from our constituents, gain
22 interest from the Hill, and we struggled with

1 that a bit.

2 So our approach was rather than a
3 heavy-handed headquarters-driven go do these
4 activities, we reached out to our regional
5 administrators and asked them to work with
6 their science center directors, and come up
7 with a regional initiative that is supportive
8 of the concepts of the Habitat Blueprint, in
9 partner with our science centers, to look in a
10 specific place, where they could go do a
11 certain level of specific activity and improve
12 the habitat conditions, to address the
13 resource problem in their region, something
14 that they're already trying to deal with and
15 resolve.

16 These are ongoing. These are
17 meant to be initiative FY12 with existing
18 resources. So just two, three weeks ago at
19 our past leadership council meeting, these
20 were briefed out from the regional
21 administrators and these were described in
22 some detail to the leadership of NOAA

1 Fisheries.

2 So I won't read you every one of
3 these, but we've got one for every region.
4 Alaska-Cook Inlet is going to be working on a
5 habitat conservation strategy. The Northwest,
6 Will Stelle is pushing the Puget Sound Habitat
7 Initiative and focusing on a few tributaries
8 in Puget Sound, and partnering with NRCS and
9 others.

10 Pacific Islands is a focus on Guam
11 and coral habitat, and some of the impacts
12 that might be there because of the -- will be
13 there, not might be there, the impacts that
14 will occur with the Navy base realignment. In
15 the Southwest, it would be the Southern
16 California Bight.

17 In the Southeast, there's a focus
18 on Charleston Harbor, a plan for the
19 Chesapeake Bay, although it's not a separate
20 region in the fisheries organizational
21 structure. In the Chesapeake Bay, we're
22 looking at a tributary-based oyster

1 restoration project that we're starting now,
2 starting this year, to focus on how --
3 focusing on how habitat can help us in our
4 management issues.

5 The point of the habitat regional,
6 as I said, was to get started, and then once
7 we've got some progress and steps kind of
8 behaving differently and looking at things
9 differently, we might be able to share the
10 lessons learned from those regional
11 initiatives to a broader agency approach to
12 the Blueprint.

13 Another piece within the
14 Blueprint, another strategy is to establish
15 geographic priorities to focus our efforts on,
16 and this is where some feedback from everyone
17 in the room would be helpful, and figure out
18 how we do this.

19 The idea is to identify priority
20 areas based on convergence of importance for a
21 variety of things. It could be economic or it
22 could be species that we know that are

1 habitat-limited. We know enough about their
2 biology and ecology that we know this is an
3 area important to them, and overlay that with
4 a series of other information that we might
5 have on the ability to work in the area, how
6 degraded the area is.

7 It's doing a bit of a scientific
8 and socio-economic review of where is the best
9 place to go focus, where we can do something
10 to improve habitat condition, and we can show
11 that we've made a difference by the collective
12 suite of our actions.

13 Again, so I kind of want to hit on
14 this. The idea is to look at federally
15 managed species and protected species habitat
16 at risk, look at that overlay and determine
17 where we might want to focus, and also, as
18 we're doing here today, get some feedback from
19 our internal stakeholders on this.

20 The idea here is if we do this, we
21 could also maybe extend this to our, beyond
22 our science efforts but to our policy and

1 regulatory efforts, to look at ways to focus
2 our regulatory efforts into these geographic
3 areas of importance, and demonstrate that
4 there's something that could be done in a
5 different way, a better way, a more efficient
6 way, for focusing on habitat.

7 Now this I'll skip over fairly
8 quickly just for time, and I'm sure you guys
9 have had, I think, some input to the HAIP in
10 the past. But another approach to the
11 Blueprint here is to really dig down and do a
12 systematic and strategic view and approach,
13 review our approach to doing habitat science
14 in the agency.

15 Habitat science, as many probably
16 know, is not the top funder of dollars in the
17 agency. Stock assessment science receives the
18 bulk of our efforts. But really looking at
19 where habitat information would be useful to
20 improve stock assessments. What other
21 information do we have that we could collect
22 while doing stock assessments, where we can

1 improve the scientific underpinning and
2 habitat, and really looking at where we're
3 doing habitat science across the agency, and
4 how we might shift that, if needed, to focus
5 in places that we might get more information
6 that will help us in managing the species
7 we're trying to manage.

8 A piece of this too that Eric
9 wants to highlight, or made the point to us in
10 highlighting, is also improving the delivery
11 of this habitat science information state and
12 others that might find this useful for their
13 management practices.

14 So in the habitat science realm,
15 hopefully these things aren't new to you.
16 Some of them might be, but we do have a
17 habitat assessment improvement plan that was
18 published about two years ago. We had our
19 first National Habitat Assessment workshop,
20 which is the bringing together of habitat
21 scientists, habitat managers.

22 Again, that was probably about two

1 summers ago that we had that. So there's a
2 lot of improvement already in the science
3 realm, and that's why I'm trying to brush over
4 this more quickly.

5 In our HAPW Group, the Habitat
6 Assessment Prioritization Working Group,
7 there's already a team that we've got convened
8 on looking at what species would be
9 prioritized for doing habitat research first,
10 because that habitat research might lead to
11 improved stock assessments. There's a group
12 already formed and working on that problem
13 with the agency.

14 The other piece where I think your
15 feedback and input would be critical is
16 looking at how we might strengthen our policy
17 and legislation, to enhance habitat
18 conservation, and actually Mark, I think this
19 is a great term to phrasing it, but Mark was
20 looking at this. What barriers do we have in
21 policies or legislation now that prevent us
22 from doing what we want to do or could do in

1 the habitat conservation realm?

2 So looking at this more at a
3 national level, this is not regional initial
4 level. It's really kind of probably inside
5 the Beltway, D.C., examining and exploring
6 stuff and getting input from our regions and
7 centers, getting input from our partners of
8 what at a national scale can we do to change
9 how we look at habitat?

10 So we're just kind of short-term
11 internally. We've issued the blueprints
12 internally to NOAA Fisheries. We're looking
13 at potentially establishing a policy to
14 prioritize and coordinate our consultations
15 better, and that would be our EFH
16 consultations, our protected species
17 consultations, both.

18 Obviously, we're here today
19 engaging MAFAC and hopefully we want to start
20 engaging the fisheries management councils and
21 others. Long term, and like I said, we don't
22 have a clear path ahead of what we want to do,

1 but really exploring how Magnuson-Stevens or
2 ESA could be changed or inclusive of habitat,
3 so that, such that it drives a lot of change
4 in the councils, it drives behavioral changes
5 to other entities.

6 Again, nothing preset,
7 predetermined of how that might happen, but
8 starting to look at that. I know Eric has
9 suggested we start looking at these as topics
10 items or potentially topics for discussion
11 throughout the year, and building into a more
12 fuller discussion at Managing Our Nation's
13 Fisheries 3 next October.

14 So really looking at other
15 legislative mandates that we might need for
16 doing a stronger and better habitat
17 conservation. Looks to be new legislation or
18 existing legislation. It might be legislation
19 that's not within the Fisheries Service even.

20 And there's, I think you'll hear about this
21 right after my talk.

22 I think Roger Griffis is here to

1 talk about blue carbon and other tools of
2 looking at habitat, other methods to look at
3 the importance of habitat and using, getting
4 conservation protection from habitat, for
5 habitat, through other approaches that we
6 don't typically use in fisheries.

7 The next step is you guys have
8 probably heard a lot more about the Blueprint
9 than a lot of people in NOAA Fisheries and the
10 staff. So it was just only, like I said, it
11 was only three weeks ago, I think, that the
12 leadership council kind of fully bought off on
13 the draft blueprint that you guys have in your
14 packets.

15 It was just last week I produced
16 all of my staff, even though I have a number
17 of staff working on it in detail in the
18 drafting and what have you. So there's still
19 a lot of NMFS-wide discussion and in-reach
20 that needs to happen, and discussion with a
21 lot of staff folks. This has really kind of
22 been created at the leadership level, and

1 really a lot of coordination across NOAA still
2 to happen.

3 I've started briefing the National
4 Ocean Service on this. We have more formal
5 briefings set up this week. But talking to
6 the other parts of NOAA, how they could
7 contribute, what priorities do they see for
8 themselves within the Blueprint. So this is
9 really on a fast track, in the sense that
10 we've published this thing and we're talking
11 to you as kind of our first external group.

12 But a lot of people in NOAA are
13 still probably getting up to speed with what
14 the heck this thing is, although our NOAA
15 leadership is pretty familiar with the
16 concepts already. Eric's been talking to Dr.
17 Lubchenco and the senior leaders down there.

18 Obviously, we've got to build out
19 these strategies in more detail in how to do
20 them. I mentioned we want to facilitate a
21 dialogue at Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3
22 probably on this topic, and seeking input from

1 you folks here.

2 These, I think, are some of the
3 specific questions that we asked in your read-
4 ahead material. I'll stop there, I believe,
5 and take questions on the Blueprint or the
6 approach.

7 CHAIR McCARTY: We usually have
8 people ask questions. Also, I have a
9 question. You may have already kind of
10 covered this, but could you describe to me the
11 difference between this and what we already
12 have in EFH and perhaps the geographic
13 designations, and whether this was sort of
14 developed because that isn't working, or is
15 there a feeling that the current habitat
16 protection tools are not working?

17 MR. PAWLAK: I don't know if it's
18 a feeling that they're not working for how
19 we're using them now. It was -- there's never
20 been any discussion in the development of
21 this, the EFH and the geographic designations
22 of HAPCs is not working and doesn't suit us.

1 I think more the discussion is how would we --
2 but I think that has often been separate from
3 a conversation of how do we most utilize those
4 tools for rebuilding a particular stock and
5 enabling that stock, and going to a particular
6 area is important.

7 I think most of EFH is, because
8 everywhere is the criticism of it. So it's
9 really how do you focus your efforts within
10 areas of EFH, or how do you identify HAIPs
11 that are the most important for moving your
12 conservation hardest, and putting forth maybe
13 a habitat condition you want to see some
14 place, and working toward that end, rather
15 than HAIPs, which are designated areas.

16 So it's part of the rebuilding of
17 this restoration piece, the HAIPs and the FHs,
18 but it's more on the protective side. I hope
19 that helps.

20 CHAIR McCARTY: No, that does
21 help. Thank you. Are there other questions?

22 MR. RIZZARDI: A combination

1 question and observation, and I'm going to
2 move to the Endangered Species Act side of the
3 equation. The Blueprint's relying a lot on
4 the concept of prioritizing, but the ESA
5 doesn't really allow you to prioritize. A
6 petition comes in.

7 Please list these 83 species of
8 coral and you guys have to drop everything and
9 figure out whether or not to list them. One
10 of the mechanisms that's being used to try to
11 find some wiggle room there is warranted but
12 precluded to determinations, and that concedes
13 the warranted. So I don't even like that
14 mechanism.

15 But the problem is from the
16 statutory standpoint, you don't seem to have a
17 whole lot of discretion. So while on some of
18 these points you may be able to prioritize, it
19 seems that once you get into the land of
20 threatened and endangered species, you're
21 finding yourself constantly unable to
22 prioritize.

1 You have to deal with all the
2 species. The list is getting longer and
3 longer. The critical habitat needs to get
4 designated for all of them, and if you don't,
5 somebody's going to sue you.

6 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes. That's a
7 fact that we've discussed in this, of how do
8 we deal with that, and we don't have the solid
9 answer for how we overcome that.

10 Some of the idea though here is
11 for where you have those list of species and
12 we're not moving toward recovery, is if we
13 could prioritize and focus, pick a priority,
14 bring other agencies to the table, other
15 entities like NRCS or Fish and Wildlife
16 Service, and bring them to work in a similar
17 place, in the same fashion for the same end
18 point, you might get recovery. You might be
19 able to implement more of the recovery plan,
20 than just deal with the listing side or the
21 consultation side.

22 So that's some of the idea. But

1 those are definitely hurdles we've talked
2 about through all of this, and don't have.

3 MR. RIZZARDI: Is there any
4 thought about ESA reform, from the
5 administration level?

6 MR. PAWLAK: That has not come up
7 in a specific discussion here, and not -- even
8 from the protected resource side, I'm not sure
9 how much. There hasn't been any discussion on
10 that.

11 DR. HOLLIDAY: Well, I don't think
12 there's a current discussion about ESA reform,
13 but I think on those four objectives or four
14 approaches here, the policy approaches,
15 legislative approaches, there are things that
16 trump everything else that has to do with
17 habitat conservation.

18 So that we can't do any essential
19 fish habitat consultation, because all of our
20 agency resources are divided somewhere else.
21 Then that might reveal that there's a
22 legislative remedy that needs to be addressed.

1 We don't have an official position on
2 anything at this point.

3 We're at, as Brian said, the
4 starting point in thinking about how to tackle
5 this problem.

6 MR. RIZZARDI: Sure.

7 DR. HOLLIDAY: So at this point in
8 time, we don't have legislative initiatives in
9 place or even agreement on whether they're
10 necessary. So we're trying to generate
11 questions, the feedback from the policy
12 advisors about what sort of issues are on the
13 table that might lead us in that direction.

14 MR. RIZZARDI: Sure, and don't
15 misunderstand my point here. I agree with the
16 need for priorities. I agree with the
17 concepts that are being fleshed out in the
18 Blueprint. It's just I'm seeing a world where
19 you may not have the ability to set these
20 priorities and to implement it.

21 So and my last point for you all
22 is you may need to start thinking about the

1 legislative side of the equation sooner rather
2 than later, because if I'm seeing the trends
3 right, we're going to be looking at another
4 engagement of repealing huge portions of these
5 laws.

6 You know, in Florida, we repealed
7 our growth management laws. We're repealing
8 our water laws. I mean things that are going
9 on in Florida are to me an indicator of what's
10 coming to the nation.

11 CHAIR McCARTY: Anybody else?
12 Julie.

13 MS. MORRIS: Thanks for your
14 presentation. Can you, I mean we all, we each
15 have geographic areas in each of these
16 priorities. So what do you mean by geographic
17 priority areas? To be specific, Charleston
18 Harbor, Chesapeake Bay, restoration issues.
19 So how is that different than geographic
20 priority areas in identifying? How many are
21 you looking for, what size are you thinking
22 of?

1 MR. PAWLAK: Right, right. Well,
2 the reason, as I said, was kind of the way to
3 kickstart this and start working in a place
4 now over a problem statement that the regions
5 identified, and I can list all those for you,
6 but each regional administrator picked a
7 place, picked an area.

8 So that's meant to be something we
9 could do, FY12 start on, hope in a few years
10 we could show the impact of working and
11 focusing that area, we got what we were hoping
12 to get out of that focus. So that was
13 immediate. It wasn't a systematic, you know,
14 grand approach to how would we pick the
15 priority area.

16 It was give it your best shot,
17 administrator, where you think there's an area
18 to focus on. The idea of the geographic
19 priorities would be something, as I alluded to
20 up there, much more involved. I think the
21 goal is for this year, just to give you the
22 context of I think the challenge to it, is

1 this year hopefully in one region we'll have a
2 workshop and start talking about where that
3 priority area might be in one region, and
4 laying out the framework for how we might get
5 there through the agency.

6 You know, scale, scope, size,
7 that's something we haven't -- it's the same
8 questions our leadership was asking, you know,
9 three or four weeks ago, is what is the right
10 scale, what is the right size. We don't know.

11 Part of it is what we want to do
12 is pick a scale and a scope that we think we
13 can demonstrate the impact of focusing in that
14 area. If we focus science in that area and we
15 address management challenges in that area, we
16 can demonstrate impacts.

17 Some of it is building the
18 business case for looking at habitat as a way
19 to improve living resources, a community,
20 whatever it might be, to get the value you
21 have from that habitat. But if you can
22 demonstrate that, and that's over the entire

1 estuary, is that an entire, you know, is that
2 one river system, whatever that might be, that
3 if you can demonstrate that, that's going to
4 help us in budget defense and maybe one day if
5 we get to go back to asking for increases, it
6 will help us in requesting new funding, and
7 that's the idea.

8 So that size, scale, scope of the
9 area is undetermined, yet to be determined.
10 But I think the idea is picking a size and
11 area where you can show your influence and
12 your management, your science has made a
13 difference, and that could be different size,
14 shapes, depending on where you're working.

15 DR. HOLLIDAY: To that point, I
16 can help clarify.

17 CHAIR McCARTY: Go ahead.

18 DR. HOLLIDAY: So you asked a
19 question about we've already chosen these nine
20 regional initiatives, doesn't that answer the
21 question. I think those were again, as Brian
22 said, specific for the next fiscal year, for

1 the shorter term. They were determined to be
2 done at little or no additional cost.

3 They were to provide sort of a
4 case study example or a prototype of proving
5 the idea of what we're talking about with the
6 Habitat Blueprint, comparing that to then
7 these geographic priorities, which is looking
8 at a long term.

9 Should we be trying to do all
10 regions at the same level? Should we be
11 focusing instead on certain species that we
12 can project will be drivers, for certain
13 habitats that will be drivers of important
14 fishery management or ESA policy choices that
15 we're going to be facing?

16 That then asks the question about
17 scale. Should we be looking at an ecosystem-
18 wide level? Should we be looking at something
19 at the watershed level? Should we be
20 targeting our efforts? Where would it be most
21 productive to target our efforts, at the
22 estuary level? So there's a whole range of

1 options about how to apply those and describe
2 the framework.

3 So the regional initiatives were,
4 as Brian described, it's kind of a prime the
5 pump, get people stimulated, thinking and
6 talking about the role of habitat in our new
7 direction of larger scale of living resource
8 stewardship.

9 But the geographic priority is
10 looking at how we tackle this problem, because
11 this is not dependent on new initiative money
12 coming from Congress. It's not based on that.

13 It's looking at redirecting our
14 efforts, reprioritizing, re-strategizing the
15 resource capacities that we've got, because it
16 would be naive to think we're going to get new
17 initiative money to support any, whether it's
18 habitat or anything else. In this climate,
19 how can we get the most effective use of our
20 capacity?

21 So input from you in answering
22 some of these strategic questions is going to

1 help shape the content of the framework of
2 where do we put those limited resources to
3 their greatest effect.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: Go ahead, Julie,
5 follow-up.

6 MS. MORRIS: Well then just
7 following up on that, I mean I brainstormed a
8 list of responses to these questions. But I
9 can send them to you. But it seems like when
10 we were doing essential fish habitat in the
11 regions, one of the real barriers, and this
12 gets to your third question, is so much of the
13 habitat that's essential to the managed
14 species is in state waters, and not -- the
15 federal government's ability to improve
16 habitat in state waters and state lands is
17 limited and indirect.

18 So are you -- it seems like from
19 the short-term geographic areas that you've
20 already chosen, you're deeply in state waters.

21 You're not restricting yourself to federal
22 EEZ kinds of things. So could you talk about

1 how you're going to manage that? It seems
2 like it would be far more straightforward to
3 do habitat conservation and protection in the
4 EEZ.

5 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, and I think two
6 of our regional initiatives, yes. Two, I
7 think, are largely offshore. We have the Deep
8 4 one in the Northeast and the Southern
9 California to develop offshore. Yes, I think,
10 I mean obviously recognizing the estuaries are
11 the primary producers of what we're trying to
12 manage offshore.

13 I think the, I mean everyone knows
14 I think dealing with habitat issues, at least
15 you know what the problem is in the estuary,
16 usually than you sometimes know offshore. You
17 just know more about the systems. So I mean
18 we have authorities in those areas. We work
19 in those areas. Our habitat conservation
20 divisions across the country probably spend
21 most of their time doing consultations for EFH
22 that exists in state waters.

1 So it's not totally new territory
2 for them. It's not new at all, I think. But
3 the idea that I think the message on the
4 delivery of science to the states is that we
5 get the right information, the right
6 understanding of the productivity of a certain
7 area to a certain population.

8 It's giving that information to
9 the states, and making sure the states have
10 the right information, the best information
11 that we can help with in letting them make
12 their decisions in line with what we might be
13 interested for offshore species.

14 So it's definitely a mix of both,
15 and I know we definitely have an interest in
16 focusing on what we can do in the offshore
17 areas as well. But I think that's not
18 readily, maybe easily as understood as it is
19 to the inshore areas.

20 DR. HOLLIDAY: Just to that point.

21 CHAIR McCARTY: Go ahead.

22 DR. HOLLIDAY: So again,

1 elaborating on Eric's thought process behind
2 this, why we may have primacy in the EEZ, I
3 think the success of our emphasis in habitat
4 is the collaboration, because that's the key
5 to unlocking other ideas, other money, other
6 capacity, other resources to bargain with.

7 So the Habitat Office has been
8 working diligently with many of the state and
9 federal collaborations across the country, to
10 try to tackle this holistically, rather than
11 just looking at it in the EEZ.

12 So we were looking for
13 partnerships. What are the areas, perhaps --
14 perhaps asking that geographic trigger
15 question is where are the most likely
16 successes or early successes that could be
17 garnered with some of these collaborations
18 that MAFAC is aware of, and we will ask the
19 program to look at more closely because of
20 those stronger partnership that are already in
21 existence between states and the federal
22 government or other federal agencies and NOAA.

1 So I think the notion of this
2 being, you know, it's not a NOAA-centric
3 issue. The Blueprint is trying to spread
4 beyond just NMFS and the EEZ under the
5 Magnuson Act to other authorities and others.

6 As Keith pointed out this morning, you know,
7 where is the regional leadership? Where is
8 the coordination going to come from to tackle
9 problems that extend beyond one community or
10 one particular estuary?

11 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. Tony and
12 then Bill.

13 MR. CHATWIN: I enjoyed it. I
14 found it was a good sequence to the
15 presentation that we had about a year ago, I
16 think, to the science plan. I like the
17 Blueprint framework conceptually, especially
18 the part where the goal is to tie habitat into
19 rebuilding of populations.

20 I think that's a challenge, but if
21 you can crack that nut, then you'll create a
22 real incentive for habitat conservation. So

1 given the importance of that, kind of I wonder
2 if in these -- and the importance of
3 demonstrating success in these geographies
4 that have been selected already, my question
5 is are there specific goals for resources,
6 marine resources within these geographies, for
7 which you're trying to prove that connection
8 of population abundance and habitat?

9 MR. PAWLAK: Boy, I'd have to dig
10 in my memory bank from what I've read. It's
11 only been four weeks that I've been reading
12 the regional initiatives. I think the one
13 that pops into my head would be the Alaskan
14 agreement one.

15 One of their desires is to build
16 out enough information and get some modeling
17 in place so they can determine the
18 productivity of that area for certain species,
19 and some of it, I think, is determining the
20 value of it for even the protected species up
21 there. Some of these regional initiatives
22 too, again, this has only briefed up to our

1 leadership three weeks ago.

2 This was the first idea. Again,
3 it's kind of sort of the speed of putting the
4 Blueprint together. It's the first conceptual
5 idea, this is where we want to work and this
6 is kind of what we want. I don't think we've
7 got to the stage of actually building out that
8 expected habitat condition yet in each of
9 these areas.

10 I know the deep sea coral one is
11 trying to make links to managed fish and
12 population metrics for the new deep sea
13 corals.

14 DR. HOLLIDAY: But just your point
15 is you're trying to make this link to return
16 on investments for these habitat initiatives
17 to, I guess, the productivity.

18 MR. CHATWIN: That's right. I
19 mean what I'm hearing is the success of this
20 new approach totally depends on how success
21 with all of these pilots. So it's how you
22 define that success with the pilots is going

1 to define how useful they are to replicate the
2 approach elsewhere.

3 So I guess it would be a
4 recommendation that in all of these, NOAA
5 identify species for which the goal would be
6 to determine the role of habitat for those
7 particular species.

8 You know, you don't have to -- so
9 if in two years, without using additional
10 resources, you have an answer to that
11 question, that's the answer that you'll be
12 able to carry and justify budget.

13 MR. PAWLAK: I think that is a
14 goal. That's a big one.

15 MR. CHATWIN: Yes, and I have one
16 other question if I may. So a year ago when I
17 got the briefing on the science plan, it was
18 clear that the premise there was on a big
19 budget increase to support a big increase in
20 science staff for habitat at NOAA.

21 I remember at the time feeling
22 that there would be -- there are other ways

1 that you can get to that same capacity, and it
2 seems that today's budget reality requires one
3 to think differently. I mean I think the plan
4 says 500 additional scientists.

5 So has there been further
6 discussion about that, and how are you guys
7 thinking about getting the science capacity
8 that we need to tackle these questions?

9 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. I can't say
10 there's been further discussion since the
11 detailed plan, of how we would drive it. I
12 know Office of Science and Technology and our
13 two science advisors have been thinking about
14 what do we currently bring in for science,
15 that might be directed towards habitat
16 science.

17 I think the connection that
18 they're trying to make, and Eric has asked
19 them to look at, he's not -- he's not saying
20 go take some X proportion of your budget and
21 move it. He's just asking which, which is
22 even a tough question to ask within the

1 agency, look at your budget, see where you
2 could maybe move and be direct to a group
3 their understanding of habitat.

4 One of those is what the HAIP was
5 about, was if you can draw that connection
6 with the habitat science it's important to
7 stop, that science doesn't stop assessment
8 science. That's what the NHOL and those
9 groups that I mentioned, that they were
10 looking at. We don't have a, I don't have a
11 good plan of what we've done with that and how
12 far we've moved down that road.

13 Dr. Merrick said he might but I
14 know we had moved some funding to try to
15 specifically address HAIP-type things. But
16 that's the hurdle, and I think that's part of
17 the plan, to figure out how to do that, and
18 we're just starting to do that. Because I
19 think it's a pretty -- it's a bold question
20 for Eric to even ask let's start doing that,
21 and actually start looking at it.

22 Or you're right, the model of a

1 year or two ago was we have to go ask Congress
2 for more money to do this. Knowing that
3 that's not working, we're now looking back
4 inside to see how we can do that.

5 DR. HOLLIDAY: But it affects
6 these nine regional initiatives that are
7 described, are all dependent on the science
8 centers redirecting some part of their
9 capacity to help.

10 So there is an expectation not to
11 necessarily get external capacity, but taking
12 these internal sources about how we can take
13 people or how can we take these models, how
14 can we take this conservation stream and kind
15 of fly with it broadly to the habitat
16 questions that are in front of the agency.
17 Other than plumbing, we have to figure out
18 how.

19 CHAIR McCARTY: So we're going to
20 do Bill and then Phil.

21 MR. DEWEY: I just wanted to ask
22 from our standpoint on improving delivery of

1 the habitat science to the regions. You know,
2 as far as the science around shellfish
3 habitat, there's tremendous discrepancies
4 between the regions in their understanding of
5 the value of it.

6 So within the NOAA family there's
7 a need. But then also getting that science
8 out externally to the states and other
9 resource managers, as they're trying to make
10 the permit evaluations and decisions, could be
11 extremely valuable to us moving forward and
12 trying to implement the aquaculture policy.
13 So I just wanted to underscore that.

14 Then on the partnerships, you
15 mentioned trying to leverage partnerships.
16 Obviously, we're dealing with difficult
17 financial times here, as we've heard already
18 today. I'm interested in learning more about
19 what types of partnerships are you talking
20 about, especially the environmental community,
21 fishing community.

22 One thought that comes to mind for

1 me, I worked on water quality and habitat
2 restoration in Puget Sound, and one of the
3 methods they looked for to try and help fund
4 restoration efforts is payments for ecosystem
5 services.

6 So you know, essentially trying to
7 stimulate private investment in public
8 conservation, by setting up ecosystem service
9 markets. You know, I see one of your slides
10 talked about exploring your habitat policy
11 with blue carbon, sediment nutrient reduction,
12 you know. Shellfish can help mitigate
13 nitrogen pollution, biodiversity.

14 I attended a conference a couple
15 of years ago put on by Forrest Trend, the non-
16 profit. It has established a group
17 specifically looking at this, marine ecosystem
18 services, and setting up payments for marine
19 ecosystem services, and trying to stimulate
20 that investment.

21 I'm thinking that that's a
22 partnership or direction or policy maybe that

1 NOAA should be thinking about, as they're
2 trying to figure out how to fund improvements
3 in habitat.

4 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. That's Keith's
5 presentation come up. That's part of the
6 question and part of the Office of Habitat's
7 question, along with Roger, has been exploring
8 how we can build some of the information
9 behind that with ecosystem services.

10 In the Northwest, some of the
11 partnerships we're potentially talking about,
12 a good example, I think, is NRCS. I remember
13 I was working in Oregon and Washington with
14 NRCS to complement their activities with
15 different skills, different places, different
16 authorities with different approaches, but
17 putting them in the same place, and aligning
18 some of those and getting a lot of bang for
19 the buck.

20 MR. DEWEY: That's a federal
21 partnership.

22 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes.

1 MR. DEWEY: And I'm talking about
2 is are they considering other partnerships
3 with the private sector, and other ways to try
4 to stimulate.

5 MR. PAWLAK: I think the most
6 obvious place was my office, will be wanting
7 to do that.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: Phil.

9 MR. DYSKOW: I just had a couple
10 of comments. If these pilot projects are
11 critical to the ongoing or forward-looking
12 success of your Blueprint, that you have an
13 awful lot of pilot projects.

14 So it's a long list, and some of
15 them appear to be difficult battles to win. I
16 noticed Charleston Harbor, whenever you look
17 at southern coastal harbors like Savannah or
18 Charleston, ongoing efforts to dredge them
19 deeper so they can accommodate larger ships,
20 and build their container operations and
21 everything are a direct conflict, perhaps, to
22 what you're trying to do.

1 Heather would know more about it
2 than I do. But from what little I know of
3 Cook Inlet and some of the habitat restoration
4 efforts that are ongoing up there, some of
5 which I am a part of, you've got all kinds of
6 conflicts there, and I don't know that the
7 state wants to be a partner, or if they're
8 going to look at this as encroachment. I
9 don't know.

10 But there's -- you're smiling, so
11 you're probably thinking the same thing I am.

12 Pick battles you can win. If successes are
13 important to your forward efforts, you have a
14 lot of pilot projects, and some of them are
15 going to be much more difficult than others.

16 Just because some of your regional
17 experts recommended that doesn't mean that
18 it's a battle you can win, or one that you
19 even ought to tackle at this early stage.

20 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. No, I
21 appreciate those thoughts. So I guess I also
22 want to -- we definitely want to use the

1 regional form going forward. I guess I really
2 don't want to hang my hat on the regional
3 initiatives and say gee, if these don't work,
4 this isn't going to work at all, because
5 there's six of them. We hope one of them
6 works really well.

7 So it's -- I wouldn't want to hang
8 my hat just on saying that if the regional
9 initiatives fail, then we'll just hang it up
10 and be done, because failure is usually
11 defined by us somewhat and what we can work on
12 with limited resources. But they are meant to
13 be the demonstration example.

14 MR. DYKOW: I guess my point is
15 I'm comfortable with those. There's probably
16 a lot of people lined up against you before
17 you even start. Maybe those aren't the smart
18 places to start.

19 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, and another
20 point to add to that, those are kind of the
21 demonstration projects, for lack of a better
22 word, within the Blueprint that we've started

1 on. But there are other things we do, like
2 the shellfish initiative that way, where we
3 have pieces in there that are about addressing
4 water quality and improving permitting, or
5 there are things that we can look to and point
6 to examples of doing things a bit differently,
7 that get us where we want to be.

8 So it's not just the regional
9 initiatives. There are things we've got going
10 on within the agency that we hope we can point
11 to, that show that. If I hear anything about
12 the Alaska region, I remember trying to
13 prepare for the leadership council meeting,
14 perhaps for their regional initiatives.

15 I remember they were about a day
16 late, because they said they have to call the
17 state first and coordinate with them on it.
18 So at least somebody tell somebody at the
19 state in Alaska on that one. I don't know if
20 it was the right person.

21 MR. DYSKOW: Good luck.

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you, Brad.

1 You have another question?

2 MS. MORRIS: Well, you know, one
3 of your questions is for the stakeholder. So
4 we should probably work with the national
5 estuary programs. A lot of them are doing
6 habitat restoration and they have committees
7 and community support already kind of worked
8 out.

9 Of course Sea Grant, there's a lot
10 of private consultants in the restoration
11 business. I'm sure they have a lot of
12 expertise and could help you figure out what
13 the priority areas should be and where things
14 can be successful and where they cannot. Of
15 course, the university community.

16 CHAIR McCARTY: This issue is
17 going to go to the Ecosystems Committee, Tom
18 Raftican's committee. I don't know if you are
19 going to be around later on. I don't know if
20 that will be helpful for you and Tom.

21 MR. RAFTICAN: I think that would
22 be helpful.

1 CHAIR McCARTY: To have -- okay.
2 Then I'd encourage anybody, you know, here to
3 sit in on that Ecosystem Committee meeting,
4 even if they're not part of the Ecosystem
5 Subcommittee. Then out of that Brian, just so
6 you know the process, you'll have some
7 recommendations. Those will come to the full
8 committee and then get passed on up to you.

9 MR. PAWLAK: Okay, great.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, thank you.
11 Thank you for doing this.

12 MR. PAWLAK: No. Thank you for
13 inviting me to do it.

14 CHAIR McCARTY: And now we go to
15 Roger Griffis and his presentation on Blue
16 Carbon Initiatives. Where would you like to
17 be. Be right there?

18 MR. GRIFFIS: I'll just stand, if
19 that's okay.

20 CHAIR McCARTY: That will be
21 great. That's fine. And Roger, the same
22 thing goes for you. If you want to stick

1 around and have, participate in the Ecosystem
2 Subcommittee later on this afternoon, you're
3 very welcome to do that.

4 Blue Carbon Initiatives

5 MR. GRIFFIS: Great, thanks.

6 Thank you very much for the opportunity to
7 meet with you this afternoon. My name is
8 Roger Griffis. I am a marine ecologist by
9 training. I've been with NOAA for 16 years or
10 so doing various aspects of policy and
11 planning. I've ran NOAA's conservation
12 program for about eight years.

13 For the past year, I've been
14 working as the climate coordinator for the
15 NOAA Fisheries Service, which means I'm
16 working with you all and a variety of other
17 folks, to try and figure out what climate-
18 ready NOAA Fisheries is going to mean in the
19 future.

20 So I'll stop there and take your
21 questions about what climate-ready NOAA
22 Fisheries is. But actually today, I'm going

1 to talk about one aspect of this issue of
2 climate change in our future world and marine
3 resources, and that is this issue about
4 coastal blue carbon. I'm going to fly through
5 a number of slides and I'll end there. I know
6 I had another topic to talk to you about as
7 well, and maybe I'll touch on that if we still
8 have time.

9 But I want to focus my
10 presentation on coastal blue carbon, what is
11 it and why should we care. It's all about the
12 carbon, as you know. Whether we're talking
13 about economics on the modern world, trade,
14 business, industry, of course carbon is, of
15 course, what we put in our gas tanks, or at
16 least a modified version of it.

17 Our entire society is driven by
18 what is known and talked about in the carbon
19 cycle world and people that study the carbon
20 cycle of our little blue planet here, it
21 really is three different colors, talking
22 about the carbon cycle.

1 Traditionally, before the
2 Industrial Revolution and all, most of the
3 carbon on the planet was either below ground,
4 and I'm going to talk about that in a minute,
5 was either the green carbon. That is the
6 carbon the trees and plants and everything
7 else sucks up in the process of
8 photosynthesis, turns into fuel for other
9 organic matter, and it becomes this nice,
10 green surface of our planet.

11 A whole other chunk of the
12 planet's carbon is over in this blue area, the
13 ocean area, blue carbon, and of course, at the
14 turn of the century and through the Industrial
15 Revolution, we have been putting out what's
16 referred to as black carbon, sucking it out of
17 the ground as oil and other natural resources
18 and gas, processing it and putting it up into
19 the atmosphere.

20 So I'm going to be talking about
21 the carbon cycle. But I'm going to focus in
22 on this little chunk right here, that is, the

1 coastal fringe, very productive habitats that
2 you all have just been talking about.
3 Basically three kinds: salt marshes, sea
4 grasses, and mangroves. The bottom line, if
5 you get nothing else out of this talk, the
6 bottom line, I want you to remember and go
7 tell someone on the airplane when you fly
8 home, is I had no idea that these coastal
9 habitats suck up as much carbon as tropical
10 rain forests. I had no idea.

11 So all this concern, which is
12 well-placed, of course, to protect tropical
13 rain forests for their carbon and everything
14 else, in fact there's now great interest in
15 those other places that also are really good
16 at sucking up carbon and storing it.

17 Those other places, also pay
18 attention right now, is on coastal habitats,
19 those three kinds, because it turned out that
20 they are very good at sucking up carbon and
21 putting it away in the sediments below.
22 That's why we're focused on it.

1 So three habitats, as I mentioned,
2 salt marshes, mangroves and sea grasses, and
3 the other bottom line, of course that you know
4 already from this story is there aren't a
5 whole lot of those. There weren't a whole lot
6 of them to begin with.

7 It's that narrow little fringe
8 along the coast, and in fact in most places on
9 the planet, they've already lost half of what
10 was there, say 200 years ago. So some issues
11 here on the carbon that I'll come back to.

12 So a little context, of course, in
13 the carbon conversation. We can't talk about
14 blue carbon, green carbon, black carbon,
15 without of course looking at these kinds of
16 graphs, because this is where we've shifted
17 the carbon budget, and there are a few
18 implications of that, primarily that by
19 shifting the carbon budget about where it is,
20 we've impacted, begun to impact pretty
21 emphatically the climate system on this
22 planet.

1 So this is about 1,000 year graph.

2 It starts at the top, of course, with
3 population. Population, human population
4 doubled and then doubled again in 2,000 years.

5 The most immediate impact of that, as I said,
6 came in the past, well in the Industrial
7 Revolution, the past 100 or 200 years, where
8 we started putting that black carbon up into
9 the atmosphere.

10 These three graphs are basically
11 that, the three major forms of greenhouse
12 gases that come out of our emissions, carbon
13 dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane. You can
14 see the trajectory of population growth and
15 our getting very good and producing engines
16 and things.

17 Then of course the temperature,
18 the temperature signal on the planet has
19 followed that trajectory. Particularly in the
20 last 100 years or so, that's become
21 increasingly clear, those relationships. This
22 is kind of the average over that time from

1 1880 to about 2000. You can see that on
2 average, temperatures were below that period
3 until about the 1940's and 50's, where we
4 started getting the shift. Since about the
5 70's or 80's, we had consistent populations
6 time-tracking CO2 concentration and a variety
7 of other things.

8 This is really old information. I
9 was looking at this last night, thinking what.

10 There's much more recent information here,
11 but it's important to realize that, you know,
12 there's some significant stuff happening,
13 particularly for us that live in North
14 America.

15 Most of this warming over the past
16 50 years has particularly been over the land
17 in the northern hemisphere, and meanwhile the
18 temperatures, the average temperatures in the
19 U.S. have already risen about two degrees, and
20 there are a lot of implications of that, as
21 you know.

22 This is all context though, of

1 course, because the future depends on what we
2 do, and that's of course what our grand
3 national and local debate is all about, you
4 know. What do we want to do, what can we
5 afford, on what time scale?

6 These trajectories are based on
7 the modeling relationship between temperature,
8 greenhouse gas levels, and they project, this
9 is the observed, the white's the observed.
10 The green's the model, up until well, a little
11 after 2000 when I did this.

12 These are the IPCC trajectories
13 that they put forward, and these are three
14 different scenarios, three different choices
15 that we have before us, or the range of those
16 choices. The blue line here is a lower
17 emission. We did some things to control our
18 emissions and reduce overall emissions. The
19 rate of temperature increase, this is
20 temperature, would not be as great.

21 There's a lot of inertia in the
22 system, since we've already put a lot of CO2

1 and stuff up there. So this isn't going to
2 just fall off any time sooner. In fact, we've
3 already committed ourselves to a pretty steep
4 trajectory here of temperature warming.

5 But this is, you know, we've got
6 some controls on at lower emissions. This is
7 a high emission, and this is a really high
8 emission trajectory; that is, the rate of
9 emissions coming out all our cars and trucks
10 and companies across the planet.

11 And the interesting thing here,
12 not to be too depressing, but we've already
13 exceeded the emission rates for the worst case
14 scenario here, since these models were done.
15 So we're already off the chart here a little
16 bit.

17 Again, what I really want to focus
18 on is carbon, because wouldn't it be great if
19 heading into this future, wouldn't it be great
20 if we had some big old carbon suckers that
21 would take carbon out of the atmosphere and
22 help solve this problem?

1 If we could suck some of this
2 carbon out of here, we'd be able to reduce
3 this temperature growth rate and we'd be fine.

4 Do we have them? Well, in fact we do.
5 They're plants. They're habitats and they're
6 really good at it. In fact, as I said in the
7 beginning, all the focus really to date has
8 been on tropical forests and some agriculture.

9 But really, tropical forests are
10 really good, very efficient at sucking carbon
11 out of that air, putting it into wood, putting
12 it into leaves and actually keeping it there,
13 not just turning it over like a crop. It
14 turns out that coastal habitats are really
15 good at it too.

16 In fact, sequestration, or that is
17 the rate at which they can take it out of the
18 air, put it into their tissues, coastal
19 habitats can sequester or grab carbon at about
20 two to four times that of average tropical
21 forests. That's extraordinary, and storage,
22 they can store it really well too, three to

1 five times that of tropical forests.

2 So the goal here, if one were
3 serious about wanting to suck some of that
4 carbon out, and by the way, for those of us in
5 this room that care about these coastal
6 habitats because they make fish and other
7 things, this is another really good reason to
8 think huh, maybe this could help incentivize
9 some of this protection and restoration of
10 coastal habitats.

11 So if the goal here, which is the
12 goal that many people are talking about now,
13 is to better value these services, along with
14 all the other services that these habitats
15 provide, it might be a way to incentivize
16 conservation and protection of these habitats,
17 so they make fish, build economies, allow
18 recreation and all that good stuff.

19 So coastal habitats, tropical rain
20 forests, really good at sucking carbon. In
21 fact, while one of the features, of course, is
22 they do it very differently, the coastal

1 marshes and the mangroves take it out of the
2 air, put it into plants and wood and leaves,
3 and then they bury it. Mangroves buried in
4 the sediments.

5 The brown, the whole point of this
6 slide is to say, you know, the coastal
7 habitats are putting it in the benthic area,
8 they're burying it down. Brown is underground
9 or in the benthos, the green plant material,
10 whereas the top of the forest is putting most
11 of its carbon in the above ground storage,
12 which is what you would expect.

13 The other interesting thing though
14 is, of course, they're totally, the orders of
15 magnitude are different in area across the
16 planet. But because half the coastal habitats
17 are really good at sequestering and storing
18 this stuff, even though they're just these
19 thin little strips along the coastline, if you
20 add up those thin little strips, because
21 they're really good at it, it makes them
22 fairly comparable, or at least in the same

1 ball game as tropical forests that are getting
2 all the attention, as far as carbon storage.
3 So that's again, something to think about in
4 comparison.

5 So what's the problem? Well,
6 there are a couple of problems, one you know
7 of. The problem is that these places are
8 getting hammered in most places around the
9 world. In the United States, actually we're
10 doing a pretty good job, compared to places
11 like Indonesia, Southeast Asia, as far as
12 protecting our coastal habitat.

13 But still, sea grasses, salt
14 marshes and mangroves are some of the most
15 threatened habitats on the planet, and that
16 hasn't changed, even the rates of some of that
17 destruction here in the United States hasn't
18 changed that much in the past 10 to 20 years.

19 So we've got a problem. We're
20 losing things that produce a whole variety of
21 services that you know well, including this
22 thing about carbon storage, that looking

1 towards the future we might want to take
2 better notice of.

3 And here's the other problem.
4 That's the first of three. The other problem
5 is when these habitats that have so much
6 carbon built up in them, because remember they
7 store it in the sediment, when they get
8 damaged, they get dewatered, which is what we
9 do to a lot of these coastal wetlands, they
10 let go of it, and they let it out really
11 quickly.

12 So all those big deltas, the
13 Mekong, the Sacramento, the Nile, the Indus,
14 all those giant deltas, beautiful salt marsh
15 estuaries that we've been dewatering and
16 continue to dewater for development and
17 agriculture and all those good things. The
18 problem is all that carbon that's been built
19 up for thousands of years, goes back and
20 starts going into the atmosphere. So our
21 wetlands become carbon emitters, and they
22 start adding to the problem up into the

1 atmosphere.

2 The good news is if you rewater
3 them, that restoration works, that restoration
4 -- these things kick back in as carbon
5 sequesters and storage really well and really
6 quickly. So again, restoration done right is
7 very effective in restoring the carbon
8 surfaces of these important habitats.

9 This graph, it basically just
10 shows you a non-restored salt marsh in the
11 Sacramento delta, to a restored one, basically
12 rewatered, letting the tide back in. This one
13 continues to lose carbon and subsidence is, of
14 course, that's part of that. It's losing the
15 carbon, the material that's going up into the
16 atmosphere. Once it's rewatered and the tide
17 refloods it, then it's again sequestering and
18 storing carbon. So this process can be
19 restored fairly easily.

20 So implications for fisheries, I
21 think that's the part you already know. You
22 already know well the implications of losing

1 these important habitats because they make
2 fish, and they make jobs, all those kinds of
3 things.

4 The thing that I hope that I've
5 added to your list of why these things might
6 be interesting or important is that they also
7 do a bunch of things related to carbon
8 surfaces. They have tremendous carbon storage
9 ability and sequestration ability, and my
10 whole bottom line here is that it might be
11 possible, given the discussions today about
12 valuing carbon storage, because we are at a
13 pretty -- it's pretty important that we start
14 trying to figure out how to get it back out of
15 the atmosphere, that there might be ways to
16 use these carbon surfaces to incentivize the
17 conservation.

18 And in fact I'm not making this
19 up. This is happening right now. Tropical
20 forests in Indonesia -- Norway is paying
21 Indonesia millions of dollars to protect their
22 tropical forest for 100 years or more.

1 Basically, they're buying the carbon of those
2 forests, carbon credit to those forests.

3 So multinational corporations,
4 governments are buying carbon storage in
5 forest habitats across the planet right now,
6 voluntary markets, open markets. This is
7 driven by international agreements, and part
8 of the problem, this is problem number three,
9 is that there's no protocol, there's no way to
10 do that for coastal habitats, because NOAA has
11 developed the protocol that says this much
12 coastal wetland is equal to this much carbon
13 over 100 years, and therefore a certified
14 translation into a market-based situation.

15 There is no formalized protocol
16 like there is for rain forests and other
17 forests, including in this country. There's
18 no protocol that's done that for the coastal
19 wetlands. That's what all the attention is
20 about now and has been in the past five, ten
21 years.

22 The big push now is to develop

1 protocols like many people have done for the
2 forest system, so that you can have investors
3 know how to invest, what the carbon
4 equivalents are for an area of mangrove or an
5 area of salt marsh. So that those that are
6 interested and willing, through the voluntary
7 markets or others, can invest and actually pay
8 people to conserve these really important
9 habitats.

10 So what's NOAA's role here? I'm
11 going to quickly end. Our goal is this one.
12 We're not in the business of carbon markets.
13 Our goal is enhanced conservation of coastal
14 habitat. But we don't value, that is, we
15 don't even consider carbon surfaces in any of
16 our regulatory roles, in any of our planning
17 for any coastal habitats today.

18 We have a team in NOAA. We've
19 done an assessment. We asked all our
20 programs, in your NEPA documents, in your EFA
21 treatment designation, in your fishery
22 management plan, in your sanctuary plans, has

1 anyone incorporated carbon services, the same
2 way that we have economists help us think
3 about the value of fishery production or
4 recreation or tourism.

5 We don't do it, and you know what,
6 we couldn't find any federal agency that does.

7 Some state agencies are starting to do it,
8 actually interesting. But we're not unique
9 here. The bottom line is this has to be on
10 our radar screen. All of our NRDA stuff, we
11 don't value -- a part of the calculation when
12 there's an oil spill and people damage a
13 habitat, a coastal wetland, there's nothing in
14 there that says, "oh, and by the way part of
15 that value is because of the carbon services."

16 No. It just hasn't been part of our lexicon.

17 So one avenue that NOAA's looking
18 at is should we be thinking about valuing
19 these carbon services, along with all those
20 other services like tourism, recreation and
21 make more fish and all that stuff that we
22 normally do, just build it into the process.

1 Maybe that's one avenue.

2 The other avenue that many folks,
3 many of our partners are looking at is this
4 one, particularly for international
5 situations. They're looking at is there a way
6 to tap into this market, this millions and
7 millions, if not billions now of dollars of
8 money that's coming in from investors that
9 want to invest in some carbon offsets.

10 Is there a way to entrain a little
11 piece of that, or a lot of piece of that, to
12 help conserve coastal habitats, particularly
13 in places like Southeast Asia?

14 Those are the two things we've
15 been thinking about, and there's some critical
16 needs to do that. Part of the reason why
17 there's no protocol like there is for forest
18 is there are gaps in our information about the
19 rates of sequestration and storage, that we
20 don't know, until the protocol has been
21 developed for 100 acres of salt marsh in
22 Vietnam, what are the carbon equivalents of

1 that, how long does it last, how does it
2 cycle, the carbon dynamics of those habitats?

3 And particularly when they're
4 disturbed and then when they're restored, key
5 gaps in our understanding of the shape of
6 those curves, how quickly do they restore that
7 carbon storage ability, and to what level. So
8 there's some critical science needs that folks
9 at some of our sister agencies like the U.S.
10 Geological Survey. The Forest Service is very
11 interested in this.

12 Some of the state agencies are
13 beginning to look at this area to fill some
14 needs, that would then allow protocols and
15 have the science foundation they need, and
16 also to feed possibly our use in NOAA of this
17 information and our regulatory role. Again,
18 all of this because we're interested in this
19 end, the conservation of habitat.

20 So where I started, it's really
21 all about the carbon, and as this little
22 piece, this little green-blue fringe. It

1 turns out these coastal habitats are pretty
2 darn important in thinking about the carbon
3 cycle of the planet, and maybe a little piece
4 of the solution to help make a deal with too
5 much of this up in the atmosphere.

6 And if we're really good, it might
7 actually pay for a lot of the conservation and
8 for all the other services. So I'll stop with
9 that. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: Thanks, Roger.
11 Are there questions for Roger, or comments?
12 Randy.

13 MR. CATES: Your graph on
14 temperatures, it's been about 11 years since
15 it's been updated. I think your last one was
16 --

17 CHAIR McCARTY: We can't hear you,
18 Randy.

19 MR. CATES: I think your last
20 temperature reading was 2000, is that right?

21 MR. GRIFFIS: The graph I showed?

22 MR. CATES: Yes.

1 MR. GRIFFIS: That's with the
2 graph I showed. There's much more data, much
3 more recent data. You can go on -- I can give
4 you the website and you can go see the current
5 data, CO2 level, atmosphere, temperature
6 estimates, all those things.

7 MR. CATES: So has it changed?
8 How would that apply in here?

9 MR. GRIFFIS: I'm sorry. You want
10 me to go to this one? So as far as the
11 temperature, is that what you said, the
12 temperature? The temperature, average
13 temperature here has continued to do the
14 inter-annual variation, but each of those
15 years has been higher than before.

16 So yes, the curve, the direction
17 of that curve is the same, and it's actually
18 been higher than we expected. I also
19 mentioned the emissions. The emissions are
20 actually higher than the worse -- than the
21 highest estimates that the IPCC used here. So
22 as far as CO2 emissions and to the extent that

1 these are pretty tight links between CO2
2 levels and temperature. In fact, the CO2 are
3 highest here, matches as well the fact that
4 the temperature is higher as well. I'd be
5 happy to get you an update.

6 MR. CATES: I'm just curious why
7 it's so far back and the other graphs were
8 more updated. That was --

9 CHAIR McCARTY: What was your
10 question, Randy? I'm sorry. I couldn't hear.

11 MR. CATES: It was, it sounds like
12 to me that we're taking temperature readings
13 that stop in 2000, but then in the
14 presentation, it was coming to current data,
15 and I was just trying to figure how that would
16 correlate.

17 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes. It's probably
18 -- I probably ought to make it clear. The
19 data collection has continued on all these
20 things, in fact probably even more intensely.
21 I just don't have the most recent graphs, and
22 I noticed that last night too, thank you. But

1 I thought, oh, these are looking old to me.

2 Even though it's still 2005 or so,
3 but there's actual recent data. That's the
4 good news, I guess. The bad news is the
5 trends are even more dramatic than we
6 expected.

7 MR. CLAMPITT: I think what
8 matters is that wetlands are extremely
9 important to all of us. And the way that law
10 looks right now, you have to have a net loss
11 of wetlands, and I don't think we're doing a
12 good job of enforcing those laws. You're
13 talking about charging for some of these going
14 wetlands, which I don't really disagree with.

15 But why aren't we doing a better
16 job of enforcing the laws that we have, and
17 the gentleman we just had before, I did have a
18 question from just before you. But it's not
19 that big a deal. My point with him, I was
20 going to ask was I don't know if we have done
21 a good job of educating particularly
22 commercial fishermen, on how important the

1 wetlands are to their livelihood.

2 I don't think the majority of them
3 realize that when a development's going in
4 some place and wiping out wetlands, that it's
5 cutting their own throats. I remember, I
6 think it was in '76 when we passed the Clean
7 Water Act, and I think shortly after that it
8 was Carter who, I'm not positive, who said we
9 should have no loss of wetlands.

10 We haven't done anything at all.
11 I mean we've gone downhill, and I just think
12 the agency needs to do a better job of
13 enforcing those laws. I mean, here we have in
14 Alaska, they're talking about starting a gold
15 mine up in Pebble, which at the mouth of the
16 estuary the greatest sand stream in the world,
17 Bristol Bay.

18 I haven't seen anything from NOAA
19 saying that you know, hey that's probably not
20 a good idea. I mean, there's a big fight up
21 there between -- well, the EPA's coming in on
22 it. But what does NOAA have to say about gold

1 mines going into estuaries?

2 My point is that, you know, you
3 can scare us with global warming and CO2 rise,
4 which we can do nothing about. As you pointed
5 out, CO2 is going through the roof anyway. It
6 follows human wealth. The wealthier you get,
7 the higher CO2 goes. What we should really be
8 focusing on is enforcing the laws we have on
9 the books.

10 MR. GRIFFIS: Just a couple of
11 points. Thank you for those points. It was
12 interesting to me how, I'll say, difficult it
13 was to get a current status of whether or not
14 wetland area is going up or down. So it was
15 interesting, and this is a plug for the NOAA
16 Fish and Wildlife Service effort to track the
17 status of coastal wetlands. It's more than
18 coastal wetlands, as well.

19 But that is interesting, but that
20 is the only source of information that I know
21 of, and I know he talked about state levels
22 and things like that, but how critical that

1 is, to answer your question, you know. Are
2 those laws effective? That is, are wetlands,
3 are we continuing to protect the wetlands we
4 have, or are we continuing to erode away those
5 that are left?

6 I think the answer unfortunately
7 is that we continue to erode away. I think
8 there's been continued net loss. But I think
9 the next report's about to come out soon, and
10 I want to make sure that you have, you all
11 have the copies of those existing ones, and
12 I'll let you know when the next one is coming
13 out.

14 But as far as I can tell, that's
15 the only finger on the pulse, to answer your
16 question, as far as what's happening with
17 those coastal wetlands in particular. The
18 mangrove situation, as you know, is not even
19 tracked. It's perhaps at a state or at a
20 nature conservancy level. But that one is a
21 complete, dramatic loss across the country.

22 There's no, not even close to a

1 net holding the line there on that one. But
2 again, it's not tracked on any systematic
3 basis. So just having the finger on the pulse
4 would be a step forward. I'm not even going
5 to touch your issue, which I think is a really
6 good one, about are the laws always -- why is
7 this happening? Is it because the laws are
8 not strong enough? Is it they're not being
9 enforced? I think that's a really interesting
10 question.

11 And the other thing you said was,
12 "well, there's nothing we can do about it." I
13 obviously failed in my presentation because,
14 if nothing else, the point of this
15 presentation is there are a lot of things that
16 we can do about it.

17 I of course didn't touch the big
18 ones, I didn't want to. But there are people
19 over in that room right there talking about
20 how do we get a handle on the emissions, the
21 black carbon stuff? But what I, of course,
22 was talking about was we can do something

1 about it --

2 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, the United
3 States can possibly do it, but how are you
4 going to stop China and India and all those
5 other developing countries? We don't control
6 those people.

7 MR. GRIFFIS: I have such faith in
8 the State Department. So I think there's an
9 international dialogue that can happen.
10 Again, like you said, where you started, those
11 of us that really care about these places,
12 because they make fish and they have all kinds
13 of other services, this is yet another reason
14 that maybe we add to that list of things that
15 helps tip that balance that you're
16 identifying, that helps provide additional
17 incentive to protect these habitats.

18 MR. CLAMPITT: One last thing.
19 You know, it's probably an unpopular theme,
20 but if we took half the money we're using to
21 study climate change and its effects, and
22 stuck it into wetland restoration, and the

1 study of ecosystems management and improving,
2 you know, the health of those things, we'd be
3 better off.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: Somebody, you
5 asked about what does NMFS do or what does
6 NOAA do, and somebody back here said that in
7 many cases there's a consultative role in
8 biological and a biological opinion sort of
9 process, that does give NOAA and NMFS some
10 sort of power, or some sort of role in many of
11 these big development projects. So that may -
12 -

13 MR. GRIFFIS: But remember, the
14 other interesting thing about that, the
15 statistics, having to think about the loss, to
16 answer your question, is those report also
17 identify, well, what was the source of the
18 loss of those coastal wetlands or the habitat,
19 and it's development, and it needs to be
20 different kinds. It's either housing kinds or
21 it's harbor kind, and I forget what the third
22 kind is.

1 But to answer your question, it's
2 exactly that. Well, those aren't coming,
3 those proposals and actions obviously aren't
4 coming from NOAA. NOAA's job is to consult
5 and advise on those projects, because of our
6 legal standing under the Magnuson and Fish and
7 Wildlife Coordination Act, and a variety of
8 other things, the Clean Water Act.

9 So we, you know, the folks on the
10 front line of that effort are in our regional
11 offices, and they have pouring over the
12 transom every day proposals to do that stuff.

13 They have to go through triage.
14 They have to triage those, and they say,
15 "well, I don't know. I've got 100. I've got
16 to do 100 in a week," or something like that,
17 and they have to pick out what five or six
18 they think they can make an impact on, or are
19 so severe that they really need to take a
20 stand on.

21 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, that's my
22 point. That's my point about funding.

1 CHAIR McCARTY: So we have several
2 more questions. There's Julie and Martin.
3 Anybody else? No. Go ahead, Julie.

4 MS. MORRIS: I have two questions
5 and then a couple of comments. First of all,
6 this carbon sequestration's effect to
7 diminish, to help refinements or is it just a
8 strong --

9 MR. GRIFFIS: Ah, that's a really
10 good question. I have to go back. There's
11 been a new study that synthesizes all the
12 information on sequestration out of the
13 Nicholas Institute, and I can send you the
14 reference. I may have listed it on the fact
15 sheet I did. But if not, I'll make sure that
16 you all have it. But I don't know the answer.

17 MS. MORRIS: We have dredging
18 proposals regarding -- and I would suspect
19 that it isn't sequestering so much as it's
20 releasing. That it takes time to catch up.

21 MR. GRIFFIS: Exactly. I mean it
22 depends, it really does. So it depends what

1 the condition of the existing salt marsh is.
2 If it's dewatered, it's going to send that
3 carbon off very quickly. If it's kind of
4 dredged a little bit and then flooded, that's
5 one of the gaps of the science on what happens
6 to that carbon. Is it still coming out in
7 water and at what rate?

8 So you're hitting there a bunch of
9 unknowns there about what happens to the
10 damaged places. It depends a lot on whether
11 they're aerated. The second -- but it is very
12 clear that if they're aerated, the rate of
13 loss there is going to be probably a lot
14 higher than the sequestration rate of that new
15 place.

16 But that's -- those are some of
17 those key questions under this category here
18 that affect both the kind of statements we
19 would make about the proposed projects to our
20 consultation, and potentially what -- I guess
21 it wouldn't affect here as much, because in
22 this case, what the market is doing is paying,

1 basically, incentivizing for that place to be
2 set aside and not touched.

3 MS. MORRIS: So first of all, sea
4 level rise in eastern geography like
5 Florida's, if you put down a lot of money to
6 protect coastal habitats in order to sequester
7 carbon and then sea level rise wipes out that
8 coastal marsh or mangrove, drowns it
9 essentially, that investment doesn't have a
10 long term payoff for you.

11 The other comment is that in
12 Florida, we allow people to prune mangroves
13 for views and aesthetic purposes, and I
14 imagine that that has a big effect on the
15 amount of carbon that's being sequestered.

16 MR. GRIFFIS: One comment on the
17 previous one. I think we all leap to that sea
18 level rise. They'll be flooded and therefore
19 -- certainly for long-term, we are losing
20 certain surfaces. But as I think our natural
21 resource, what they call natural resource
22 economists, is that what they are, would

1 remind us, is if that's the only service your
2 industry didn't find -- but the other thing --
3 but two things. One, they say well remember,
4 there are other services, and the real
5 question is what services do we want for how
6 long?

7 So for example, in the Northeast
8 in the wetlands up there, and even in Florida,
9 you know, the question really is what services
10 do we want for the next 25 to 50 years,
11 depending on how quickly we think the sea
12 level rise is going to rise. Now if making
13 fish from those coastal wetlands for the next
14 50 years is important to us, then maybe we
15 should help them stick around.

16 The other thing is that we are
17 making -- I don't mean you. I do this too.
18 We make some pretty gross assumptions about
19 sea level rise and the ability of marshes to,
20 say, keep up with the rise. I think that's
21 where we have also led ourselves a little bit
22 down the path. There's a lot of evidence in

1 the fact that we could help those marshes keep
2 up with some of the rise, up to a certain
3 point.

4 The other thing is you need those
5 marshes so that they can march up the coast
6 and stay at that front edge of the sea level,
7 because we want them to go in and be the next
8 marsh, right. So I -- you're raising an
9 excellent point.

10 But I always have to remind myself
11 that it's really about what services we want,
12 how long do we want them, and that in fact
13 there are things we can do to help those
14 habitats even extend their life, even in the
15 sea level rise context.

16 CHAIR McCARTY: Martin.

17 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Thank you,
18 Madam Chairman. Thank you so much for your
19 presentation. I have a pile of questions. I
20 want to understand the process of how the
21 carbon gets up into the atmosphere. Do we
22 have a gazillion immaterial little diamonds

1 floating around, you know, just rising out of
2 the sea, or what exactly is the process for
3 that?

4 Then my second question relates to
5 what you were saying about the government in
6 Norway giving \$100 million or something to
7 Indonesia. Then you also, I think you
8 included that there were other multinational
9 corporations that were investing.

10 Is that associated all with the
11 energy dependence scheme, where you can have a
12 dirty plant on the South Side of Chicago for a
13 big utility, and if you build a new green
14 facility in some other country where they
15 don't have anything, you get enough energy
16 credit to maintain your dirty plant and not
17 have to retrofit it?

18 MR. GRIFFIS: Okay, all right. So
19 let me try it, to see if I can remember. What
20 was the question?

21 MR. MARTIN FISHER: The first
22 thing is about the physical process, how the

1 carbon gets up --

2 MR. GRIFFIS: So not diamonds,
3 it's basically turning into methane, and I'm
4 looking at my colleague here. What I need is
5 my marsh chemist here. But basically, it is
6 reversing -- in anaerobic, basically
7 displacing the traffic that carbon in
8 anaerobic conditions and they're not breaking
9 it down.

10 As soon as you let the air in
11 there, and you provide it as -- you get a few
12 burn-overs, and that place starts letting go
13 of that as methane, and the gas is almost
14 right away. Of course methane is even worse
15 than CO2 as far as its warming effect. So
16 that's the extent of where I'm going to go in
17 the answer to that.

18 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Thank you, and
19 the other one?

20 MR. GRIFFIS: The second one was?

21 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Is the
22 contribution from Norway associated to the

1 energy credit scheme?

2 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes. I guess I'd
3 say yes, but it's complicated. There are a
4 variety of protocols, international agreements
5 and protocols to do that. There are also a
6 variety of drivers, that is some requirements
7 to do that. The EU, for example, and many of
8 the European countries, have already agreed
9 and have standards and requirements set for
10 some offsetting.

11 So there is an incentive, a
12 market-based system there that they are
13 tapping into, because some people need to
14 offset some carbon, and other people are
15 investing and saying oh maybe I'll grab some
16 and use it later.

17 So I think Norway, for example, is
18 in the investor mode. I don't think they're
19 putting a lot of big power plants in, but they
20 are investing in a carbon bank based on the
21 credits, because they're, I think,
22 anticipating that other countries around the

1 world are perhaps going to need some of that.

2 They're also, as you know, very
3 interested in conservation of tropical areas
4 and have been for a long, long time. So this
5 is also a way to incentivize conservation,
6 massive amounts of conservation.

7 Another footnote. More ways to,
8 have been trying to help protect tropical
9 forests for a long time, little pieces here,
10 little pieces here. Suddenly, this carbon
11 interest, they're able to get Indonesia and
12 other countries to be interested in massive
13 national park systems.

14 So this is also from the
15 perspective of conservation interests on a
16 global scale. So that's -- there are multiple
17 incentives there, but yes, this is where I
18 need my international affairs colleague, that
19 would tell us that there are agreed-to
20 international protocols right now on the
21 books, the REDD Plus, it's R-E-D-D Protocol.

22 I forget what it stands for, but

1 it basically sets up the protocol and the
2 market guidelines for being able to invest in
3 the carbon of a forest, and then be able to
4 have that then traded to those that need it or
5 want it. I can get you more information about
6 it, but I'm sorry, I'm not the expert.

7 MR. MARTIN FISHER: Well, just a
8 quick follow-up. I just feel like I'm
9 following the P under your three shells again,
10 because basically what you're saying is we
11 might get a new national park, but somebody
12 else is still expressing the carbon into the
13 environment, and we're going to get a credit
14 for it because of the national park.

15 But the net amount of carbon going
16 into the environment doesn't change, or it
17 increases.

18 MR. GRIFFIS: I think that's
19 probably true, and that's now a good change if
20 that park, if that forest continued to be
21 logged or otherwise, that kind of thing. But
22 remember the other, and again this is where I

1 need my international expert. There are
2 agreements among many countries in the world
3 now to reduce their overall emissions.

4 So Indonesia, for example, is
5 looking at how to reduce their overall
6 emissions. This is one way for them to do it
7 and get paid to do it. So Norway has
8 basically funded their entire national park
9 system now for -- it's in laws. It's in
10 perpetuity, but it's basically a 100-year
11 benchmark.

12 MR. RAFTICAN: Out in California,
13 we kind of have definitions of wetlands.
14 Wetlands are areas that are submerged at least
15 part of the year. When you're talking about
16 sea grass, you know, how mangroves, are these
17 -- is the fact that these are submerged the
18 fact?

19 What I'm wondering is, at what
20 point do you start, you know, do they remain
21 wet? Are they submerged? What is the key to
22 this rapid absorption of carbon? I mean I

1 just flew across the country. It's incredible
2 the amount of land that's under cultivation
3 out there.

4 In the west, they submerged
5 cultivation. They simply plug the fields at
6 times, and at what point does something like
7 that come into play?

8 MR. GRIFFIS: So I think we're
9 talking about that interface that's always
10 wet, like a submerged sea grass bed or the
11 bottom of the roots of the mangrove, up into
12 the inner tidal estuarine salt marsh. That's
13 at least what I've been talking about.

14 Once you get into fresh water
15 wetlands and that kind of thing, it's a little
16 bit of a different ball game. But that's the
17 continuum I've been talking about, and it
18 really all depends about how much carbon is
19 being produced the plants there in the first
20 place.

21 Both the plants that we're talking
22 about, but also the associated microbial

1 community, the primary production that's going
2 on in those shallow estuarine waters. And the
3 thing is that that's just raining down, as
4 well as all those mangrove leaves, and all
5 that other detritus and stuff, right, onto
6 that benthic community, and then being buried
7 fairly quickly by the diggers and the
8 burrowers and mixed into the sand, and
9 within, you know, two centimeters, that thing
10 goes aerobic.

11 So it doesn't take much to lock
12 that up. I mean it's not like this has to get
13 down to get down to field. So I know I'm
14 probably not answering your question, but the
15 ingredients are how much carbon is going in
16 first of all, how quickly can it be buried and
17 not eaten and taken off somewhere else, right,
18 in the sediments, and then how often is that
19 sediment mixed, turned around.

20 So it's really those three things,
21 and the reason these places have been,
22 particularly the salt marshes, have been these

1 big storm houses. I mean underneath these
2 places can be meters, a meter or two of
3 storage peat or sediment organic matters,
4 because in the past, and this is where we've
5 also messed up the cycle a little bit, is a
6 lot of this happened as the rains came or the
7 sediments came flooding down to the watershed
8 and spread out across that land. So it's
9 partly that rain, steady rain of Mississippi
10 water full of sediments and organic matter
11 coming down and laying down over southern
12 Louisiana, just layer upon layer upon layer,
13 in addition to the blades of the sea grass and
14 the roots and all the other stuff.

15 The dewatering thing is pretty
16 important in all of this, but it's really that
17 anaerobic condition that you need, quickly
18 lock it up, get it anaerobic so it isn't
19 breaking down. I probably didn't answer the
20 question.

21 So you mentioned water like rice
22 fields and things like that. I was picturing

1 southern Louisiana and crawfish ponds. Those
2 would be great, but if you take all that
3 carbon out, or at least 80 or 90 percent of
4 it, taking the rice out and cutting it.

5 Some of the rice you leave for the
6 crawfish, but in an agricultural system, of
7 course, we're taking a lot of that carbon back
8 out without letting it go back into the
9 sediment to get locked up.

10 MR. RAFTICAN: Well, on your
11 graph, you had the Sacramento delta. It's
12 very high there, and it's almost entirely
13 rice.

14 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes, yes. I think
15 the piece that we were talking about here is
16 probably a more natural part, through the best
17 agricultural example.

18 Well, that's part of the problem.
19 I'm sure that the cycle, the carbon dynamics
20 of the agricultural rice stock is totally
21 different from what I was showing there. I
22 was showing what I thought was a natural

1 system. That was a really good question,
2 though. I'll try to add that to the graph, to
3 show the rice system.

4 CHAIR McCARTY: Roger, do you have
5 a second presentation, then, that you are
6 going to run through quickly? I have one more
7 question from Steve, and then did you say you
8 had a second presentation?

9 MR. GRIFFIS: Well, I did.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. Steve, go
11 ahead.

12 MR. JONER: You just answered all
13 my questions and his. I wanted to know about
14 the rice and kind of the mechanism of how the
15 carbon went from the atmosphere into the
16 ground, and I understand it stays there.

17 But one thing I know you've
18 touched on is terrestrial wetlands. If they
19 stay wet all year, are they -- the value per
20 acre of wetland, is it comparable to the
21 wetland or salt water --

22 MR. GRIFFIS: Fresh water

1 wetlands.

2 MR. JONER: Yes.

3 MR. GRIFFIS: Sorry. You know,
4 fresh water wetlands are tricky, because they,
5 I'm not as up to speed on them, but my
6 understanding is that they don't store carbon
7 as readily, that they, whatever the situation
8 there is, they release the carbon more
9 readily, so that their storage rates are not
10 as vast.

11 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. I think they
12 have greater methane emissions, so they're not
13 all --

14 MR. JONER: Yes, because they're -
15 -

16 MR. GRIFFIS: Not aerobic down
17 underneath. Yes, but I mean that's salt mixed
18 in there.

19 MR. JONER: And then a temperate
20 green forest, like we have in the Northwest.
21 How does that compare to either the -- I know
22 you had temperate forest. What about green

1 forest?

2 MR. GRIFFIS: Ah, I don't know the
3 answer to that.

4 MR. JONER: Because there's a lot
5 more going on underground in the rain forest
6 than there is in a drier area.

7 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes. Obviously, the
8 Forest Service, probably of all the federal
9 agencies that I know of, the Forest Service is
10 the one most active in looking at this. I
11 mean they've been in the business of carbon
12 cycling their entire life. That's what
13 forestry is all about, right. It's managing
14 stocks of carbon.

15 So they have, they are all over
16 this, thinking about managing the forest, the
17 carbon budgets, and how that, the nexus of
18 that with their other bowls of either
19 recreational, timber, and that kind of thing.

20 MR. JONER: Well, I live in
21 Washington. I have a few acres of big tall
22 trees surrounded by wetlands. So I'll be

1 selling carbon credits, if you guys are
2 interested. We'll work something out.

3 MR. GRIFFIS: Thanks Steve, I
4 appreciate that.

5 CHAIR McCARTY: So Roger, I guess
6 your second one was similar to what the
7 briefing was that we had last time, and you're
8 going to hopefully give it to the Ecosystem
9 Subcommittee, and they're going to consider
10 that.

11 MR. GRIFFIS: I'd be happy to do
12 that. Can I just make one plug --

13 CHAIR McCARTY: Sure, sure.

14 MR. GRIFFIS: We talked a lot here
15 about mitigation. We talked here about how do
16 we -- we talked about habitat conservation,
17 and perhaps using carbon as an additional
18 rationale maybe instead of -- maybe even fun
19 to help do that.

20 But my second talk was going to be
21 about well, what do we do in the meantime?
22 We're on a trajectory. The bus has left.

1 We're on the carousel, but it's forming.
2 There's going to be some changes, there's
3 going to be a lot of surprises, okay.

4 How do we want to prepare, and
5 what steps do we want to take, to prepare our
6 fisheries, to prepare our endangered species
7 responsibilities? How do we want to prepare?

8 That preparation is what people
9 talk about when they talk about adaptation.
10 How do we want to prepare, and where do we
11 think we're going to go in that changing
12 climate?

13 So the question I posed to you in
14 my introduction was what is climate-ready NOAA
15 Fisheries? What is climate-ready fisheries
16 management? What is climate-ready protected
17 species management? As temperatures continue
18 to change across our coasts, fish will follow
19 as they move across our nice council system
20 and into crossing national boundaries.

21 Is our management system ready for
22 that kind of change? Are our observing

1 systems ready? Are our observing and the
2 management systems? Is our science ready?
3 How well can we look, peer into that crystal
4 ball and maybe anticipate a little bit, and
5 help our managers, who have a tremendously
6 difficult job, help them anticipate a little
7 bit more as well.

8 So we need to figure out how to
9 prepare, and that's the business of
10 adaptation. The IPCC defines adaptation as
11 reducing the bad, reducing the negative
12 impacts, and taking advantage of the good
13 impacts. They'll be some winners and some
14 losers in this process, and you probably know
15 the example on the east coast, the modeling
16 work that John Hare and others have done in
17 the Northeast Fisheries Science Center,
18 showing that for the past 50 years, fish
19 stocks, the major stocks in the Northeast have
20 shifted dramatically. They've all shifted
21 northward, they've shifted deeper. There's no
22 question.

1 The interesting thing is you can
2 start playing out productivity for some of
3 those stocks. Atlantic croaker are going to
4 love the future, because they're a warm water
5 species. They're spreading north. Their
6 projected populations are going to potentially
7 be great, you know, an older fishery. I mean
8 very interesting.

9 So again, adaptation is how can we
10 reduce the negative impacts, be prepared?
11 Also be prepared to take advantage of the
12 benefits. And I'm finishing here, there is a
13 major effort underway to develop an adaptation
14 strategy for the nation's fish and wildlife
15 compliance.

16 There is no strategy right now to
17 help our valuable natural resources adapt to
18 these changes. The Congress last year, the
19 administration has joined in, called for the
20 development of a National Adaptation Strategy
21 for fish wildlife compliance, and the services
22 they provide.

1 So my second talk, and you all
2 have it, and I'll talk to the Ecosystem group,
3 is about that strategy. We've got federal,
4 state, tribal strategy, 150 people working on
5 it. It's coming to you in January for public
6 review, and we really hope you'll take it
7 seriously and give us some good feedback.
8 Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: Thank you, Roger.

10 Okay so now -- sure, go ahead.

11 DR. HOLLIDAY: So we had this
12 second presentation from Roger, but since we
13 did have a presentation at the meeting on this
14 particular topic, we went back to our
15 recommendations from May. We said we had a
16 working group. We would be assessing,
17 developing a strategy for MAFAC input, for the
18 three opportunities specific to climate
19 adaptation issues. So that's going to be the
20 work of the Ecosystem Subcommittee this
21 afternoon, to carry on with that, since we
22 didn't get to that between meetings.

1 The first opportunity was the
2 National Fish Wildlife and Plant climate
3 adaptation strategy, with this opportunity for
4 there's a draft report coming out in December,
5 the final report. So this was one
6 opportunity. The second was the National
7 Climate Assessment that was going to be done
8 in 2012 with NOAA climate adaptation plans.

9 So those are the three things we
10 talked about at the May meeting, that we're
11 going to revisit in the subcommittee. So
12 Roger's presentation is a reminder about the
13 things that we were talking about on the Fish
14 Wildlife and Plant climate adaptation
15 strategy.

16 So we didn't want to repeat it for
17 the whole plenary session. We wanted the
18 subcommittee to work on it.

19 CHAIR McCARTY: Fabulous. Is that
20 okay then Roger? So what I'd like to talk
21 about just for a few minutes, before we take a
22 break, and then reconvene in the

1 subcommittees, is the membership of the
2 subcommittees. There are new members, Henry,
3 Julie, and Phil, who neither Mark nor I know
4 which committees you might want to be on.

5 You don't have to be on a
6 subcommittee, but if you want to be, now is
7 the time to sort of join up with one of the --
8 one or more of the subcommittees. We're
9 scheduled to have three of them meet this
10 afternoon. Traditionally, or at least
11 recently, since I've been around anyway, the
12 Commerce Subcommittee has done mostly
13 aquaculture stuff.

14 But Mark, it would be helpful to
15 me if you could talk a little bit about some
16 of the other things that the Commerce
17 Subcommittee has done, or whoever has been on
18 it for a while. Has that ever had a focus
19 that is in addition to aquaculture?

20 DR. HOLLIDAY: You can kind of ask
21 Laura. So I think the Commerce has tried to
22 look at the seafood processing and the seafood

1 trade and other business aspects of fisheries
2 and seafood beyond aquaculture. But because
3 of the emphasis in the last few years on
4 developing a national aquaculture strategy and
5 the ten-year plan, much of the committee's
6 focus was strictly on aquaculture.

7 But it had the broader commerce,
8 mostly commercial commerce and trade.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay.

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: So you were asking
11 a question about other activities that the
12 Commerce Committee historically has been
13 involved in, beyond aquaculture.

14 MS. BRYANT: Its genesis was truly
15 kind of around the aquaculture area.

16 CHAIR McCARTY: So that's that
17 one, and the members are currently not Tom
18 Billy, because he's not here anymore. Randy
19 Cates, Bill Dewey, Steve Joner, who's the
20 chair, myself, George Nardi and Tom Raftican.

21 So if people are interested in joining that
22 subcommittee, that's the group that you'd be

1 working with.

2 The Strategic Planning, Budget,
3 and Program Management Committee is Tony
4 Chatwin, Patty Doerr, Ed Ebisui, Martin Fisher
5 and myself as the chair and Tom Raftican.
6 Tom, are you on all of them?

7 MR. RAFTICAN: I've accepted
8 meeting through all of them.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: And then one is
10 the Ecosystem, which is yours. This time, you
11 have a pretty big bite there this time, and we
12 have Patty, Cathy, Steve Joner, myself. Maybe
13 I'm on them all too, and Tom Raftican.
14 Members, feel free to jump in on any of these
15 meetings, even if you're not members of the
16 subcommittee. But those are the members.

17 Then the final one that we're
18 dealing with at this meeting is protected
19 resources, and of course Cathy Foy is the
20 chair of that. The members of Randy, Tony
21 Chatwin, Paul Clampitt, and Keith Rizzardi.
22 So how do we want to handle that one?

1 DR. HOLLIDAY: How about the
2 recreational?

3 CHAIR McCARTY: Pardon?

4 DR. HOLLIDAY: The Recreational
5 Subcommittee. The Recreational Subcommittee
6 is Ken Franke is the chair, Pam Dana, she's
7 not with us anymore, Patty Doerr, Ed Ebisui
8 and Tom Raftican.

9 DR. HOLLIDAY: Tom Raftican.

10 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. I believe
11 that all three of the MAFAC consultants,
12 Vince, Randy, and Larry, are on the Rec Fish
13 Subcommittee as well. So the three
14 subcommittees that are going to be meeting
15 this afternoon, how are they going to be
16 organized? The one you said, Ecosystem is
17 going to be in here?

18 DR. HOLLIDAY: Location-wise?

19 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes.

20 DR. HOLLIDAY: So the Ecosystem
21 Subcommittee will meet around this table. The
22 Commerce Subcommittee, we have a small table

1 to the side here. It's a small group. We
2 only have two rooms, so since this is a large
3 room, we can probably subdivide.

4 Then the Budget, Strategic
5 Planning, Budget, and Program Management
6 Subcommittee, the Bunker Hill Room across the
7 hall to the left is another small room for
8 that subcommittee.

9 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay, and of
10 course that subcommittee is going to talk
11 about the budget priorities that we've been
12 asked to advise the administration on. So I
13 guess one of the things that we thought we
14 might talk about is whether we need additional
15 subcommittees, whether we need all the ones we
16 have and so on.

17 So we don't have to decide that
18 right now, but I do want you to be thinking
19 about that. There may be a need, for example,
20 what struck me when we were talking about
21 outreach was that it might be a good idea to
22 have an outreach and education subcommittee.

1 I know a lot of groups have them
2 these days, because we've heard from Judy that
3 they might use our help, and that they will be
4 looking forward to our help in advising them.

5 So perhaps, it's just a thought, you might
6 think about that.

7 Then we were also going to talk
8 about the members-only part of the website,
9 Mark, and how you get onto it. So do you want
10 to do that now or do you want --

11 MS. MORRIS: Sorry, I can't hear
12 you down there.

13 CHAIR McCARTY: Sorry. When I
14 turn my head, nobody can hear me. The members
15 only part of the website, and I believe we
16 were going to talk about how to get on it, but
17 not on the record is what you said, right
18 Mark?

19 DR. HOLLIDAY: Well, I think Josh
20 will bring it up on the screen. It's the tab
21 off of the MAFAC public website that says
22 "Members Only." You click on that and it will

1 ask for a user name.

2 The user name for everybody is
3 MAFAC. Then it will ask for a password, and
4 we'll circulate a piece of paper with a
5 password on it, so members of the audience and
6 others who are not authorized users won't see
7 the password.

8 But Josh will bring it up. You
9 can see the content of it. As we described
10 this morning, it has sort of reference
11 documents, the action tracking table. It has
12 -- well, you'll see for yourself. The various
13 forms that we were talking about filling out
14 this morning, blank forms for the confidential
15 financial disclosure forms and the agent
16 forms.

17 It's the same place that we had
18 the notes for when were vetting the Rec Fish
19 Working Group members. We were asking people
20 to review their CVs. We posted them there, so
21 they weren't necessarily -- they weren't
22 available to the public.

1 We posted documents there with
2 respect to catch shares, when we were looking
3 at developing the catch share, set up comments
4 on behalf of the committee. So we wanted some
5 working space.

6 So the Members Only section is not
7 to be secretive. It's just to provide you a
8 workspace where documents and discussions for
9 the committee. It's documents and reports and
10 other paperwork, I guess, is the way to
11 consider it. It's not a discussion section
12 per se. It's all of our discussions that are
13 on the record, and this is just reference
14 material.

15 MR. STOLL: I don't think we're
16 going to.

17 DR. HOLLIDAY: You have a comment.

18 CHAIR McCARTY: It's not working.

19 MR. STOLL: It didn't work for me
20 this morning.

21 CHAIR McCARTY: So anyway.

22 DR. HOLLIDAY: So we'll circulate

1 the password, and then again, the URL, the
2 quickest way to tell you the URL is just to
3 click on the tab off the Home page, where it
4 says "Members Only." The last word, user name
5 and the password. User name is MAFAC. It's
6 not case sensitive, and we'll circulate the
7 password around the table.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: Okay. Is there
9 anyone else who would like to comment on the
10 subcommittee process or the makeup of the
11 subcommittees at this point?

12 MR. JONER: I have a question. I
13 didn't hear this morning. A question was
14 asked about, you know, internal where three of
15 us are leaving the Commerce Subcommittee and
16 the selection process for the new chairs.
17 What did you say about that Mark? Is that
18 something we do now or --

19 DR. HOLLIDAY: Well, Heather asked
20 what the process was, and the current chairs
21 were appointed by the Assistant Administrator
22 to serve during their terms. So that would be

1 her -

2 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. We talked
3 about that a little bit at the last meeting,
4 right at the end, I think. Of course, I
5 actually thought the chairman could do that,
6 but apparently not.

7 MR. JONER: The last person.

8 CHAIR McCARTY: We are going to
9 have to appoint an acting chair for the
10 Protected Resources Committee this time. Did
11 you have a comment Martin? Martin, you had
12 your hand raised earlier.

13 MR. MARTIN FISHER: No, I'm sorry.

14 CHAIR McCARTY: So we'll take a
15 break and then reconvene in the subcommittees.

16 MR. JONER: And I see you have the
17 end of our agenda on Thursday. It's the
18 election of a chair.

19 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes.

20 MR. JONER: Are we going to have
21 campaigning, where you have a primary and -

22 CHAIR McCARTY: Oh yes. We're

1 going to have buttons and the whole thing.

2 MR. JONER: Will we know before
3 that time who's interested?

4 CHAIR McCARTY: Yes. Mark and I
5 have talked about this today. I believe at
6 the last meeting, there was a suggested
7 process that Mark and staff developed, and
8 that is going to be handed out tomorrow
9 morning, I believe.

10 DR. HOLLIDAY: We have to find it.

11 CHAIR McCARTY: We have to find
12 it. They have to find it. But that was, it
13 seemed to me at the time that it was a good
14 process, and I think we talked about it
15 briefly at that time.

16 So that's going to be handed out
17 to everybody tomorrow, so that everybody knows
18 what to expect. Thanks for bringing that up.

19 So we're going to take a break and then
20 reconvene in the various subcommittees.

21 (Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m., the meeting
22 was adjourned to subcommittee sessions.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

Before: NOAA

Date: 10-25-11

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

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MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

+ + + + +
ECOSYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011

The Marine Ecosystem Subcommittee Meeting met at 3:56 p.m. in the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, Tom Raftican, Chair, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

TOM RAFTICAN, Chair
ANTHONY CHATWIN
PAUL CLAMPITT
JULIE MORRIS
KEITH RIZZARDI
VA'AMUA HENRY SESEPASARA
DAVID H. WALLACE

STAFF PRESENT:

JOSHUA STOLL

ALSO PRESENT:

ROGER GRIFFIS
HEATHER MCMILLAN
BRIAN PAWLAK

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P R O C E E D I N G S

3:55 p.m.

MR. RAFTICAN: We're actually going to meet today, and I think we have to meet again tomorrow. Then we'll have to present some kind of an output from this going down the line on Thursday.

But right now, we're in charge of taking a look at Habitat Blueprint, which we just covered a little while ago, blue carbon and then also follow-up from the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force recommendations. If we get through half of this, we'll be lucky.

Does everybody know everybody? Good. With habitat, let me ask Hawaii to kind of take the lead on this. You know, as close as I can see, you've got three areas and you're looking for recommendations out of the subcommittee. Basically, the subcommittee will put together recommendations. We'll go back, bring that back to the entire committee.

1 But actually NOAA Fisheries
2 approach, they've done it by priority areas
3 with habitat, with the potential implications
4 and pitfalls for key external stakeholders
5 which engage in developing priority areas. We
6 have to engage them with the key policy
7 opportunities within MSA, in order to -- what
8 are the policy barriers. It's a pretty
9 comprehensive look at that.

10 Anybody here have questions or
11 insight into this, right off from the get-go?

12 MS. MORRIS: Well, the first
13 question is sort of a criteria question about
14 process, just one about how should you
15 proceed.

16 MR. PAWLAK: We're headquarters
17 office, first off. Folks kind of look at what
18 is the process, high level to put in
19 representatives. We're talking internal now
20 to NOAA Fisheries. Do we put in
21 representatives from every region and every
22 science center? Do we get just one or two

1 from that? It's also in that process, meaning
2 I'm not sure that we can pull it out, is it
3 public. It's first internally getting our
4 ducks in a row. But what will be the
5 overarching criteria, and it's easy to say
6 important managed species, well protects
7 important managed species.

8 So I think it's almost the
9 criteria of what do we look at. Do we look at
10 a little bit of what scientific level of
11 certainty do we want that species, and know
12 that it's habitat-limited and think we can
13 address? Was that that it's not rebuilding
14 because of its habitat limitations or the
15 cause for not rebuilding?

16 So it's a bit of both and what
17 those screens are, and how much of the
18 screening do we -- I think the process
19 questions how much of that screening do we do
20 internally within Fisheries. I would say in a
21 public engagement way, this is we used and
22 this is kind of the sidebars for that, or do

1 we open that more up and say give us your
2 thoughts and then we'll use that in our
3 criteria as well?

4 We have just started. So we're
5 open to all of that. I think one of the
6 challenges, I think you raised the question
7 earlier, is an understanding of how to engage
8 externally once we start picking these areas,
9 because once you pick an area, and Roger was
10 saying this is sort of his presentation, you
11 have the winners and losers.

12 Once you pick an area to focus on,
13 someone's going to go "hey, does that mean
14 you're not working in my area?" That can be
15 challenging pretty quickly, and that was some
16 of the things we've struggled with the most,
17 in kind of putting this together. What are
18 the implications going to be as we start
19 really managing?

20 So I think it's both process and
21 criteria, and I think a big question for us
22 from the external -- this is the first time

1 we've talked externally about this at all.
2 Not that we're keeping a secret or talks about
3 this in theory, but as the real plans for
4 talking to people outside of NOAA, and hearing
5 how that might be received by those are either
6 within or without that geographic area would
7 be helpful, I think.

8 MR. CLAMPITT: Just an inside
9 baseball question. This is kind of our -- I
10 don't want to get off track, but this is just
11 the start of ecosystems and its management.
12 It just seems to me like this is sort of the
13 ground floor. Am I right?

14 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, I would think
15 so. I mean our science centers have already
16 been doing a lot to build up that already.
17 But from a management side --

18 MR. CLAMPITT: The management
19 side.

20 MR. PAWLAK: Sure, and I think
21 Eric even made a point in saying he doesn't
22 want to call this ecosystem-based management,

1 because right now he wants to focus on the
2 habitat component of that, because that still
3 could mean so many things to so many people.
4 He was purposeful in saying let's pick the
5 habitat portion of other ecosystem and focus
6 on that.

7 But yes, that's the idea. It's
8 putting in those different influences and
9 factors.

10 MR. RAFTICAN: Okay, Tony.

11 DR. CHATWIN: Yes. This is a
12 complex question, picking geographic
13 priorities. The first thing that comes to
14 mind is that we need to clarify what scale we
15 are, or if we're approaching this from
16 multiple scales. We just need to clearly pick
17 one scale and make recommendations on that
18 scale. Pick a different scale, make
19 recommendations at the other scale.

20 So if you're talking nationwide,
21 the way I would approach it is from a
22 biogeographical perspective. The challenge is

1 for management there, because two different,
2 two adjacent biogeographical areas have more
3 -- have ecological differences. There are
4 more ecological differences between them than
5 within them, right.

6 So if you're choosing priority
7 areas, you want to choose within the areas of,
8 that are similar. Because if you choose. For
9 example in Florida, there's a point at which
10 mangroves give way to marshland, right. So if
11 you want to pick your priority marshland
12 areas, you might not pick them right there
13 where the transition is, because they're at
14 the margins of their natural extents.

15 So you need to look at the range
16 of them and look at the scale of that
17 distribution. So that's one dimension to
18 this. If you go biogeographically, then that
19 might create a conflict with what the managers
20 see as the management regions. So be useful
21 to managers, they might need to have that
22 within the management boundaries of the

1 councils, for example.

2 And I'll just put them on the
3 table and then I'll yield.

4 MR. PAWLAK: Take your time.

5 DR. CHATWIN: But the other
6 perspective is I'm thinking that this is
7 something that's going to be built
8 incrementally and built upon clearly
9 successes. It makes me think of, again, the
10 priority species, and choosing priority areas
11 for those species.

12 One way to choose between species
13 is to look at the level of information that
14 was used to define their EFH, because really
15 what we're talking about ultimately is to
16 understand the role, if I'm -- correct me if
17 I'm wrong from what I understood, but it's to
18 understand the role of habitat in rebuilding
19 and managing fish populations for fisheries
20 productivity.

21 In EFH, you already have in the
22 regs four levels of information, and the

1 higher you go within those levels, 1-2-3-4,
2 the stronger the connection between the
3 habitat type and productivity. So while the
4 vast majority of species are defined, the EFH
5 is defined by Level 1, which I think is
6 presence/absence, and then Level 2 is maybe
7 density or abundance, I don't know, there may
8 be species within these broader geographies
9 for which you already have Level 3
10 information, or maybe I don't think there are
11 any with Level 4.

12 But that might be one way to start
13 to take small bites at the apple, is finding
14 the species for which the existing knowledge
15 is already close to the point where you want
16 to get to, and push that one over the edge, or
17 use that to identify, to prove the concept.

18 MR. PAWLAK: Right.

19 DR. CHATWIN: Thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman.

21 MR. RAFTICAN: You're welcome.

22 Yes.

1 MR. WALLACE: Well, the other
2 question, the question that I had that I
3 didn't ask after your presentation is your
4 presentation is mostly about the interstate
5 waters, you know, in the mangroves and the
6 salt marshes.

7 I guess the question is how much
8 does the federal government, through MAFAC and
9 your own auspices, want to get into state
10 territory, where you have EFH and the Magnuson
11 Act from the three mile on the offshore, gives
12 you all the authority you need to do a whole
13 bunch of things.

14 And so -- and your presentation
15 really sort of put them all together. There
16 was no delineation between states and the
17 federal zone, and as a practical matter, if
18 you work on the federal, on just the federal
19 side, you'll run into a lot of less pushback
20 from the states. You'll get very little
21 pushback from the states.

22 But if you think that crossed the

1 boundary into the state waters, you know, you
2 are going to -- you're going to see pushback,
3 only because then, especially if you start
4 proposing that this be a sanctuary of some
5 kind, you know, whether it's an MPA
6 essentially or what have you.

7 The states would say well, you
8 know, now you're outside of your jurisdiction.

9 So it's a question of not what you should do,
10 it's expediency.

11 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, I think in this
12 conversation we haven't drawn any line, any
13 boundary around it. The idea was not to be, I
14 mean the whole leveraging and partnering was
15 not to go and say gee, we know it's most
16 important here in this state water. We're
17 going to go tell them what to do. It's to ask
18 the question of if we think this area is
19 important, gee, state partners, do you think
20 it's important?

21 If you say yes as well, then can
22 we drive our science and our restoration

1 dollars there to help you, and also that
2 importance to that area that you find is
3 important as well. So it's -- I think the
4 idea of looking at it and why it's kind of a
5 different concept is not necessarily drawing
6 that boundary state-federal, and let's just do
7 the federal, because then whatever happens in
8 the state doesn't matter, because we know it
9 does. Whatever happens in federal doesn't
10 happen in the state.

11 MR. WALLACE: I didn't say that.

12 MR. PAWLAK: No, no.

13 MR. RAFTICAN: I think the
14 question is between near shore and offshore.

15 MR. WALLACE: Right.

16 MR. RAFTICAN: I mean we've got
17 varying degrees of habitat, varying, you know.

18 It gets back to what Tony was saying about
19 ecosystems. But you know, and they will
20 change as you get offshore. You know, and the
21 thing that I look at is as we get into an era
22 of marine spatial planning, what are the

1 compatibilities in addition to just simply
2 habitat that would start making sense.

3 You know, I'm asking questions and
4 answering them would help me.

5 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, no. I think
6 it's something we haven't really -- we haven't
7 fleshed out or even thought about it. That's
8 the first time someone's even put it in that
9 context.

10 MR. RAFTICAN: I know, but if we
11 start talking in terms of marine protected
12 areas, you know, a lot of people think of
13 marine reserves as a key on that. If there
14 are different compatibilities out there, how
15 do you, you know, how do you start looking at
16 drawing that landscape? I mean you can look
17 at habitat, but also look -- you know, it gets
18 right into what you're doing with the
19 stakeholders.

20 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes. No, that's
21 -- those are key points that we haven't fully
22 thought out or fleshed out, but that we have

1 to be looking at here.

2 MR. GRIFFIS: You know, a lot of
3 that's happening at the state level already.
4 So for me, it's happening in the state
5 conversations. There are lots of
6 conversations about habitat protection and
7 conservation strategies, and the state fish
8 and wildlife programs are doing that.

9 Interior's doing that with them,
10 as well as the state funding that that agency
11 devises. I would think the natural easy way
12 here would be to tap into the existing efforts
13 and dialogue.

14 MR. RAFTICAN: Okay. So then
15 limiting most of it to near shore, and I think
16 this would get into where Dave was going, and
17 you get offshore. You know, there's clearly
18 what Tony said, essential fish habitat. There
19 are designations out there. There are
20 opportunities out there. There's information
21 out there.

22 But you know, if you're looking

1 for recommendations for us, it's like where do
2 you want to take this.

3 MR. CLAMPITT: So the question is,
4 then are -- looking at the presentation here,
5 it looks like are you meaning to focus in on
6 wetlands?

7 MR. PAWLAK: No. I think we
8 haven't selected that focus area. Again, if
9 you look at the region list, there's some that
10 are not near shore at all, but deep sea coral
11 is one of the areas that's a mandated area.
12 So we haven't picked that area to focus on.

13 MR. WALLACE: But you know, the
14 estuaries and the marshes and the mangroves
15 are highly productive for some species of
16 fish.

17 MR. PAWLAK: Right.

18 MR. WALLACE: And they have no
19 influence on oceanographic fish whatsoever.
20 And that was really what was driving my
21 question. Have we focused on what groups of
22 fish that we are going to focus on, if you're

1 going to use Fisheries Service as the focus?

2 Would you -- is there -- I guess
3 the Fisheries Service, from my point of view,
4 looks at species of fish or other animals or
5 protected species, and the habitat and the
6 habitat that's essential to reproducing those
7 fish. So as you know, spiked bass depend on
8 estuaries to reproduce, where other species of
9 fish came out.

10 That's the question that I'm
11 really trying to get at. There is a link, and
12 have you thought out the link and how you're
13 going to partner with the states on certain
14 species. You know, you're spending all this
15 time in the Chesapeake Bay looking at that.
16 That's a good idea, but the fact is that --
17 and it's a collapsed ecosystem, and you know,
18 we just have to recognize that and we have to
19 figure out how we can fix it if we can.

20 But you know, and I'm involved in
21 that business, and that's another one, you
22 know, the only thing that we really need for

1 the Chesapeake Bay or any of the other
2 tributaries for it's a huge source and part of
3 their life cycle, and phase one into the
4 estuaries.

5 So what I'm trying to do is just
6 more clearly understand. It's easier to build
7 the system incrementally than trying to build
8 it all at one time, because as Sonny says,
9 it's highly complicated.

10 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, and I think
11 there are levels of trying to figure out how
12 that would -- I think that's what we hoped
13 with the prioritization. We would pick the
14 areas, either understanding we picked, whether
15 we picked marsh to offshore because there is
16 the linkages that we know about, or we picked
17 the only offshore area because we think
18 there's not a connection so we can most deal
19 with that.

20 I think those filters, since we
21 don't know what those filters are yet, is
22 what's going to determine that. But your

1 caution I'm taking from your statements is
2 making sure if we pick areas or find areas
3 that states have interests, go in to the
4 states saying where are your priorities, why
5 are they your priorities, and we're not trying
6 to usurp your authority or take anything away
7 from you.

8 But you know, my office does
9 restoration projects. We can do them over
10 here, or if you're a state, or we can do them
11 in your priority area. Can you tell us where
12 your priorities are? We can shift our
13 priorities too. So I'm taking from your
14 messaging that caution.

15 MR. WALLACE: Well, both Tony and
16 I, Tony's an ex-member and currently I'm still
17 a member of the Marine Protected Areas, MPA.
18 We're over in ocean, and we're doing a white
19 paper right at the moment on the interface of
20 terrestrial and the water. Well, we're in
21 state waters, and you know, we know that we
22 cross that boundary and now we can be accused

1 of meddling in other people's backyards, you
2 know.

3 We're doing it openly, you know,
4 and just we're going to publish the paper and
5 let the chips fall where they may, because
6 NOAA's strategic plan says from the mountains
7 to the ocean. Then there are a number of
8 people who picked up on that.

9 MR. PAWLAK: So I think the
10 attempt is to get to a place, whatever size we
11 pick, I mean we pick a size, is where would
12 draw that linkage. It doesn't need to have
13 the absolute scientific, 100 percent
14 understanding of those linkages. But we
15 picked those areas because we think it's
16 important to something, and makes that
17 reasonable. You know, if that goes stream to
18 offshore, I don't know. If that just stays
19 inshore, but that's hard to tell.

20 I know what we'd like is some of
21 the regional issues that we have is that they
22 are strictly offshore. So we can say that's

1 NOAA Fisheries mandate. That's NOAA's area,
2 and we can clearly go in there and look at
3 what we want and pick what we want and not
4 that we're trying to exclude any input. It's
5 just that we have -- we're not bumping into
6 Fish and Wildlife Service, we're not bumping
7 into states.

8 MR. WALLACE: And I'm not trying
9 to make a big issue out of this. I'm really
10 trying to find out.

11 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes.

12 MS. MORRIS: Are you going to
13 choose more than one area?

14 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. I think the
15 idea is within each region, we would pick.

16 MS. MORRIS: So you'd be looking
17 for a geographic area within each region?

18 MR. PAWLAK: Right, right, within
19 our regions, in our six regions.

20 MS. MORRIS: So just like other
21 people have said, it seems like piggybacking
22 on some efforts that are already a

1 coordinating effort across government
2 boundaries, and the political support is
3 already there and they've already created some
4 citizen support, and that's why the National
5 Estuary Programs seem like a place to look.

6 If you could overlay the kind of
7 habitat information that Tony's talking about,
8 a list of managed species that you know are
9 dependent on some kind of habitat, and you
10 could get a gain by focusing on habitat
11 restoration in that area, and overlay that
12 with where there's already an existing program
13 like National Estuary Programs that you can
14 piggyback on.

15 But I also think it's important to
16 not, for it not always to be the Mississippi
17 Delta and Chesapeake Bay. It should be some
18 place that feels like it hasn't gotten as much
19 attention as those other areas. I think that
20 you get some PR value out of that, and you may
21 learn something that you're not learning in
22 the Mississippi Delta and the Chesapeake Bay.

1 MR. PAWLAK: Well, those are good
2 points. Yes, because you could easily pick
3 Puget Sound, San Francisco Harbor.

4 MS. MORRIS: Yes. You could pick
5 the ones --

6 MR. PAWLAK: Whatever shelf break
7 is your famous, your favorite shelf break.

8 MS. MORRIS: Right.

9 MR. RAFTICAN: I just think it's
10 less about the geography and more about what
11 you want to accomplish.

12 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, I think that's
13 the key. I think a key in picking the
14 geography, or I hope it becomes a key and we
15 just started this, is that what you pick, you
16 pick an area where you think you then can
17 demonstrate results, and not just picking it
18 because of that. But if you're uncertain of
19 what's happening in the system and you're not
20 sure if your species --

21 MR. RAFTICAN: It would occur to
22 me that we want the first one to fly, and low-

1 hanging fruit is probably the answer on
2 something like this, and that's the advantage
3 of having a state program that you can tie in
4 with, is it is up and running, and probably a
5 lot of the stakeholder engagement has already
6 been fired up to some extent. Does that make
7 any sense to anybody?

8 MR. CLAMPITT: Yes, I think it
9 does, and I think along that line, you know I
10 think, correct me if I'm wrong, you know,
11 you've still got to work side by side with the
12 fishery. You can't stop growth all the time.

13 MR. PAWLAK: Right, right.

14 MR. CLAMPITT: So you've got to
15 find a way to rehabilitate the wetland, and
16 then show how society is next to that wetland
17 part of the project.

18 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes. I think
19 that's part of the -- I think it's part of the
20 intent behind it, and part of -- so you guys
21 are getting more detailed briefs. We haven't
22 even briefed the National Estuary, or our

1 NERRS program within NOAA yet.

2 I think once we start reaching
3 those other parts of NOAA that deal more with
4 the community side, the coastal zone
5 management side, those interests need to come
6 into here too. But it's not just protecting
7 our development and how you do development.

8 MR. CLAMPITT: See, you know, we
9 have all these laws on the books and I can
10 walk down the stream beds in the Puget Sound
11 watershed and see houses developed right down
12 there, because they like the view. And you
13 ask well, how could you do that? How do they
14 do that inside the laws?

15 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes.

16 MR. CLAMPITT: Then you see at the
17 end of the development, there's a concrete
18 catch basin with two cattails growing on
19 there. No, that's mitigation.

20 MR. RAFTICAN: The answer is they
21 don't.

22 MR. CLAMPITT: Yes.

1 MR. RAFTICAN: Tony.

2 DR. CHATWIN: It just occurred to
3 me that we're, to some extent, starting by
4 talking about picking geographies, identifying
5 criteria and going through that whole process.

6 It's almost like reinventing the wheel.
7 There's a lot of priority geographies. The
8 discussion about estuaries and wildlife
9 refuges, we didn't talk about wildlife
10 refuges, but wildlife refuges and national
11 marine sanctuaries.

12 There are a lot of important
13 places that have been picked already, and one
14 thing that's sorely lacking is the
15 understanding of their contribution towards
16 management goals, fisheries management goals.

17 Maybe a recommendation -- we don't have to go
18 to recommendation right now --

19 MR. RAFTICAN: No. I was just
20 about to ask for a -- I thought we'd kind of
21 gotten along to where somewhere down there I
22 was going to ask Brian to help us lay out that

1 recommendation. Give us some recommendations.

2 DR. CHATWIN: Okay. So a
3 recommendation might be, from MAFAC might say,
4 you know, rather than picking new geographies,
5 please make sure to consider first those
6 geographies that have already been identified
7 as important, and use whatever limited
8 resources might come your way or abundant
9 resources to figure out their contributions
10 towards fisheries management objectives. You
11 could list NERRS.

12 MR. WALLACE: And you could pick
13 from the MPA Centers' list, because these are
14 already established MPAs. So what you then
15 look from those MPAs is, because they're both
16 terrestrial water interface and they're
17 offshore, so we have both, and you can go to
18 look for one of those that meets the other
19 criteria that you have and partner with them,
20 and they have already done the hard work of
21 defining an area that is being studied in some
22 way. So that makes your partnership more

1 streamlined, and moves the process forward.

2 There are 260 of them.

3 MR. PAWLAK: I was just thinking
4 of the term MPA, and you're making the link to
5 managed fisheries, and then often those who
6 harvest managed fisheries sure don't like the
7 term MPA.

8 MR. RAFTICAN: And that was
9 exactly what I was about to bring up, is we've
10 got to be very careful here, because we're
11 going to have to -- this has got to pass
12 muster with the rest of the --

13 MR. PAWLAK: The concept --

14 MR. RAFTICAN: Yes, and down the
15 line. There's a great deal of
16 misunderstanding. I suspect Tony and Dave
17 will settle the MPA and tell the Secretary
18 doesn't necessarily mean zero take marine
19 reserves.

20 MR. WALLACE: Just not necessarily
21 a no take, but --

22 MR. RAFTICAN: But that there are

1 special considerations in place, and maybe
2 this helps define some of that.

3 DR. CHATWIN: Maybe we should
4 avoid that discussion by just saying the
5 entities that comprise the system, you know,
6 like --

7 MR. WALLACE: Identify them --

8 DR. CHATWIN: Fishery closed
9 areas.

10 MR. CLAMPITT: I would say also,
11 do you intend on like kind of piggybacking
12 some of this work of the universities? I know
13 universities, they work on this kind of stuff
14 regularly, and you know, they could always use
15 your help.

16 There's like, like I know like for
17 instance in Bellingham, at the university,
18 Western Washington University, they just
19 purchased Georgia Pacific's pulp. They've
20 been dumping into the Bay for 50 years.
21 They're going to tear that down and try to
22 restore that area, you know, things like that.

1 You know, I mean low-hanging
2 fruit, right. It's already started, the
3 expertise.

4 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, well I think
5 part of the point of the blueprint, and I'll
6 just take that one example now that we're
7 jumping on that, I think fisheries the agency
8 would normally say well, that's not our role.
9 We manage fisheries, and why would I be
10 looking at that?

11 I think part of Eric's charge here
12 is saying gee, would there be an opportunity,
13 not that they wouldn't have consultation
14 requirements on the legal.

15 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, Chinook
16 salmon.

17 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, drivers that get
18 them there. But rather than just going
19 because they'll be the driver, saying could
20 we. Now we can't do this every place, but
21 just to take your example.

22 Could we get there while it's

1 happening, in advance of it happening, and
2 plan, do our legal mandate for consultation on
3 the EFH or ESA whatever, both or whichever one
4 it is?

5 Then could we also start saying
6 gee, if the state and the university is doing
7 some restoration, would we want to attach some
8 restoration cleanup to it as well, you know,
9 building off of that. So I think the idea of
10 the Blueprint is no, we can't do that every
11 place. We can only do that in very few
12 places, actually to do the extent.

13 So I think the idea of where those
14 options are and how would we find those and go
15 engage in them. But I think that's getting to
16 --

17 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, I think it's
18 selfish because it's in my backyard.

19 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. But as an
20 example, there's a big project going on. If
21 that project fixes an area because of the pulp
22 mill, is there something upstream, downstream

1 that we would fix or address, that would
2 contribute to that?

3 So in other words, instead of
4 doing the project over here, just south of
5 Bellingham, we'd move the project up right
6 there. It's the concept that Eric was trying
7 to get aligned here. I just went and visited
8 a fishery.

9 MR. CLAMPITT: Oh you did?

10 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes, a couple of
11 weeks ago.

12 MR. CLAMPITT: They've got a
13 challenge.

14 MR. RAFTICAN: I think we're
15 trying to get a layout of what's going on.
16 Are you predominantly interested in
17 enhancement or restoration, or is it -- how do
18 we look at this thing and find out what it's
19 doing?

20 MR. PAWLAK: I think, you know, I
21 don't know if it said it right in my slides,
22 you know. But the Blueprint says that they're

1 looking for on the ground conservation
2 benefits. So it's protections, restorations
3 or enhancements, and so obviously there's
4 something --

5 MR. RAFTICAN: On the ground.

6 MR. PAWLAK: Right.

7 MR. RAFTICAN: That is a factor in
8 the fisheries, or other --

9 MR. PAWLAK: Or other ecosystem
10 services, right.

11 MR. RAFTICAN: Exactly.

12 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. So the idea was
13 you can do a lot of science and it's valuable
14 and it's information that's important to many.

15 That's a piece of it. You can do a lot of
16 policy stuff here in D.C. that doesn't get
17 executed past the Beltway.

18 MR. RAFTICAN: This is actually
19 metrics that --

20 MR. PAWLAK: Right, the idea is
21 you get metrics when you --

22 MR. RAFTICAN: You could sit there

1 and see what's happening and come out with,
2 regardless of what they are.

3 MR. PAWLAK: That's the ultimate
4 goal, and we don't have those metrics --

5 MR. RAFTICAN: Okay. That gives
6 us a better idea of --

7 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, that would be
8 the idea. It would definitely be metric-
9 based. You can go back and point to it, and a
10 bit contrived, because we would create those.

11 We'd say we want to see this out of this area
12 and obviously not doing something that's
13 totally measurable.

14 MR. RAFTICAN: We just want to
15 make sure that we want to see the same thing.

16 MS. MORRIS: So do you need sort
17 of a summary of all the points that we're
18 making as a recommendation?

19 MR. PAWLAK: Yes.

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MR. RAFTICAN: We're trying to
22 ferret this out and later on this evening,

1 it's doing to be difficult. I keep coming
2 back to Brian. Well, can we find out to
3 writing that recommendation.

4 MS. MORRIS: Well, one of them
5 certainly is this piggyback on, you know,
6 trying to -- and piggyback might not be the
7 right word. But build on an existing program
8 somewhere that's already built the kind of
9 social network and political support. Another
10 theme seems to have a real clear connection to
11 some managed species or suite or group of
12 managed species that could be, that could
13 benefit from habitat protection or
14 restoration.

15 Another one seems to be this idea
16 that it's -- it would be, what you would learn
17 there could be applied and exported into --

18 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, the
19 transferability then.

20 MS. MORRIS: The transferability
21 of what you learned there to other areas.
22 What are some of the other big themes?

1 MR. STOLL: Well, Dave brings up
2 the point of sort of the delicate relationship
3 with states, and sort of, you know, be
4 conscious of that. I don't know if you want
5 to try saying that again in a recommendation
6 format.

7 MS. MORRIS: Well just recognize
8 that it's federally managed species that are
9 dependent on state near shore water habitats,
10 and that that requires the cooperation and
11 collaboration between entities. Another one
12 was let's choose something where we can be
13 really successful, where there's high
14 probability of success.

15 MR. STOLL: Tony, you brought
16 something up about scale and needing to
17 clearly define scale when you're talking about
18 geographic areas. Is that a recommendation or
19 --

20 DR. CHATWIN: Well, it's a
21 suggestion for one, that choosing priority
22 geographies needs to be done at different

1 scales, where you have to recognize the role
2 of scale in doing so.

3 MR. PAWLAK: Like the fellow here
4 was saying when you first started, because I
5 started triggering it. It sounds like you
6 were saying, but maybe you weren't, but you
7 might pick different level scales and say
8 we're looking at this level, but we're going
9 to act on this level. Is that kind of what
10 you were saying, the hierarchy of scale?

11 DR. CHATWIN: Be clear about it,
12 yes.

13 MR. PAWLAK: I mean like Will
14 Stelle at Puget Sound.

15 DR. CHATWIN: Puget Sound.

16 MR. PAWLAK: But he's working in
17 three tributaries. That's where in the next
18 year he's focusing on three. So that rung a
19 bell, if you pick a scale of salmon in Puget
20 Sound scale, focus on salmon and pick three
21 tributaries to try to direct some immediate
22 effort. It's almost like scaling of the

1 geographies.

2 MR. RAFTICAN: An appropriate
3 level scale.

4 DR. CHATWIN: Yes, and even bigger
5 than Puget Sound is an estuary on the west
6 coast, California Current.

7 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, which could
8 drive -- it could drive an activity, because
9 even though you're working on the three
10 tributaries in Puget Sound, you might want
11 some research on the ocean to understand
12 survivability rates and --

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 DR. CHATWIN: Yes. If the Sound
15 is your goal, then you need to --

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 MR. PAWLAK: Pacific and west
18 coast, yes.

19 MR. WALLACE: Well, this is going
20 to need spread out work that they were trying
21 to wherever they respond that it changes every
22 year.

1 MS. MORRIS: Well, for these --

2 MR. WALLACE: Atlantic salmon too.

3 DR. CHATWIN: They breed them --

4 MS. MORRIS: I don't know about
5 striped bass, but we're getting grouper. They
6 use habitats at different stages of the year
7 and different stages of the life cycle,
8 ranging from low salinity, near shore areas,
9 mid-shelf, all the way out to the edge of the
10 Continental Shelf, and they need all of those.

11 It's like a crane flyway. They
12 need all of those habitats in order to
13 complete their annual cycle of life. So just
14 doing habitat restoration in state near-shore
15 waters without making sure the habitats are
16 there for the spawning aggregations isn't
17 going to get you anywhere.

18 MR. WALLACE: Well yes. Summer
19 flounder do the same thing. They migrate into
20 the estuaries in the summer time and migrate
21 offshore in the winter time, and it's just
22 part of the life cycle.

1 DR. CHATWIN: So if you want to
2 say population response, if that's what
3 success is, then you need to account for the
4 entire life cycle, because you can be very
5 successful with one place and not see the
6 population response.

7 MR. WALLACE: Well, and that's
8 been the problem all the time. It was okay in
9 the ocean, but when they got into the
10 estuaries is where they got into trouble,
11 because they became so degraded and that's
12 absolutely correct.

13 MR. STOLL: So is the life cycle
14 part, is that a recommendation?

15 MS. MORRIS: The habitats needed
16 throughout the life cycle and throughout the
17 annual cycle.

18 MR. PAWLAK: Well, I like the
19 flyway analogy. It's kind of a different way
20 of thinking about it. You can't just protect
21 the reef and hope for success. You can't just
22 protect the --

1 MS. MORRIS: Now for some species
2 you can. They spend their whole life cycle on
3 the reef. So maybe some of your geographic
4 areas of focus should be the things that just
5 spend their whole life cycle on the reef. But
6 at least some of them should be these species
7 that need the whole --

8 MR. RAFTICAN: And I think that
9 was where Tony started off with, you know,
10 looking at species as the delineator of the
11 habitat, you know. If you're talking reef
12 fish, you're talking about many habitats. But
13 if, you know, you're talking about grouper,
14 from mangroves to water.

15 MR. STOLL: So it sounds like a
16 practical thing would be to physically map
17 out, I mean I don't know if that's feasible,
18 but --

19 MS. MORRIS: Well, that's what we
20 did in essential fish habitat. We tried to
21 map, but instead we came up with huge tables
22 with everybody's life cycle and habitat --

1 MR. WALLACE: That's the only
2 thing about it. The whole ocean became
3 essential fish habitat.

4 MS. MORRIS: It is, and you know
5 it is. It just is.

6 MR. GRIFFIS: So are you all
7 developing a criteria list now. It's starting
8 to sound like the key things to think about
9 when you're prioritizing your conservation.

10 MR. RAFTICAN: I think that's what
11 we're getting at, how we put some type of a
12 recommendation, how this committee is going
13 back to MAFAC, that will help you along the
14 line of finding this stuff, and being able to
15 -- it's interesting, because you didn't make
16 it easy.

17 MR. STOLL: Yes, it's complicated.

18 MR. RAFTICAN: It's complicated
19 stuff.

20 MR. GRIFFIS: The first one is
21 that you, I just wanted to say, and the first
22 one is developing criteria, and then you all

1 seem to have been beautifully developing,
2 helping them think about what some of those
3 key criteria would be. I mean you've
4 summarized, I think, beautifully.

5 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. I think our job
6 would be somewhat to go back and look at
7 whether it be NPAs or suite of NERRS or
8 estuary program sites, and look where those
9 overlay --

10 MS. MORRIS: Where they overlay
11 with your managed species.

12 DR. CHATWIN: And just for
13 clarity, what Dave and I were talking about, I
14 didn't use the word MPA, but it's the same
15 thing as NPAs.

16 MR. PAWLAK: Right, right.

17 MR. CLAMPITT: It's all the same.

18 DR. CHATWIN: Yes. So it's not
19 that we're thinking of something different.

20 MR. PAWLAK: Right.

21 MR. CLAMPITT: On your first
22 bullet point on your Blueprint overview, the

1 first one says "Healthy habitat to sustain
2 resilient and threatened marine resources and
3 communities." What do you mean by
4 communities? Do you mean human communities?

5 MR. PAWLAK: Yes.

6 MR. CLAMPITT: Okay.

7 MR. PAWLAK: So the elements
8 there, which is the piece that we're just
9 starting to roll out outside of fisheries is
10 National Ocean Service and things --

11 MR. CLAMPITT: Right. So part of
12 this thing is, you know, if you look through
13 it, I don't see -- I really like this
14 document. I like the idea of the whole --

15 MR. PAWLAK: Yes.

16 MR. CLAMPITT: I mean but one of
17 the things I don't see on here is, you know,
18 you've got to get people to realize that
19 swamps aren't swamps.

20 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. I heard you
21 made a comment when I took a phone call, about
22 educating the fishermen, and what one's going

1 to see is the North Carolina Fishing
2 Association bumper sticker or the North
3 Carolina tag. But yes, North Carolina Fishing
4 Association. I don't know the industry group,
5 but it's more of a local --

6 MR. STOLL: Isn't that the Coastal
7 Federation?

8 MR. PAWLAK: No, no. It would not
9 have been them. This is definitely the
10 industry side of folks, not the NGOs,
11 environmental side. It's the industry side.

12 MR. STOLL: Okay.

13 MR. PAWLAK: They had a bumper
14 sticker that said "No wetlands, no seafood."
15 Yes, but the essential piece is it's
16 definitely fisheries, because obviously
17 fisheries is essential fishing communities and
18 we take fisheries regulatory actions. We
19 impact on --

20 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, I just didn't
21 -- I wasn't sure if you meant -- I just want
22 to clarify, you know, that marine resources

1 and marine communities.

2 MR. PAWLAK: Right. No, no, no.
3 It meant to be, and anyway that language is
4 not set in stone. I'd like to clarify that.
5 It is people and populations as well, and our
6 NOS counterparts, they have more of a focus.

7 They have a different focus on
8 communities. They're looking at port
9 development and coastal zone access and those
10 kind of things, which is the Coastal Zone
11 management side of the house.

12 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, that's
13 interesting, you know. If you look at Puget
14 Sound, for instance, if you could just get a
15 little bit of knowledge, or just have a little
16 bit of foresight, we could have done
17 everything to save the resources.

18 MR. PAWLAK: Yes, yes.

19 MR. CLAMPITT: Those are great.
20 This is -- since I've been on MAFAC, to me
21 it's one of the best programs that we've seen.
22 Hopefully, it will get implemented.

1 MR. PAWLAK: Good, and I hope it
2 does. Congress keeps letting us go.

3 MR. RAFTICAN: Do you have a
4 question?

5 MR. GRIFFIS: So I don't know how
6 detailed to do you want to actually get into
7 this criteria. But they've probably mentioned
8 threat level. It might be something you might
9 want to --

10 MR. RAFTICAN: Policy barriers.
11 I'm still trying to get down the list of
12 questions. Are there policy barriers, policy
13 opportunities and/or barriers to those
14 programs.

15 MR. GRIFFIS: Can I ask a question
16 maybe of Brian or you all.

17 MR. RAFTICAN: Shoot.

18 MR. GRIFFIS: It seems like so
19 much of this prioritization process, thinking
20 about putting ourselves in Brian's shoes.
21 Where would I spend my two nickels on habitat
22 protection and conservation every year?

1 That's kind of what this is trying to help you
2 all do, right?

3 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. That's a good
4 simple way to put it.

5 MR. GRIFFIS: Part of that is
6 thinking about that bang for the buck.
7 There's a number of metrics for bang, right;
8 leverage, you said. But when it comes down to
9 benefit of the services, the value of restored
10 place to a community or a fishery or
11 something, it seems to me that's where we also
12 always, where the information is just very
13 weak.

14 So my question is if there's
15 anything about, any guidance that MAFAC might
16 want to provide on it. It seems to me that
17 our ability to talk about services and value
18 those services from these coastal habitat is
19 still in its infancy, and that prioritization
20 and talking about the importance of protecting
21 here versus there or any of these, could be
22 having more information about the value and

1 benefits of that, to go into a -- one has to
2 do a cost/benefit type analysis. It could
3 be a really important underpinning for all of
4 this, this structure.

5 MR. RAFTICAN: It's true. I like
6 where you're going. The words of Ronald
7 Reagan always kind of ring in my ears, you
8 know, those curious words in the American
9 language, I'm here from the government and I'm
10 here to help you. When you talk in terms of
11 doing something that affects all of us
12 directly as fishermen, and it's like the
13 government's coming in to help you.

14 You know, we don't have a way of
15 putting a value of those services to the
16 community. I mean, you know, it's generally
17 measured in terms of net loss. I'm trying to
18 be very frank about this. In fact, a well-
19 restored ecosystem makes a hell of a lot of
20 sense. In the long run, you're probably going
21 to improve property values.

22 I mean there are real, genuine

1 things that you can take out of this. I mean
2 the reason the guy built the house on top of
3 the hill because it was a damn beautiful place
4 to live. The trick is just simply doing it
5 well, and is there a way of restructuring the
6 way that we think and act on things like this.

7 I know when Dave and Tony start
8 saying "marine protected areas," it's like,
9 "Oh, you know, I've been through this." I
10 mean we call them ocean parks after a while
11 simply just to change the debate. I mean we
12 had to change the debate. But is there a way
13 to change the debate on some of this stuff,
14 and I think the way that we present this thing
15 to the entire MAFAC is the ground floor first
16 step in the way that we do that, and is there
17 a way we can do that. I'll throw that one out
18 for discussion.

19 MR. WALLACE: Well, I want to
20 respond to your hypothetical content, in how
21 do we put all the pieces together and find out
22 what its real value is. Actually there's, for

1 the last four years, the Woods Hole, the NMFS
2 Northeast Science Center, three or four
3 universities and the New England Fisheries
4 Management Council have been working on a
5 model they call SASSI and it's the value of
6 the habitat and the fish and all the other
7 factors that go into it, and the cost of
8 extracting fish with the least amount of
9 environmental damage, toward the maximum
10 return.

11 They've had this peer review two
12 or three times, and they keep going back and
13 they'll never stop changing it, because it's
14 just a work in progress, you know. But it's
15 getting to the point where they can start
16 using this information. So you may want to
17 talk to them, because they have taken --
18 they've only worked on federal zones. But
19 they've done a lot of work in state and local
20 sanctuary, and a whole series of other places
21 that are EFH or HAPCs in New England, and
22 they have already evaluated them and, you

1 know, the academics keep coming up with now
2 minor flaws.

3 So and they just keep working on
4 it, and once they finish the models, you'll be
5 able to go in and plug in others, you know,
6 and just use the model to do the evaluation,
7 and so you may want to talk to the Northeast
8 Science Center, because they're the ones that
9 actually load it on their computers.

10 MR. GRIFFIS: That's a great
11 suggestion. I think the field -- I guess I
12 was trying to make maybe two points, and you
13 illustrated one of them. One, I think this
14 field is changing quickly, and I think there
15 are tools and knowledge available now that --
16 I'm not sure -- that we could be using or
17 effectively talk about the benefits perhaps,
18 and value of habitat restoration and
19 protection.

20 So getting those into the hands of
21 the folks that have to do that would be one,
22 and the second, just promoting the continued

1 investment in that kind of work, because I
2 still think that we're relatively unable to
3 articulate even benefits that we know pretty
4 well, from habitats to communities and things
5 like that. We're just not very good at
6 articulating that, and there are great new
7 tools. That one. There's the Natural Capital
8 Project that was a similar model base, that's
9 pulled together all the information on what we
10 know about valuing these things. Actually
11 allows a manager to kind of play out different
12 options of what it does. Some really cool
13 stuff.

14 DR. CHATWIN: So I agree with you
15 guys. I just think that what would bring most
16 recognition of value in the fisheries arena is
17 to focus on the fisheries value of habitat.
18 Because when you start to prioritize using all
19 services provided by coastal habitats, that
20 the message starts to get diluted, and there
21 are some known values that are much higher in
22 certainty of return and much higher value,

1 known value. So then you get into mitigating
2 against coastal hazards, hurricanes, that sort
3 of thing.

4 MALE PARTICIPANT: Well, the SASSI
5 will do that for you.

6 DR. CHATWIN: Yes. But I think
7 what's lacking is the information of the value
8 to the fish population, which ultimately is
9 what's going to bring benefits to the fishing
10 community, the human fishing community.

11 MR. RAFTICAN: Yes. We're asking
12 for what are the benefits. You know, how do
13 you -- what are the metrics of this, and
14 specifically the metrics to the fishing
15 community. I mean you're asking the fishing
16 community here for recommendations, and those
17 metrics that are important to the folks in
18 this room, but also the people who it will go
19 back to across the country.

20 Anything else as far as on a
21 criteria list that we need to add in here?
22 We've got a pretty good copy list, and we're

1 going to sit down afterwards and try to put
2 something together.

3 MR. STOLL: Yes, got it.

4 MR. RAFTICAN: And actually
5 probably it would be a good idea to run that
6 off right now, so that -- from everybody here,
7 if we've got everything or if we've missed
8 anything.

9 MR. CLAMPITT: I don't know. You
10 know, to come up with a particular -- to put a
11 value on a wetland or on a near-shore estuary,
12 and say well, we're going to equate this to
13 the fact that salmon is going to do really
14 well here. I mean it's much larger than that.

15 It should be easy. I don't know that we have
16 to -- were you suggesting that we need to
17 equate the value of these fish to be produced?
18 That's almost impossible.

19 DR. CHATWIN: Well yes, but not in
20 terms of dollars. In terms of how important
21 it is as an industry for the population. I
22 mean if fish is producing to that population.

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 MR. CLAMPITT: -- about some
3 economic exercise when we sit here --

4 DR. CHATWIN: No, no. It's the
5 production value to the population itself.

6 MR. WALLACE: Yes, I could see
7 that, but --

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 MR. WALLACE: -- what the Gulf of
10 Mexico is going through, what the margin --
11 how much that is worth, and NOAA does all
12 their work.

13 DR. CHATWIN: Yes, and it's good
14 stuff.

15 MR. RAFTICAN: We've just changed
16 scale. I mean one's a watershed in salmon and
17 the other is the Gulf of Mexico. We've just
18 changed scale.

19 MALE PARTICIPANT: And I don't, if
20 we can, you know, send them in the right,
21 whichever direction it is.

22 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, I don't think

1 it's that much of a hard sell. It's just we've
2 got to put the value, but the value is pretty
3 apparent. Like I said, we're going to have to
4 educate some people.

5 MR. PAWLAK: Well, in large part,
6 the value's apparent, I think. The little
7 piece I'm destroying or degrading. It's not,
8 that little piece can't be that important, can
9 it? So I think part of it is, what we hope to
10 get through this is the fishing community will
11 look back and start being able to talk about
12 the value of protecting that as well, not just
13 us, not just the regulators, not just the
14 green NGOs. They can look back and say this
15 is a valuable from an industrial perspective,
16 that industry being fishing, and I think
17 NOAA's interested in making it more than just
18 fishing too. They want to be able to say
19 that's valuable to the industry of fishing,
20 but the way, what's in that barrier island is
21 important for storm protection as well.

22 MR. RAFTICAN: I think one of the

1 things we're kind of overlooking, and we've
2 got fairly knowledgeable folks in this room,
3 but education is a key component of what we're
4 doing, not just the local communities but the
5 fishing communities. I mean most of them get
6 it, but they don't get it, and actually the
7 education coming back through folks in this
8 room --

9 MR. CLAMPITT: One of the reasons
10 why I brought that up is just because, I mean
11 a lot of times it amazes me that fishermen who
12 depend on these estuaries aren't standing up
13 on their feet and screaming, throwing rocks
14 about what are you doing to my livelihood? If
15 they could understand that, because we're
16 starting to see a little bit of that up in
17 Alaska, the Pebble Mine.

18 MR. PAWLAK: Yes.

19 MR. CLAMPITT: But even there it's
20 fairly subdued.

21 MR. PAWLAK: Well, I heard some of
22 the politics behind that, why people don't

1 raise their hand, the Pebble Mine
2 specifically.

3 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, there's a lot
4 of gold there.

5 MR. PAWLAK: Yes.

6 MR. RAFTICAN: Julie.

7 MS. MORRIS: So in my experience,
8 recreational and commercial fishermen really
9 come together on habitat issues, and if
10 there's some big energy or big dam or there's
11 some big project that's going to influence
12 habitat, they're all together. They're all on
13 the same side.

14 So I don't think it's a hard sell,
15 and I think it is a really unifying issue, and
16 I think you'll find a lot of support for it.
17 But where things break down is at the local
18 government level, where the local government
19 are talking to the big developers in their
20 town. They're concerned about jobs or they've
21 got a wealthy homeowner who owns a waterfront
22 piece of property and they want to buy a

1 house.

2 So it's all these little projects
3 that are decided by the local government, and
4 the state governments have trouble putting
5 together a regulatory program that really
6 affects the single family home or the small
7 projects and that's where we lose the habitat.

8 We lose the habitat, I think, at the local
9 government decision level.

10 MR. RAFTICAN: It's right in
11 communities, it's how you manage the whole
12 picture.

13 MS. MORRIS: Another thing to look
14 at is property that's owned by Department of
15 Defense, because they can do a lot of
16 restoration there without having to
17 collaborate with anybody.

18 DR. CHATWIN: And they have a
19 mandate for certain species.

20 MS. MORRIS: And they have a
21 mandate to do it. So that might be a criteria
22 to look for.

1 MR. CLAMPITT: Right in Key West,
2 they're spending unbelievable amounts of money
3 to remove coral off a bulkhead.

4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 MR. PAWLAK: Coming from the Bay,
6 I mean the Chesapeake Bay -- it's not like
7 it's just "the Bay," he's very in tune with
8 the local communities, thinking about some of
9 those successes in the Bay when he was state
10 director, and he could influence local
11 community activity on water quality issues.

12 I appreciate you listening.

13 DR. CHATWIN: One thing we haven't
14 talked about is the Opportunities, and maybe
15 that's where Keith can help us with
16 opportunities in the law.

17 MR. RIZZARDI: Sure.

18 DR. CHATWIN: But I don't know if
19 you want to discuss that today.

20 MR. RAFTICAN: The opportunity to
21 what?

22 DR. CHATWIN: Well, one of the --

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 MR. RIZZARDI: -- the next step, I
3 think the next step in the evolution of this
4 thing getting in, right?

5 MR. PAWLAK: You know, if you've
6 got ideas on the top of your head now, we'd be
7 glad to listen now. But yes, those are
8 longer-term, and it's going to take longer to
9 do that obviously than some of this other
10 stuff.

11 MR. GRIFFIS: Okay. Is it useful
12 here to have MAFAC make a general statement of
13 interest and support for these steps, separate
14 from getting into the how. Now I just want to
15 clarify that. I think, I thought I heard you
16 say you were interested in feedback on the
17 steps of the plan and the history.

18 MR. RAFTICAN: I think our charge
19 is to come out with a general statement on,
20 you know, this is what we feel is important,
21 you know. This is what's important to MAFAC,
22 the Ecosystem Subcommittee, and this is our

1 recommendation, to have the entire MAFAC adopt
2 this and that's really what we do.

3 MR. GRIFFIS: That could be a
4 general statement about yes, we think, and I'm
5 going to your point of that third question.
6 Yes, we think looking at the key policy
7 opportunities, within legislative or other,
8 would be a good idea.

9 MR. RAFTICAN: Consider areas
10 where work has started, and that includes
11 special consideration of the habitat and
12 fisheries, yes. I mean I think those are
13 probably the first steps that we put down
14 here.

15 MS. MORRIS: Well, so when I
16 thought about that question, it seemed like
17 the essential fish habitat program is a policy
18 framework that has to be helpful in some way,
19 even though we're all kind of frustrated by
20 how it didn't really lead anywhere, and the
21 habitat area is of particular concern. At
22 least look at those as, you know, established

1 policy, rule and law that might be a place to
2 hang this.

3 MR. RAFTICAN: It's a good place
4 to start.

5 MS. MORRIS: And all the EPA work
6 that's going on. Even the ecosystem species
7 and the annual catch limits, somehow that
8 might be, might contribute to your policy
9 framework.

10 MR. PAWLAK: But also I'm hearing
11 on some of the policy and legal discussions --
12 it will probably be a year working to build
13 something maybe toward Managing Our Nation's
14 Fisheries 3. I don't know if you guys -- do
15 you guys meet quarterly or how often do you --

16 MS. MORRIS: Twice a year.

17 MR. RAFTICAN: Twice a year.

18 MR. PAWLAK: But I mean I think
19 one of the things that this group can do --

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MR. RIZZARDI: We can take it off
22 the list of taboo topics and move it onto the

1 list of something that can be discussed, then
2 that's progress. And Julie, I mean I really
3 think we are looking at the beginning of
4 repeal of environmental law. If we don't get
5 realistic about it and if we don't find ways
6 to allow ourselves to prioritize, while
7 accepting that humanity has impacts on the
8 planet, the counter thinkers are going to
9 simply repeal the laws, rather than trying to
10 work within that framework. That's what's
11 happening.

12 So is that going to be our
13 official MAFAC statement? I doubt it.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. RIZZARDI: But can the point
16 be made? You know, and to what extent are we
17 willing to really start hashing out the need
18 for reform of our own environmental laws?

19 MR. RAFTICAN: Yes, and I think
20 that's where we're going with this. How do
21 you generate positive programs to make sense,
22 and pick one that you've got a high degree of

1 success on, so that we can start moving the
2 needle forward. I think the other thing is it
3 seems very much like -- I mean everybody's
4 done a little work on this before.

5 Whether it's essential fish
6 habitat, the HAPCs or how -- don't use the
7 name, but marine protected areas that actually
8 are moving, you know. There are political
9 land mines along the way with all this stuff.

10 But you know, how you start tying this stuff
11 together and actually start to make sense and
12 get it down in to the program. The thing I
13 love about this is you're looking to show
14 positive results on this. I mean, you know,
15 this is not about a negative going out there.

16 This is about how we do something well. It's
17 wonderful.

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 MR. CLAMPITT: I'll throw this out
20 there. You know, down through the economy,
21 there's actually quite a few industrial sites
22 that have sat on wetlands that are now shut

1 down and can't be sold. I mean if you can get
2 some company like Boeing to donate it, you
3 know, or give it to a university. That's
4 what's going to happen in Bellingham. I mean
5 the Georgia Pacific plant, they didn't want
6 it. Give it to the university. They said
7 okay.

8 MR. PAWLAK: Take the liability.

9 MR. CLAMPITT: Yes. And then it's
10 good for the community, you know. Nobody
11 loses on the deal. Otherwise, you get not in
12 my backyard. You want to do a project? Go do
13 it over there. It's like the mosquitoes, you
14 know.

15 MR. RAFTICAN: They come. That's
16 part of the deal.

17 MR. CLAMPITT: And it smells when
18 the tide goes out.

19 MR. CLAMPITT: Yes. It's like,
20 yes, that's what the waterfront's like.
21 Monterey. We want to get a working
22 waterfront. Okay. Do you remember what it

1 smelled like? Well, we're not sure we want an
2 actual working waterfront.

3 MR. PAWLAK: And that's an
4 ecosystem service. I like the smell of marsh.
5 A lot of people don't.

6 MR. RAFTICAN: Let me see if I've
7 got everything down here. We're trying to
8 move on a little bit into blue carbon.
9 Consider the areas where work has started and
10 where it includes special circumstances to
11 habitat and fisheries, like essential fish
12 habitat, marine areas of special concern,
13 HAPCs. Look for social network and political
14 support, tie in with a special group or a
15 group of species. Transferability of issues.

16 Look for an area with high
17 probability of success. Look for areas of
18 appropriate levels of scale. Value of NOAA
19 services to the communities. Talk to Woods
20 Hole and SASSI about their work in bundling
21 resources and returns. Highlight the
22 fisheries value of habitat, and include a

1 segment on education. Anything else that we
2 need to include in that as a recommendation?
3 Are you now comfortable with those?

4 MR. PAWLAK: Yes. No, those are
5 good.

6 MR. RAFTICAN: I'm very happy to
7 do that. I just want to make sure that the
8 rest of the committee's good with what I've
9 got down here.

10 MALE PARTICIPANT: That sounds
11 right.

12 MR. RAFTICAN: Okay. Are we good?

13 MS. MORRIS: We're good.

14 MR. PAWLAK: Things we weren't
15 thinking about before was the whole point of
16 this.

17 MR. RAFTICAN: Blue carbon, the
18 value of salt marsh, sea grass and mangroves
19 coming down the line. Roger, I'm going to
20 turn this over to you. Are you looking for a
21 recommendation out of this? You know, what do
22 you need from us on this, and we're going to

1 discuss it. I want to let you kind of kick
2 this off.

3 MR. GRIFFIS: You know, I think to
4 start simply, what would be, I think, very
5 useful would be some feedback from MAFAC on
6 whether or not NOAA should keep looking into
7 this topic. So here's the current situation.
8 NOAA is looking at this, for all the reasons
9 I told you.

10 We have a small team that's been
11 set up and tasked by NOAA leadership to assess
12 the state of the science, assess the state of
13 the practice. That is, are we, as I
14 mentioned, are we currently including carbon
15 services in our consultations and valuing of
16 habitats, and I told you we're not.

17 So we've served that up to
18 leadership, and they've said well, come back
19 to us with some ideas about what to do about
20 it. What should NOAA's role be in advancing
21 the science of understanding this? How might
22 we start valuing carbon services in our

1 regular consultations and planning and that
2 kind of thing?

3 That's where the team is. So, a
4 very simple response from MAFAC would be we
5 think this sounds interesting, and think NOAA
6 should continue to look at what your role can
7 be to promote this. The bigger issue is, as
8 we said, most of where the valuing of this
9 service needs to happen is not -- is in what
10 other agencies are proposing as well.

11 For this to actually have an
12 impact, we need the Army Corps, and our
13 brother and sister agencies across the federal
14 family, to also be considering carbon
15 services, as they do the cost/benefit of their
16 projects as well.

17 MR. RAFTICAN: Roger, would it
18 help if we suggested that this program would
19 be a good place to see the value of carbon
20 services and integrate them in there? I mean
21 you're looking at habitat. You're looking at
22 essentially estuary and habitat moving out,

1 you know. It would give you a vehicle to work
2 with.

3 MR. GRIFFIS: The Habitat Office
4 has been one of the lead champions for trying
5 to promote thinking about carbons services,
6 along with everything, all the other services.

7 So absolutely. It fits nicely here. So it
8 seems to me, and I'm just going to speak very
9 frankly, because I've got to run because I'm a
10 single dad this week.

11 One would be some general sense
12 of, you know, good job NOAA, looking into
13 this. Continue to flesh it out, what it means
14 for you, both as a science agency and in
15 practice. You know, a next step would be to
16 think about what role either MAFAC can play,
17 or encourage NOAA to help get other agencies
18 to be thinking about this as well.

19 Again, you guys hold -- as a fact,
20 you guys hold the magic card of being able to
21 bring people together, experts or others, to
22 think about it. One of the steps that we're

1 taking or thinking about taking is getting
2 some of the other agencies to come together
3 and begin thinking about this together, Army
4 Corps, Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA.

5 MS. MORRIS: So why are you
6 focused on Army Corps? Is it because of their
7 cost/benefit analysis?

8 MR. GRIFFIS: One, they're really
9 good at that.

10 MS. MORRIS: Yes.

11 MR. GRIFFIS: And this isn't on
12 their ledger sheet.

13 MS. MORRIS: So they don't think
14 about carbon sequestration when they do their
15 cost/benefit analysis?

16 MR. GRIFFIS: It's not a unit.
17 It's not part of the ledger sheet. Two,
18 they're really good at it. So if we got it
19 into their system that would ripple across.
20 Because all your proposals are starting to
21 come in from the Army Corps that we just
22 consult on, and all of the sudden they're

1 including it? Then we all start thinking
2 about it in the ledger sheet.

3 MS. MORRIS: Well, that seems
4 easy.

5 MR. RAFTICAN: Yes, and maybe we
6 can throw that in too. My thought is just
7 throw this back, and when we start doing, you
8 know, we're looking at, you know, habitat,
9 simply start bringing in, as part of what
10 you're doing, the carbon value, carbon
11 sequestration value. I mean it's a value to a
12 local community, and this is not necessarily a
13 for sale value. Here's the value you have
14 living here in a very, very nice place, and
15 instead of somebody saying down in the swamp,
16 it's like yes, that swamp actually is working
17 to help ameliorate the greenhouse gases that
18 you've spent driving.

19 NOAA, I'm thinking that it becomes
20 a piece of this, but an enlarged piece, and
21 this becomes part -- it becomes part of the
22 metrics and part of the value system of what

1 the habitat actually is. I mean whether it's
2 the value not of the fish, it's the value of
3 the fisherman, you know, except the ones using
4 sail boats, which aren't too many of them.

5 MS. MORRIS: But Tom, I think the
6 specific suggestion, that we investigate
7 whether the Army Corps and other permitting
8 authorities, which we are not -- which NOAA
9 Fisheries really is not, look into adding
10 carbon sequestration of coastal habitats as a
11 benefit and a cost, would be a great
12 suggestion.

13 MR. RAFTICAN: I just thought this
14 is a practical one. That's kind of wish list.
15 Yes, we'll definitely include it.

16 MR. CLAMPITT: I'm not doubting
17 anything about global warming or that these
18 marshes sequester a lot of carbon. There's no
19 doubt. But to coach that we had to do this
20 because it's going to sequester carbon that we
21 could charge or that we could put a value on,
22 I don't think so.

1 Because I don't think it amounts
2 to a spit in the bucket or amounts to a spit
3 in the ocean, compared to how much is being
4 put in the atmosphere. The current Congress
5 you have right now, if you're trying to get
6 funding for this kind of program and you're
7 saying we're doing it because it's going to
8 have carbon sequestration, they're going to --
9 no way. They're not going to give you a penny
10 for that. You're better off going with the
11 idea that listen, we're going to fix this
12 habitat, and we're going to increase the
13 productivity of our fisheries. Now that might
14 sell.

15 I mean going to Congress and say
16 yes, we're going to put a price tag and we're
17 going to sell the carbon credits, I mean the
18 Chicago Carbon Exchange collapsed completely.

19 It's gone. So that didn't work out, and the
20 one in England and Europe is failing also. I
21 mean so you're dealing in an economy that's
22 collapsing worldwide, and nobody has any

1 interest in putting a charge on CO2 or carbon,
2 and I just think it's, I don't think it will
3 work.

4 MR. GRIFFIS: I think you've
5 characterized the current U.S. representative
6 from some perspective. I think there are a
7 whole lot of people thinking that it's just a
8 matter of time before we actually get to some
9 kind of carbon market basis. So I agree with
10 you. You characterized the current situation
11 well, and I think we shouldn't tie ourselves
12 to that.

13 But I'm just going to go back to
14 federal law, that our mandate is and
15 underneath that everything else, Army Corps --
16 everybody. We are charged to consider federal
17 actions, the impacts, pros, cons,
18 costs/benefits of that. It's pretty obvious
19 recently that there is this little sliver of
20 services that we're not -- that are not part
21 of the calculation at all.

22 So all we're saying, we're not --

1 and I'm intentionally not proposing that NOAA
2 come out as some band leader for carbon
3 markets. But I think we do have a
4 responsibility, as we think about services of
5 these habitats, to at least get the math
6 right, because there is a service here that we
7 should be taking into account. I also agree
8 with you. It is not going to change the
9 world. Making fish from these habitats can
10 help protect them much more strongly. It's
11 just a matter of do we want to add this to
12 those list of things.

13 MR. RAFTICAN: Paul, I'm going to
14 agree with you to a very large extent. I'm
15 not the scientist. I'm basically a political
16 hack and I understand exactly where you're at
17 as far as what the Congress is going to say.
18 What I was alluding to was not sitting down
19 and going hey look, we're putting this
20 together because it's going to change the
21 value of your real estate, because of the
22 carbon credits.

1 But I think it gets back to what I
2 said about education, the fact that these
3 weapons are valuable because this is what
4 helps clean up the atmosphere. I think that
5 makes a tremendous amount of sense. If you
6 can get to the level of the Army Corps of
7 Engineers, where you're doing something on a
8 grand scale like that, the scale may change
9 and we might be able to do something. But
10 even that starts with small steps.

11 You know, what we do. You know,
12 the jury's out, and I agree with you on a lot
13 of the things that are going on right now.
14 But the thing is it shouldn't preclude us from
15 making small steps along the way. I agree
16 with you. It shouldn't be this is it and
17 we're saving the world.

18 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, you know what
19 I would say, I mean I get your point. But to
20 me I would say and, besides this being
21 productive, it also is a great pollution
22 abater. I mean and it's not just atmospheric

1 pollution. It's also runoff and nutrients and
2 everything else.

3 MR. PAWLAK: Right on.

4 MR. CLAMPITT: I mean I would sign
5 onto that. But once you start talking about
6 oh yes, we're going to solve global warming.

7 MR. RAFTICAN: Did you hear?
8 We're agreeing with you on the overall
9 concept. But the thing is, it is a component,
10 you know. Are you good with it?

11 MR. CLAMPITT: My problem, a
12 personal one, maybe I should be honest, is I
13 feel the government is wasting a tremendous
14 amount of resources in the study of
15 anthropogenic, catastrophic global warming
16 studies. I think it's a red herring. I think
17 there's so much better ways to spend our money
18 on just basic marine research, on fisheries
19 research, on wetlands research.

20 To go with this exercise of how
21 much CO2 is being put in the air and how much
22 it's going to warm the planet in 100 years,

1 and the data that comes out now is
2 contradictory sometimes. I mean it depends on
3 who you read. You can read anything you want,
4 and the interesting thing about it, on top of
5 that, is that half the public thinks it's bunk
6 anyway.

7 You know, you can say well,
8 they're ignorant, or you can say that they
9 think the other way. I mean you know. I just
10 disagree with it. I just disagree with
11 spending the resource and time on this. I
12 think there's better things to spend it on,
13 and I guess I've said my piece.

14 MR. GRIFFIS: So we're talking
15 about the habitat, and there are only two
16 things that we're probably suggesting really,
17 was some indication of whether or not you
18 think this is a useful area for NOAA Fisheries
19 in particular, to continue to look at from a
20 research perspective. That's one thing. Is
21 it, should we try and help find out and fill
22 some of the science gaps on how much carbon

1 these places suck up. Because it's part of
2 that then next step, which is should we be
3 considering that as one of those services, as
4 we try and protect these places and restore
5 them down the road. Because right now it's
6 not part of the currency, it's not part of the
7 conversation.

8 MR. RAFTICAN: Julie.

9 MS. MORRIS: Okay. So we know
10 that people in Congress and Republican
11 legislatures and governors don't want to hear
12 anything about climate change. But we know
13 that NOAA is the agency that is managing and
14 researching climate, and that they're like the
15 center of the science about all of this. So
16 as part of advising NOAA Fisheries, it seems
17 like we have to say I can't see why we
18 wouldn't -- I mean just because people who are
19 outside of the climate science community have
20 doubts and reasons to oppose it, I don't see
21 why that constrains us from saying --

22 MR. CLAMPITT: It's not just --

1 you assume they're people outside of that.

2 MS. MORRIS: Right. But it seems,
3 it doesn't seem like there's a lot of
4 disagreement within NOAA about climate change
5 and the climate findings.

6 MR. CLAMPITT: The National
7 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

8 MS. MORRIS: Exactly. I mean
9 that's what they're about.

10 MR. CLAMPITT: And I realize that.

11 I mean --

12 MR. GRIFFIS: Can I pick up on one
13 thing Paul said, though. Again, I'm trying to
14 be very frank here. There is very little, I
15 mean I'm talking like three projects, very
16 little investment. One of the questions well,
17 how much is NOAA investing in this now? Very
18 little.

19 MR. CLAMPITT: Oh, and this thing
20 you're doing right here.

21 MR. GRIFFIS: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm
22 understanding. So you were raising issues

1 about funding for other parts of the climate
2 thing. But to understand the role of these
3 little slivers of wetlands and habitats, very
4 little going on. So the NERRS program doing a
5 little bit, there's a little bit here or
6 there. USGS actually has a little bit of
7 funding.

8 So and again, I'm not talking
9 about you guys saying put some money here.
10 But just, you know, I think all the statement
11 of interest about NOAA, hey this seems like an
12 interesting area because it is about services
13 of these important habitats that make fish.
14 All that does is help leadership say well
15 maybe I should consider putting, doing a
16 little bit more on it, because we're doing
17 almost zero on this right now.

18 MR. RAFTICAN: And probably more
19 at least to ask the questions, and see where
20 this is going. That's what I was going to
21 suggest, that I think a lot of people are on
22 the same page. But I want to make sure that

1 you're comfortable, that you look at the value
2 of blue carbon sequestration, and this is not
3 asking for millions. This is asking for
4 staffing, and then along with that, Julie's
5 suggestion, ask the Army Corps of Engineers to
6 look at carbon sequestration. Roger's going
7 to get in touch with them on that after, at
8 least he's got a card that gets him in the
9 door, and then the other thing is incorporate
10 in, blue carbon in the blueprint to some
11 extent, and you know, you guys can work that
12 out. Are you comfortable with something like
13 that?

14 MR. CLAMPITT: No. Don't let me
15 hold you up.

16 MR. RAFTICAN: Well, I'm trying
17 not to spend any money, but also to make sure
18 that they've got at least a green light from
19 here to examine the stuff. I mean we're
20 really here about what happens to fisheries,
21 you know. I'm going to trade off, you know,
22 my diesel engine versus some part of the

1 sequestration, if it makes sense, and again,
2 said I don't think we're going to break the
3 bank on this one.

4 MR. CLAMPITT: Well, I guess one
5 of the things, you know it's like, I mean
6 there's just no arguing with the presentation.

7 I mean it's, you know, I mean these areas are
8 just unbelievably valuable and we need more of
9 them. Why you have to coach -- I mean here's
10 your black. Well, the CO2 coming out of the
11 stack is the same CO2 coming out of the peat
12 moss that's rotting over here.

13 So we've got black carbon and blue
14 carbon. I mean it seems like, almost like a
15 propaganda film, you know, in a lot of ways.
16 I mean I don't think it's necessary. But if
17 somehow that sells it to the other half of
18 Congress, I guess it's a good idea, because
19 there's nothing bad about more wetlands. I
20 mean absolutely.

21 MS. MORRIS: Right. So does it
22 seem bad if the Army Corps adds to their

1 columns and their analysis of carbon
2 sequestration and that ends up protecting
3 wetlands? Is that such a bad outcome?

4 MR. CLAMPITT: No, no, no. But I
5 guess my objection in the long run, and the
6 overarching thing is only that I don't like
7 the idea of being charged for CO2.

8 MS. MORRIS: Charged?

9 MR. CLAMPITT: Yes. You know, the
10 whole idea that, you know, the EPA is having
11 an endangerment finding that CO2 is -- and
12 then of course that will end up costing me.
13 My electricity's going to go up. I mean I
14 don't like that idea.

15 MS. MORRIS: But you don't have
16 trouble with the idea that helping to protect
17 coastal wetlands --

18 MR. CLAMPITT: No, no, I don't.

19 MS. MORRIS: Okay, because that's
20 what we're talking about here.

21 MR. PAWLAK: Let's just do --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MR. RAFTICAN: We'll only do it to
2 protect coastal wetlands.

3 MR. CLAMPITT: All right, that's
4 fine. I'll go along with that propaganda.
5 That will be fine.

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 MR. RAFTICAN: It is time to
8 adjourn. One other thing is the Gulf of
9 Mexico, and I was just turning around to give
10 Keith the entire thing on this, since he's the
11 expert on that, and he's gone.

12 MR. GRIFFIS: Can I just do the --
13 Mr. Chairman, the second thing on my, what I
14 was supposed to deliver to you all, I'll do it
15 very quickly. Tomorrow, you're going to talk
16 about the National Ocean Policy strategic
17 action plan. There's one on there, one of
18 those strategic action plans is about
19 strengthening the resiliency and adaptation of
20 coastal and ocean resources, i.e., how do we
21 help make fisheries and ensure fisheries
22 continue into the future, as things begin to

1 change. Fish, protected species, the whole
2 system, whatever.

3 So one, I didn't see that one
4 listed on what you're going to talk about
5 tomorrow. I see this one on EBM, the
6 ecosystem-based management. There's one on --
7 you have several. There are a bunch of SAPs,
8 strategic action plans that will be of
9 interest to you all.

10 But if nothing else, be sure you
11 ask about that one. I want to make sure that
12 that one's on your radar screen because that
13 one addresses this issue of are we ready? Do
14 we have the science? Do we have the
15 observations, and do we have our management
16 house in order, as things start changing,
17 because they're already changing. Resiliency
18 and adaptation of ocean and coasts. I want to
19 make sure that it's one of the SAPs you all
20 look at.

21 Because public comment period is
22 coming. If you all need a virtual brief on it

1 or something like that, I was on the team that
2 put that one together. You should be asking
3 is this what the federal agencies should be
4 doing for resiliency of ocean and coasts in a
5 changing climate.

6 That public comment period is
7 coming up. You'll hear tomorrow, whenever it
8 is. I don't know, it's a month or something
9 like that. So get ready for that one. That's
10 a first step prelude to the one that I want
11 you to look forward to in January, this fish,
12 wildlife and plant adaptation strategy.

13 MS. MORRIS: Yes, we talked about
14 that.

15 MR. GRIFFIS: That's the big --
16 this first one is oceans and coasts. It's
17 just a federal strategy, and I'm not trying to
18 demean it, but it's only federal in contrast
19 to the other one coming in January, which is
20 federal, state, tribal. It will have a bigger
21 scope and a longer time frame.

22 So stepping stones and your

1 comments on the ocean policy, resiliency and
2 adaptation strategy is a good stepping stone
3 beginning to perhaps what you all might want
4 to say or comment on the one coming in
5 January.

6 MR. RAFTICAN: Okay. We'll
7 probably get that keyed up for us.

8 MR. GRIFFIS: Okay.

9 MR. PAWLAK: On wetlands loss,
10 ocean policy recommendations -- Mark, and your
11 thought came under these too, I guess.

12 MR. RAFTICAN: All right. With
13 blue carbon, let's make sure we're all still
14 on the same page. I had three suggestions.
15 One, we look at the value of blue carbon
16 sequestration or that you look at the value of
17 blue carbon.

18 Ask in a report to include -- look
19 at including a measure of carbon sequestration
20 and then incorporate blue carbon in the
21 Blueprint.

22 MR. PAWLAK: As a potential policy

1 approach?

2 MR. RAFTICAN: Or as a potential
3 value. I wouldn't say policy approach.

4 MS. MORRIS: Just that it
5 supports. Just that it supports what you're
6 trying to do with habitat.

7 MR. RAFTICAN: It supports what
8 you're trying to do.

9 MS. MORRIS: Particularly for
10 managed species that rely on coastal wetlands.

11 MR. CLAMPITT: So are you going to
12 give a presentation tomorrow on the resiliency
13 of species and ecosystems in the face of
14 changing climate?

15 MR. GRIFFIS: You know, I had that
16 one queued up for today, but they took me off
17 the -- yes.

18 MR. CLAMPITT: Because, you know,
19 I'm not too clear on that.

20 MR. GRIFFIS: So, you know, I'd
21 love to at some point. It doesn't seem --

22 MR. CLAMPITT: Or maybe we --

1 MR. GRIFFIS: -- already booked
2 tomorrow.

3 MR. CLAMPITT: -- some material
4 that I can read.

5 MR. GRIFFIS: So the presentation
6 is online.

7 MR. CLAMPITT: Okay, on MAFAC?

8 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes. Not the
9 internal one, the public one on the agenda.

10 MR. GRIFFIS: So the presentation
11 I was going to give.

12 MR. CLAMPITT: Is on the agenda.

13 MR. GRIFFIS: Yes. If you have
14 any questions or anything, just give me a
15 buzz. I'm happy to -- and I don't know when
16 your next meeting is, though. It seemed to me
17 --

18 MS. MORRIS: We don't either.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MR. RAFTICAN: We're good with
21 that with blue carbon. Roger, go get your
22 kid.

1 MR. GRIFFIS: Thank you.

2 MR. RAFTICAN: Thank you.

3 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.

4 MR. RAFTICAN: Keith, do you have
5 anything to follow up on Gulf Coast Ecosystem
6 Restoration Task Force recommendations?

7 MR. RIZZARDI: Do I have it? No,
8 I was hoping that NOAA staff had something for
9 us.

10 MR. PAWLAK: I haven't been --

11 MR. STOLL: We followed up with
12 the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task
13 Force, and they received the comments, and
14 that's as far as they have gone. You know,
15 there was -- there's a Gulf Coast Ecosystem
16 Restoration Task Force preliminary findings
17 document that's been published on the
18 Restoration Task Force website, and that's
19 where things are right now.

20 MR. RIZZARDI: One of the things
21 that I've asked Mark to work up the chain was
22 to what extent could MAFAC play a greater

1 role? Can we make any appearances? Was there
2 anything else we could do in here, being
3 followed up before the Biloxi meeting? Could
4 I go -- so there's a little bit of frustration
5 on my part about NOAA -- or MAFAC playing a
6 role.

7 As far as I know, all that
8 happened is a letter was mailed off with the
9 comments from MAFAC attached, end of story.

10 MR. RAFTICAN: Okay. Let's check
11 with Mark. We've actually got another meeting
12 coming up. This is unusual for them to meet
13 twice, but on Wednesday, I think, we get
14 together Wednesday right 12:15, 12:30 -- 1:30
15 to 2:45, with Protected Resources.

16 So we'll follow up with that at
17 that point. I'll check with Mark in between
18 to see if there's something else we can come
19 up with. But I think we're good with that.
20 So we've just got these two sets of
21 recommendations. We're all set with that.
22 Josh, can you help me put this down, get it

1 together and get it on paper, and I'll get it
2 back to everybody, so that -- or you'll get it
3 back to everybody.

4 I'll get it back -- at least Josh
5 is probably going to get it back to everybody.

6 But we'll get it back, we'll take a look at
7 it and I want to make sure everybody's
8 comfortable with what we get down on paper.

9 One other thing --

10 MR. RIZZARDI: One follow-up on
11 the Gulf Coast thing.

12 MR. RAFTICAN: Yes.

13 MR. RIZZARDI: There is, if we
14 want, an opportunity for us -- there is an
15 opportunity for us to comment on the Gulf
16 Coast document. The Restoration Task Force
17 has now come out with their document, which is
18 being circulated right now for public review
19 and feedback.

20 So if we wanted to spend any time
21 looking at that document, providing comments
22 on that, we could do that. It's -- we played

1 a role in Step 1 of the process. Now here's
2 the next step of the process. They heard us,
3 supposedly. They developed whatever they
4 developed, and now we can look at it and say
5 hey, you know, we told you these things.
6 Where are they reflected in this document?

7 Or, oh, we really like the changes
8 that you made. Thank you, you know. We can
9 take whatever position we want. The point is
10 we've got to look at it again and go through
11 that process.

12 MR. RAFTICAN: Where's that
13 document?

14 MR. RIZZARDI: It's come out.
15 It's online.

16 MR. STOLL: I can send it to you.
17 I'll send it to this group.

18 MR. RAFTICAN: One final note
19 before we adjourn. Comments will be due
20 tomorrow. If we're going to make comments,
21 they're due tomorrow.

22 MR. RIZZARDI: Okay.

1 MR. RAFTICAN: Does anyone want to
2 take that on? Keith.

3 MR. RIZZARDI: Of course.

4 MR. RAFTICAN: Write a comment
5 draft by tomorrow. Run comments by us
6 tomorrow morning, and can we look at that --
7 is it close of business tomorrow?

8 MR. RIZZARDI: Yes, midnight
9 tomorrow.

10 MR. RAFTICAN: Oh. Well, we'll
11 just throw that on in this hour and 15 minute
12 meeting we'll have tomorrow along with
13 Protected Resources. But if you can put
14 something together, let's examine it then.
15 All right. Everybody good with that?

16 MR. RIZZARDI: Yes.

17 MR. RAFTICAN: One more thing.
18 This is my last MAFAC meeting, so you're going
19 to need a new chairperson. You've got a
20 couple of folks that would be really good.
21 Julie, you would fit in really -- not that any
22 of you wouldn't, but -- our leader is key. I

1 don't know. But if anybody's interested, why
2 don't you see me afterwards. I don't have --
3 I'd be happy to put in a recommendation.
4 Paul, you can -- no, okay.

5 MR. CLAMPITT: No. I don't have
6 the wordsmithing ability that these two have.

7 MR. RAFTICAN: Well, the other
8 thing is, and I apologize. I have been --
9 running a for-profit business right now, as
10 any fishermen know, is very difficult in these
11 times. Running a non-profit business in times
12 right now can even be more difficult. I've
13 had a really tough year, and actually if I'm
14 going off MAFAC, this is a really good time to
15 do it. I've got work at home to take care of.

16 So some of you have done an
17 incredible amount -- everybody has done
18 homework, and I thank you for that. Thanks
19 for the support on the committee. Some have
20 done extraordinary amounts of homework.
21 Really and truly thanks for that.

22 MR. CLAMPITT: I'm going to miss

1 you, believe it or not.

2 MR. RAFTICAN: I'm not leaving
3 quite yet.

4 MR. STOLL: We've got dinner
5 tonight.

6 MR. WALLACE: Well, he'll be here
7 for a couple more days.

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 MR. WALLACE: You've got until
10 Thursday.

11 MR. STOLL: You might be sick of
12 him by Thursday.

13 MR. RAFTICAN: Helen and Brian,
14 thank you.

15 (Whereupon, at 5:30 p.m., the
16 committee meeting was adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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Place: Washington, DC

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