# Annotated Agenda
# MAFAC Meeting – October 25-October 27, 2011
# Washington, DC

1**. Title of Discussion:** Climate Adaptation Update: National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy and Blue Carbon Initiatives

**2. Discussion Leader/Presenter:** Roger Griffis, Climate Change Coordinator, NOAA Fisheries Service

**3. Objective/Purpose**: To provide information on two related topics:

a. To assist MAFAC in preparing for review and comment on the draft National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy (Strategy) during the upcoming public comment period (Jan 2012). The draft Strategy aim is to increase resiliency and adaptation of the nation's valuable fish, wildlife, plants in a changing climate.
b. Provide information on "coastal blue carbon" initiatives designed to increase incentives for conservation of coastal habitats by increasing consideration and valuation of their carbon services (carbon sequestration and storage) along with other habitat services.

**4. Background/Synopsis**:

**National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy:**

- The National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy is being developed by an intergovernmental Steering Committee (Federal, State, Tribal governments) to provide a blueprint for coordinated government and nongovernmental efforts to safeguard the nation's valuable natural resources and the communities that depend on them in a changing climate.
- The Steering Committee is co-led by NOAA, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of New York.
- The Strategy was called for by the US Congress and the Administration's Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force. It will be one of the first nation-wide climate adaptation strategies.
- The draft Strategy will be available for public review in January 2012 (this is key time for MAFAC input). Target date for final strategy is June 2012.
- The Strategy specifically addresses issues and needs to build resiliency and adaptation of coastal and marine species, habitats and ecosystems.
- The Strategy is built around 7 goals and provides strategies and actions necessary to make progress towards these goals over the next 5 years.
- A fact sheet and more information is available at **http://www.wildlifeadaptationstrategy.gov/**

Coastal Blue Carbon:

- There is increasing interest in the role carbon services of coastal habitats can play in providing incentives for coastal habitat conservation in the U.S. and internationally.
- Coastal habitats such as coastal wetlands, mangrove forests and seagrass beds actively sequester and store plant material and other carbon materials in their surrounding sediments.
- The rate of carbon sequestration and storage can be relatively high compared to other more well studied habitats (e.g., tropical rain forests), and large stores of carbon beneath coastal habitats are easily released into the atmosphere when these habitats are degraded or destroyed.
- There is growing interest in developing protocols for valuing these carbon services of coastal habitats as has been done for forests as a way of incentivizing the conservation of coastal habitats for their carbon and other services.
- Efforts are underway to fill key gaps in understanding of coastal habitat carbon services and develop protocols that would allow governments and carbon markets (voluntary and other) to

better consider and value these carbon services in decision making.
- NOAA Fisheries Service is leading the effort within NOAA to assess blue carbon efforts and possible NOAA roles.
- For additional information see **http://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/oceans/bluecarbon/publications**

**5. Options listed from 1 to n**:

1. Consider if and how to provide input on the draft National Fish Wildlife and Plant Climate Adaptation Strategy.
2. Consider if additional information is desired on NOAA's blue carbon efforts.

**6. Preferred Recommendation**:

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Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: