

# **SUMMARY MEETING REPORT**

# MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE Washington, DC · October 25-27, 2011

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC or 'the Committee') met October 25-27, 2011, at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in Washington, DC. Heather McCarty, Chair, presided at this second in-person meeting in calendar year 2011.

This meeting covered three days of work, covering a range of topic areas related to coastal and living marine resources. On Day 1 MAFAC received status updates from NMFS' Offices of Communications and Law Enforcement as well as the regulatory, science, and budget outlook for NMFS in 2012. The Committee also received informational briefings on the Habitat Blueprint and blue carbon. The remainder of Day 1 was devoted to subcommittee meetings in which the Ecosystem, Strategic Planning, Budget & Program Management, Commerce, and Protected Resources subcommittees all met.

On Day 2 MAFAC received briefings on the status of the National Ocean Policy and the draft NOAA Caribbean Strategy. The Committee also received briefings on the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre and NOAA/DOC aquaculture policies. The latter two briefings were requested by MAFAC at their spring meeting in Key West, Florida in May 2011. Subcommittees met throughout the afternoon to further consider the information presented and to develop recommendations and actions.

On Day 3 Subcommittee reports were presented to the full Committee for consideration and discussion. The Committee also elected Keith Rizzardi and Martin Fisher as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, and acknowledged the service of five outgoing members. The meeting was open to the public in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, and a public comment period was offered.

The following is a synopsis of the Committee's discussions and actions and is organized in four major parts:

- A. Identification of all meeting participants;
- B. MAFAC's Findings and Recommendations;
- C. Meeting Summary; and
- D. Meeting Agenda

Numbers in parentheses below correspond to page numbers of the daily transcript, available online at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/meetings/2011 10/index.htm.

#### A. MEETING PARTICIPANTS

#### Committee members present:

Mark Holliday, Executive Director Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries and ex officio member Heather McCarty, Committee Chair Terry Alexander Randy Cates Anthony Chatwin Paul Clampitt
Bill Dewey
Patricia Doerr
Phillip Dyskow
Edwin Ebisui
Martin Fisher

Randy Fisher (ex officio member)

Ken Franke Steve Joner Julie Morris George Nardi Vince O'Shea (*ex officio* member) Tom Raftican Keith Rizzardi Henry Sesepasara David Wallace

# Staff of DOC, NOAA, and the National Marine Fisheries Service, including those providing presentations to MAFAC:

Peg Brady, NOAA Oceans Strategic Planning Lead, NMFS

Laurel Bryant, Chief of External Affairs, Office of Communications, NMFS

Bruce Buckson, Director, Office of Law Enforcement, NMFS

Susan Bunsick, Senior Policy Specialist, NOAA Aquaculture Program

Forbes Darby, Communication Specialist for Recreational Fisheries, NMFS

Russell Dunn, National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries, NMFS

Judy Gan, Director, Office of Communications, NMFS

Roger Griffis, Climate Change Coordinator, NMFS

Lorenzo Juarez, Deputy Manager, NOAA Aquaculture Program

Kirsten Larsen, Fishery Biologist, Office of Science & Technology, NMFS

Jim McCallum, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy, NMFS

Elizabeth McLanahan, Deputy Director, NOAA Office of International Affairs

Helen McMillan, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, Office of Habitat Conservation, NMFS

Monica Medina, Principle Deputy Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA

Richard Merrick, Chief Science Advisor, NMFS

Kate Naughten, Outreach Coordinator, Office of Communications, NMFS

Brian Pawlak, Acting Director, Office of Habitat Conservation

Gary Reisner, CFO and Director, Office of Management & Budget, NMFS

Michael Rubino, Director, Office of Aquaculture

Heather Sagar, Senior Policy Advisor, NMFS

Kris Sarri, Policy Advisor, DOC

Jonathan Shannon, Outreach Specialist, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS

Angela Somma, Chief, Endangered Species Division, NMFS

David Stein, Geographer, Coastal Services Center, NOAA (conference call only)

Joshua Stoll, Knauss Sea Grant Fellow, Office of Policy, NMFS

#### Others in the audience for all or a portion of the meeting were:

Patrick Campfield, Atlantic States Fish Commission

Zack Corrigan, Food & Water Watch

Jim Crun, Volusia Co., FL

Jennie Dean, Pew Environmental Group

Nick Falvo, Akerman Senterfitt

Christian Hoehner, Volusia Co., FL

Shaunna McCavey, Ocean Conservancy

Chris Scheve, Aquaterra Strategies

Alexandra Stewart, Ocean Conservancy

Chris Stock, Zeijbor Brothers Inc.

John Williamson, Ocean Conservancy

Beckie Zisser, Oceana

#### **B. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Each of the following subcommittee reports and recommendations were approved by MAFAC on Day 3 of the meeting, on October 27, 2011.

# 1. Ecosystem Recommendations (Transcript Day 3, p. 20)

Tom Raftican, Ecosystems Subcommittee Chair

The Ecosystem Subcommittee met twice in two days. The subcommittee focused its discussion on the NOAA Habitat Blueprint, blue carbon, and the draft NOAA Caribbean Strategy. The subcommittee also discussed the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Task Force's preliminary recovery strategy. This was as a follow up to the May MAFAC meeting in which members were briefed on the status of the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. During their discussion the subcommittee drafted a letter to the Task Force, which was subsequently approved by the full Committee (see below) and then submitted to the Task Force as a public comment. The letter is available on the MAFAC website. (http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/reports/docs/mafac comments oct 2011.pdf)

Based on the subcommittee's discussion, MAFAC approved three sets of recommendations:

#### **Habitat Blueprint Recommendations**

MAFAC recommends that the agency consider the following selection criteria when choosing geographic priority areas:

- 1. Initial projects should have a high likelihood of success. By demonstrating the value of habitat conservation the agency will garner long-term support for the Blueprint;
- 2. Projects should build off and/or complement existing programs (e.g., National Estuary Program), leveraging pre-existing social and political networks;
- 3. Projects should consider the transferability of components (e.g., lessons learned, technology, science), increasing their relevance to future projects:
- 4. Projects should coincide with species and/or suites of species that will benefit directly (rather than indirectly) from habitat improvements:
- 5. Some of the projects should account for species that occupy multiple habitat types over the course of their life cycle.

#### The agency should also:

- 1. Recognize the need to collaborate/coordinate with states in order to successfully manage and improve coastal and marine habitat;
- 2. More clearly define the scale(s) at which the geographic priority areas will be established;
- 3. More fully understand how existing marine spatial management overlays with priority species;
- 4. More clearly articulate the value of habitat restoration to coastal communities.

#### **Blue Carbon Recommendations**

MAFAC recommends that the agency:

- 1. Continue to look into the role that Blue Carbon and Blue Carbon markets can play in protecting habitat:
- 2. Incorporate Blue Carbon into the Habitat Blueprint when and where appropriate:
- 3. Encourage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to include ecosystem services (including carbon sequestration) into their standard cost benefit analysis:

4. Provides science to quantify the value of ecosystem services to facilitate the development of markets for their trading.

# **Caribbean Strategy Recommendations**

MAFAC's support for a coordinated Caribbean Strategy is contingent upon no new resources being required to implement the strategy. Therefore, the problem statement as to why NOAA is proposing this strategy needs to be sharpened to be clear that NOAA will be leveraging and coordinating existing resources and not creating a new program that requires new funding and capacity. The goal should be to realize cost savings within NOAA's current Caribbean activities that can be re-invested in the regional Caribbean Strategy. As such, MAFAC recommends:

#### Goal 1

Objective 2: If progress is to be made in 0-2 years, priority watersheds should be identified in this document.

Objective 3: If progress is to be made in 0-2 years, this document should list the species in need of recovery and their Caribbean habitats.

Objective 4: If progress is to be made in 0-2 years, species selected for genetic studies and hydrodynamic modeling should be identified in this document.

#### Goal 2

No comments from the committee at this time.

#### Goal 3

<u>Objective 3</u>: Need a stronger emphasis on documenting the social dimensions of community resilience.

Other ideas that should be included within the strategy:

- 1. A better understanding of Caribbean Sea circulation and currents and their importance to living resources in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic;
- 2. A list of Caribbean countries should be included in the document—the map is insufficient to determine which islands and countries are included in the strategy;
- 3. The Caribbean strategy should include collaboration with Cuba.

# <u>2. Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management Subcommittee Recommendations</u> (*Transcript Day 3, p. 39*)

Heather McCarty, Subcommittee Chair

The Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management Subcommittee met twice during the meeting to discuss budget prioritization and the status of the National Ocean Policy (NOP).

During the first meeting, the subcommittee met to discuss ways that MAFAC may be able to offer useful input on prioritizing the agency's budget. The subcommittee tested and discussed two matrices for the determination of budget priorities. The first matrix is a tool that determines program priorities at a high level. After testing the tool, the subcommittee recommends that MAFAC members go through this exercise and that the results should be tabulated and made available to NOAA Leadership as a group recommendation on the budget. The recommendation will identify the core programs that MAFAC members believe form the basic functions and mission of NMFS.

The second tool was a matrix that is useful for determining the relative importance to the stakeholder of functions and programs on a much more detailed level. The subcommittee recommends that MAFAC members undertake this prioritization on a webinar, with staff available to explain and expand

on the line items. The budget information should be made available to the participants prior to the webinar.

#### **Budget Recommendations**

- As budgets are reduced, MAFAC recommends that NMFS prioritizes and maintains adequate funding for the core programs that are required to efficiently assess, manage and sustain fisheries.
- 2. MAFAC recommends that NOAA fully explore options to encourage private investment (in-kind and cash) in conservation, resource assessment and management and research. Options should include but not be limited to:
  - Payments for ecosystem services;
  - Resource assessments to enhance stock assessments;
  - Increased use of commercial vessels for stock assessments;
  - In-lieu fee wetland/estuary restoration;
  - Increased reliance on private monitoring and data.

#### **National Ocean Policy Recommendations**

Based on the informational briefing the committee received, MAFAC recommends that:

- 1. NOAA/NMFS champions the interests of fishermen, aquaculture, and living marine resources throughout the implementation of the NOP process.
- 2. Individual members and entities provide comment letters to the leadership on the elements of the NOP.
- 3. Plans be made to convene the Committee by teleconference to develop comments on the NOP Strategic Action Plan documents during a forthcoming public comment period.

### 3. Protected Resources Recommendations (Transcript Day 3, p. 165)

Keith Rizzardi, Acting Subcommittee Chair

The subcommittee met with Angie Somma, Chief of the Endangered Species Division of Protected Resources, during their meeting. The majority of the discussion focused on a proposed critical habitat designation for monk seals on the main Hawaiian Islands.

#### **Critical Habitat Recommendations**

Based on the informational briefing the committee received, MAFAC recommends that:

NOAA carefully evaluates the science supporting the proposed designation of critical habitat
for the Hawaiian monk seal, the potential economic harms of the designation, and whether or
not some of the currently proposed areas do not meet the criteria for critical habitat, or
otherwise could be excluded from the critical habitat designation.

#### 4. Commerce Subcommittee Recommendations on Aquaculture Implementation

(Transcript Day 3, p. 207)
Bill Dewey on behalf of Steve Joner, Subcommittee Chair

MAFAC was asked to provide comments on the National Sea Grant Office's FY12 aquaculture grant program. Based on this request, MAFAC advises NOAA to encourage Sea Grant to prioritize projects that support the new aquaculture policies' Technology Transfer and Shellfish initiatives. Some particular priorities that would facilitate implementing these initiatives include:

- 1. Continuing research on the environmental effects of aquaculture to inform policy and permit conditions;
- 2. Smart designs for aquaculture technology for extensive and land-based re-circulating technology;
- 3. Research to identify areas appropriate for aquaculture siting which minimizes user conflicts and maximizes appropriate biological and physical parameters. CMSP is one potential tool;
- 4. Self-sustaining for-profit demonstration/training projects in various regions which can also serve as research centers and economic stimulators;
- 5. Social science research including, but not limited to, public perception of aquaculture, the effects of domestic aquaculture have on market price and the impacts of floating structure aquaculture on adjacent upland property values.

MAFAC also received a briefing on the status of the NOAA and DOC aquaculture policies from Michael Rubino and Kris Sarri. Following this presentation, for which MAFAC expresses its appreciation, and subsequent discussion with subcommittee, MAFAC found that NOAA lacks a routine national stakeholder process for soliciting research priorities for aquaculture. Based on this finding, MAFAC recommends that:

 NOAA and their appropriate granting entities consult MAFAC as a representative stakeholder advisory committee for research priorities prior to releasing aquaculture research proposal solicitations.

# <u>5. Recreational Fishing Subcommittee Recommendations</u> (*Transcript Day 3, p.263*) Ken Franke, Subcommittee Chair

MAFAC extends its appreciation to NOAA Fisheries staff in moving the recreational fishing strategic planning effort forward.

Based on previous recommendations from MAFAC the agency has successfully engaged constituency groups on a national level. NOAA has designated regional recreational fishing coordinators, and it has moved forward with developing regional action plans.

During MAFAC's Recreational Fishing Subcommittee meeting, Russell Dunn and Forbes Darby provided a high level view of the initiatives that NOAA Fisheries undertook this past year as well as the work in progress. Present by webinar were the members of the Recreational Fishing Working Group who have been engaged to help advise the subcommittee.

Noteworthy in their presentation was the summary status of the MRIP program. NOAA has already started using some of the data in the MRIP program, rigorously testing the pilot programs by: (1) verifying records (2) determining best sampling "mode", and (3) using angler logbooks or diaries for quality data.

There was also an informational briefing on the Regional Actions Plans. Each region worked with their constituency groups to develop these draft plans. The plans have a number of common themes, including:

- Improving Recreational Fishing Opportunities;
- Improved Recreational Catch, Effort, and Stock Status Data;
- Improved Recreational Socio-economic Data;
- Improved Communication;
- Institutional Orientation.

The emphasis in the Regional Action Plans was placed on region specific initiatives that were actionable, measurable, and which have a reasonable expectation of success.

Examples from the Regional Plans are as follows:

- 1. Alaska Conduct Alaska saltwater sportfishing economic survey;
- 2. Atlantic HMS Improve timeliness of estimated landings from Large Pelagic Survey which will improve the availability of information for fishery management;
- 3. Northeast Region Move forward with dam removal and fish passage projects;
- 4. Northwest Region Implement hatchery reform at programs funded through the Mitchell Act;
- 5. Pacific Islands Reduce post-release mortality of recreationally caught fish;
- 6. Southeast Region Create a fishery dependent survey in the U.S. South Atlantic to index the abundance of red snapper and other reef fishes;
- 7. Southwest Region Research and test sea lion depredation methods.

It was noted that in most cases dates of completion were identified.

At the conclusion of the briefing there was open discussion on future actions. It was clear that a tremendous amount of effort had been put forth by the Regional Coordinators in the development of the plans. While the themes were nationally consistent, the actionable items were specific to the region.

As an ancillary comment, the subcommittee reviewed the Vision 2020 document prior to this meeting. One of the actionable items for the group was to communicate with the working group and incorporate the aforementioned themes into a future revision of the Vision 2020 document. This work will proceed and will result in recommendations at the next meeting of MAFAC.

During the course of the subcommittee meeting there were two important factors brought forth. Recognizing the NOAA Recreational Staff were now implementing strategic planning processes, there was concern that in order for these initiatives to be successful they needed fiscal security and Regional Fishery Management Council support. It was commented repeatedly from the various regional working group representatives that they were concerned at the minimal representation or actual loss of representation at the Regional Fishery Management Council level. This was discussed in a previous MAFAC meeting and resulted in a previous recommendation that there be equitable representation for all parties at the Regional Fishery Management Councils.

#### **Recreational Fishing Subcommittee Recommendations**

MAFAC has two recommendations to bring forward for consideration:

1. MAFAC requests there be equitable representation of all recreational, commercial, and other interests on the Regional Fishery Management Councils;

2. MAFAC recommends that NOAA incorporates in the budget process consideration of recreational fishing initiatives.

### **Briefing Requests**

MAFAC requested one briefing for the upcoming meeting in the spring of 2012:

· MAFAC requests a briefing on the Saltonstall-Kennedy fund;

### **Next Meetings**

MAFAC recommends that the dates of the 2012 meetings are as follows:

- Spring May 22-24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (Seattle, WA)
   Fall October 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (Washington, DC in conjunction with the Managing Fisheries III)

#### C. MEETING SUMMARY

#### Tuesday, October 25, 2011

8:45 am Meeting Convened

#### 1. Introductions and Opening Remarks (Transcript, Day 1, p.4)

Heather McCarty welcomed the Committee and invited speakers. Monica Medina followed, providing opening remarks that focused on the challenges and opportunities the agency faces as it deals with a declining budget. Following her remarks, she answered questions from the committee about CMSP, critical habitat designation, and electronic/real-time monitoring.

#### 2. Introduction to the new Communications Office (Transcript, Day 1, p.13)

Judy Gan, Director of the Office of Communications, provided a brief description of the newly established office and its communication strategy. The office was created by Eric Schwaab earlier this year to align, strengthen, and coordinate NMFS' communications efforts. The Office is taking a two-pronged approach. Its first objective is to inform, engage, and inspire NMFS's 4,000-person workforce. The second major objective of the office is to generate public awareness, stewardship, and support for the agency's priorities from a centralized perspective. Several examples of the key messages that the office is working on include the agency's "Turning the Corner" campaign, efforts to end overfishing and rebuild stocks, and ensuring a sustainable supply of seafood for the nation.

Ms. Gan concluded her presentation asking MAFAC for support on three fronts. First, she indicated that MAFAC could help the office by testing messages and see how they will resonate with the public. Secondly, the committee can help the Office by identifying success stories that show the human dimension of fisheries management that illustrate both successes and challenges. Lastly, Ms. Gan suggested that MAFAC could serve as an advisory group for Fish Watch, providing the office with realistic input and feedback on the usefulness of the platform to people in the industry and in the environmental sectors.

#### 3. 2012 Regulatory & Science Programs Situation and Outlook (Transcript, Day 1, p.126)

Dr. Richard Merrick, Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor, provided an informational briefing on the major challenges, proposed strategies, and desired outcomes of NMFS' regulatory and science program areas for FY2012.

In his presentation, Dr. Merrick outlined the four themes that the agency will need to address in the next five to ten years:

- (1) Work towards ecosystem-based approaches to management Science Centers are preparing to increase the frequency and quality of stock assessments. When possible, the science centers will shift from 5-year survey cycles to 1 or 2-year cycles, gradually shifting from a single species to ecosystem-based approach.
- (2) Improving climate change science Science Centers will be increasing their focus on climate change science in order to provide management advice on climate change to the regional offices and other parts of the government.
- (3) Improving the quality of surveys and assessments Science Centers will work to improve the reliability and precision of stock assessments.
- (4) Advancing technologies Science Centers need to focus on advancements in technology that increase their ability to collect, process, and evaluate data in a more timely fashion.

Following the presentation, Dr. Merrick fielded questions from the Committee about monk seal conservation efforts in the Hawaiian Islands, electronic monitoring, and ecosystem-based management. Monk seals where a topic that came up multiple times during the meeting because NMFS is proposing an expansion to their critical habitat designation and it has been a controversial issue in the region.

### **4. Office of Law Enforcement Update** (*Transcript, Day 1, p.165*)

Bruce Buckson introduced himself as the new Director of Law Enforcement and then provided a brief presentation on the status of the Law Enforcement Office. Mr. Buckson recently joined NMFS after retiring with 29 years of experience from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. In this presentation, he laid out his philosophy of conservation law enforcement. One of the messages that he said he is sharing internally and externally is that conservation law enforcement is somewhat different than regular enforcement. In the case of conservation law enforcement, a major part on the work is interacting with stakeholders to be able to gain compliance, rather than taking enforcement actions.

#### **5. Budget Update** (*Transcript*, *Day 1*, *p.186*)

Gary Reisner, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, provided a budget briefing on the: (1) FY 2011 Accomplishments; (2) FY2012 Congressional Action; (4) FY 2013 Outlook; and (5) Planning for a flat or declining federal budget.

In the presentation, Mr. Reisner briefly touched upon NOAA Fisheries accomplishments in 2011. He identified the following: (1) Steady progress toward rebuilding our nation's fisheries; (2) Opened all federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico that were closed to fishing due to the oil spill; (3) Stimulated the economy and restored habitat through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Habitat Restoration Projects; (3) Implemented a number of Catch Share programs; (4) Created the first Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) for the California Current; (4) Took action to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources; (5) Reported lower levels of bycatch; (6) Weak Hooks Technology was used to protect non-target tuna and whales; (7) Implemented improved recreational catch estimates; and (8) Completed roll-out of final NOAA National Aquaculture Policy.

Mr. Reisner reported that the FY 2012 President's Budget provides \$1,001.1 M for NMFS, a \$7.1 M (0.7%) decrease from the FY 2010 Enacted. NOAA is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through November 18. The CR is set at FY 2011 levels minus 1.503%. The FY 2012 House Mark provides \$801.3 M for NMFS, a \$166.2 M (17%) decrease from the FY 2011 spend plan. The FY 2012 Senate Mark provides \$897.1 M for NMFS, a \$70.4 M (7%) decrease from the FY 2011 spend plan.

Mr. Reisner also provided a short summary of target and performance measures for the agency. This included such things as the target for the Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) for FY2012, social and economic catch share measures, and acres of habitat conservation.

#### **6. Healthy Oceans Goal** (*Transcript, Day 1, p.199*)

Peg Brady, NOAA Oceans Strategic Planning Lead, provided MAFAC with an overview of the Healthy Oceans Goal. Ms. Brady explained that the Healthy Oceans Goal is one of four strategic goals, which represents NOAA's long-term core mission and functions. NOAA's strategy would be incomplete without detailing the enterprise-wide capabilities required to achieve the environmental, social, and economic outcomes targeted by the strategic goals. NOAA's enterprises comprise three groups:

1) Foundational science and technology functions that generate research and development, models, and environmental observations; 2) Distinct functions for engaging partners and customers; and 3) Underlying administration and management functions that support all NOAA work.

# 7. NMFS Habitat Blueprint (Transcript, Day 1, p.211)

Brian Pawlak, Acting Director of the Office of Habitat Conservation, provided a presentation on the new NMFS' Habitat Blueprint. Habitat loss and degradation is increasingly recognized as a challenge to sustaining living and natural marine resources and it is an issue that NOAA is addressing head-on as the agency turns the corner, moving beyond overfishing. NOAA is taking a new approach to developing and implementing habitat-based solutions to support healthy and productive ecosystems. The approach is laid out in a draft framework, the 'Habitat Blueprint,' and focuses on collaboration, prioritizing activities, and understanding, protecting, and restoring habitat for the benefit of our living marine resources and communities.

During Mr. Pawlak's presentation, he laid out the four broad approaches of the Habitat Blueprint that will address habitat loss and degradation: (1) Implement regional habitat initiatives as immediate opportunities to test habitat-based solutions; (2) Establish geographic priorities to focus long-term habitat science and conservation efforts; (3) Implement a systematic and strategic approach to habitat science for effective decision-making; and (4) Strengthen policy and legislation at the national level to enhance our ability to affect meaningful change.

Mr. Pawlak report that NMFS is most interested in gaining MAFAC's input on the second and fourth approaches (establishing geographic priorities and strengthening policy and legislation). The regional initiatives are already underway. These initiatives are designed to preserve or improve the habitat condition within a defined geographic area and on a scale greater than an individual restoration project. Each includes a science component through integration of information, modeling, decision support, and/or monitoring. At the September Leadership Council meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, each region presented their habitat initiatives.

Following the presentation, the Committee asked questions and provided comments on the presentation. These comments led to a discussion about the Endangered Species Act and whether or not NMFS will be able to set priorities under the new Habitat Blueprint given the rigidity of ESA.

### 8. Blue Carbon Initiatives (Transcript, Day 1, p.264)

Roger Griffis, Climate Change Coordinator for NMFS, provided a short informational briefing on blue carbon. The purpose of his presentation was to introduce the Committee to "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. In the presentation, Mr. Griffis described the carbon cycle, emphasizing the role that salt marshes, sea grasses, and mangroves play in carbon sequestration. He said there is increasing interest in blue carbon and that companies and organizations around the world are starting to buy carbon storage as a way to mitigate the effects of climate change. Mr. Griffis then discussed NMFS' role in coastal blue carbon. He said that while NMFS is not in the business of carbon markets, it is committed to enhancing conservation of coastal habitat, and that blue carbon may be a mechanism by which the agency can consider carbon services in its regulatory role and planning processes.

Following the presentation, Mr. Griffis fielded questions from the Committee about climate change science and carbon sequestration. Mr. Griffis also noted that he had a presentation on climate adaptation, but that he would present the material to the Ecosystem Subcommittee rather than to the entire committee.

At 3:30 pm the meeting was adjourned to subcommittee sessions.

Please see the respective subcommittee reports for details about the subcommittee meetings:

- 1. Ecosystem Recommendations (Summary p. 3, Transcript Day 3, p. 20)
- 2. Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management Subcommittee Recommendations (Summary p. 4, Transcript Day 3, p.39)
- 3. Protected Resources Subcommittee Recommendations (Summary p. 5, Transcript Day 3, p. 165)
- 4. Commerce Subcommittee Recommendations on Aquaculture Implementation (Summary p. 5, Transcript Day 5, p.207)

# Wednesday, October 26, 2011

8:30 am Meeting Convened

# 9. National Ocean Policy Implementation – Priority Objectives (Transcript, Day 2, p. 19)

Jessica Hamilton Keys, NOAA Senior Policy Advisor to the Office of the Under Secretary, gave a presentation on the National Ocean Policy. The purpose of the presentation was to give MAFAC a status update on what has been happening since late May, when MAFAC last met. Ms. Hamilton Keys reported that the nine priority objectives continue to be the focus of the National Ocean Council, and the Coastal Marine Spatial Planning Framework continues to receive most of the attention. In terms of public engagement at this point, the Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) for the nine priority objectives is where there has been the most involvement. The National Ocean Council and the agencies took the comments from the listening sessions and from the comments that were submitted online and they used them to flesh out the SAP outlines. During this process, the Council has started to refer to the strategies as the "implementation plan." Currently, the Council is pulling the strategies together to make sure there is not duplication and to make sure they are a cohesive document to really guide implementation of the policy. The goal is to publically release the draft implementation strategy this winter for another round of public comments.

Ms. Hamilton Keys also reported on the status of the Regional Planning Bodies. The planning bodies will be the regional entities that are established to support implementation of the coastal and marine spatial planning framework. Ms. Hamilton Keys noted that it will be important that planning bodies are strong partnerships not only within the federal agencies, but also with the states and the tribes. The relationship between the Regional Planning Bodies and the Fishery Management Councils continues to be a topic of debate. In the National Ocean Policy it states that the planning bodies must consult with the Councils, but NOAA would like the Councils to have a seat on the planning bodies. Currently, the National Ocean Council is working with the Governance Coordinating Committee to develop the guidance and the structure for the planning bodies. The number of federal/state/tribal representatives, which has not yet been determined, should be established in the near future. NOAA has agreed to colead three of the nine regions (Northeast, West Coast, and Pacific).

Following the presentation, the Committee provided comments and asked questions about the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. The Committee voiced strong support for having members of the Fisheries Management Councils represented on the Regional Planning Bodies.

#### **10. Multipurpose Marine Cadastre** (*Transcript, Day 2, p.58*)

David Stein, a geographer from the Coastal Geospatial Services Division in NOS, participating by phone, provided an informational briefing on the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre. Dr. Stein's presentation was requested by MAFAC during the May meeting in Key West, Florida. The Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (MMC) is an integrated marine information system that provides

jurisdictional, legal, physical, ecological, and human use data in a common geographic information system (GIS) framework. The MMC was designed specifically to support renewable energy siting on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf, but is also being used for other ocean-related efforts, including coastal and marine spatial planning. The MMC has three primary focus areas: (1) Web map viewers and decision-support tools; (2) A spatial data registry; and (3) Technical support and regional capacity building. The project is being co-led by NOAA and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. More information can be found at www.marinecadastre.gov.

Following Dr. Stein's presentation, Kirsten Larsen, Fisheries Biologist at NMFS, provided a short briefing on how NMFS is sharing its fisheries data with the public. NMFS has been developing several data portals to provide fishing/fisheries data to the public in a quick, easily accessible and consistent manner. NMFS currently has three portals accessible to the public: 1) FOSS – fisheries landings; 2) FINSS – fisheries independent surveys; and 3) InPort – metadata for all NMFS data collections and projects. Over the next year or two the agency plans to expand FOSS to include additional fishery dependent data including fishing effort with location information.

Following the presentations, several members of the Committee raised concerns about the inadequacy of existing data. One concern was that NMFS doesn't have enough data from the recreational sector. Another concern was that the spatial resolution of commercial fishing data lacks adequate resolution. This second point generated a short discussion about the confidentiality of fisheries data and the challenges that is poses to managing fisheries at a fine scale.

#### **11. Aquaculture Policy Implementation** (*Transcript, Day 2, p.119*)

Kris Sarri, DOC Office of Policy, and Dr. Michael Rubino, Director of the Office of Aquaculture in NMFS, provided a brief status report on the new Aquaculture policies and discussed how NOAA is implementing the National Shellfish Initiative, the Aquaculture Technology Transfer Initiative, and the Gulf of Mexico Aquaculture Fishery Management Plan.

The objective of the National Shellfish Initiative is to increase the production of oysters, clams, and mussels via both commercial and restoration aquaculture. The objective of the Technology Transfer Initiative is to use existing technology to accelerate the creation of jobs in the United States. The purpose of the third initiative is to provide a policy framework for aquaculture regulations in federal waters and to develop regulations for the Fishery Management Plan for Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico.

Following the presentations, the Committee offered comments on the pace at which aquaculture is being developed in the United States. A number of members expressed appreciation for the progress that has been made thus far.

#### **12. NOAA Caribbean Strategy** (*Transcript, Day 2, p.180*)

Dr. Jeff Payne, Deputy Director of the Coastal Services Center, provided a briefing on NOAA's draft Caribbean Strategy. The Strategy is an agency wide strategic approach to coordinate and integrate the abilities of all NOAA staff and line offices to address regional issues and improve mission effectiveness and international cooperation in the Caribbean region. One of the reasons for this strategy is to create efficiencies in NOAA's current and future engagement and leadership in the Caribbean. NOAA has many faces in the Caribbean (i.e., fisheries management, hurricane forecasting, tsunami warning, coastal and marine protected area management, mapping and monitoring of marine ecosystems), yet it is important that NOAA's presence in the region be better integrated and coordinated within NOAA and with our constituents. Promoting a *One-NOAA* approach can help ensure time and resources are utilized to best support NOAA's domestic and international goals. NOAA recognizes that stronger participation of Caribbean countries will extend benefits to both

U.S. and Caribbean interests, but the agency does not have a comprehensive strategy for either addressing the multifaceted issues within the region or interfacing with these countries and organizations. The Strategy will better coordinate NOAA's work to leverage NOAA and partner resources, and enhance leadership and collaboration in the region. Dr. Payne concluded the presentation, asking MAFAC for input on the goals, objectives, and actions outlined in the Strategy. In addition, Dr. Payne asked the committee for ideas about new opportunities for partnerships.

Following the presentation, Dr. Payne and Elizabeth McLanahan answered questions from the Committee. The discussion primarily focused on the need for NOAA to more clearly define the "problem statement" that the Strategy aims to resolve.

#### 13. Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (*Transcript, Day 2, p.228*)

Keith Rizzardi reported that during the Ecosystem Subcommittee meeting, the group discussed the Gulf Restoration Ecosystem Task Force and its *Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy (Preliminary)* report. Following the discussion, MAFAC determined that it would be useful to submit comments on the draft document. Mr. Rizzardi and Julie Morris then presented a draft one-page letter encouraging the Task Force to incorporate MAFAC's original comments into the final report. The letter was discussed and approved by the committee.

At 1:30 pm the meeting was adjourned to subcommittee sessions.

Please see the respective subcommittee reports for details about the subcommittee meetings:

- 1. Ecosystem Recommendations (Summary p. 3, Transcript Day 3, p. 20)
- 2. Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management Subcommittee Recommendations (Summary p. 4, Transcript Day 3, p.39)
- 3. Protected Resources Subcommittee Recommendations (Summary p. 5, Transcript Day 3, p.165)
- 4. Commerce Subcommittee Recommendations on Aquaculture Implementation (Summary p. 5, Transcript Day 3, p.207)

#### Thursday, October 27, 2011

8:34 am Meeting Convened

### **14. Welcoming Remarks** (*Transcript, Day 3, p.1*)

Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator for NMFS, welcomed the Committee, thanking everyone for their time and input. Mr. Schwaab had planned to attend the entire meeting, but had to travel to New England on Tuesday and Wednesday to attend a workshop on lessons learned from the first year of New England groundfish sector management.

#### **Subcommittee Report Outs**

## 15. Ecosystem Report (Transcript, Day 3, p. 20)

Tom Raftican provided an overview of the Subcommittee meeting, which met twice over the course of the meeting. During the meetings, the group identified a series of recommendations for the Habitat Blueprint, blue carbon, and Caribbean Strategy. After Mr. Raftican presented the recommendations, Bill Dewey put forth a motion to add another recommendation relative to blue carbon that says "NOAA provides science to quantify the value of ecosystem services to facilitate the development of markets for their trading." Mr. Raftican seconded the motion. The motion was then voted on by the full Committee and passed with one objection.

The final approved Subcommittees report and recommendations are above in Section B on p. 3 of this Summary Report.

# **16. Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management** (*Transcript Day 3, p.39*)

Heather McCarty, Chair, and Phil Dyskow provided an overview of the Subcommittee meeting. They explained that they were given the opportunity to help prioritize the NMFS budget and test the usefulness of multiple prioritization tools. During the presentation, Eric Schwaab and Mark Holliday were asked to provide more information about what input the agency wanted from MAFAC and then the Committee offered observations about the current budget. Mr. Dyskow then put forth a motion to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation and the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace. After several friendly amendments, the motion was passed. Bill Dewey then put forth a second motion, encouraging the agency to explore options to encourage private investment in resource assessment, management, and research. The motion was seconded by Tony Chatwin and after further discussion it was passed. The Committee also agreed to participate in a future webinar to continue to discuss the budget prioritization process.

The final approved Subcommittees report and recommendations are above in Section B on p. 4 of this Summary Report.

### 17. Protected Resources Report (Transcript Day 3, p. 165)

Keith Rizzardi provided an overview of the Subcommittee meeting. He reported that the group had had a discussion with the Chief of Protected Resources about the proposed expansion of critical habitat for Hawaiian monk seals that was fairly controversial. Several members voiced their concern about the historic relocation of some Hawaiian monk seals to the main Hawaiian Islands. Because the species is listed as an endangered species, NOAA has a duty to designate critical habitat for them and the agency is currently going through that process, evaluating the scope of the proposed critical habitat. The proposed rule would circle the main Hawaiian Islands with an exception for Waikiki Beach and the military. That proposed designation is controversial, and some members of the Committee were concerned about the tension between the need for Endangered Species Act consultations down the road and the effect that would have on anything that has human interactions with the Hawaiian monk seal. Following Mr. Rizzardi's presentation, Randy Cates put forth a motion that encourages NOAA's Protected Resources division to fully explore all management options for restoring species in their native range and habitat before resorting to relocating species outside those areas and designating new critical habitat beyond their historic range. The motion was seconded by Ed Ebisui and then passed after considerable discussion.

#### 18. Commerce Report (Transcript Day 3, p. 207)

Bill Dewey provided an overview of the subcommittee meeting on behalf of Steve Joner, Chair, reading a list of recommendations that the group identified. Mr. Dewey proposed a motion to adopt the recommendations and they were seconded by several members of the Committee and then passed, with one substitute amendment.

The final approved subcommittee report and recommendations are above in Section B on p. 5 of this Summary Report.

#### 19. Recreational Fisheries Report (Transcript Day 3, p. 263)

Ken Franke, Chair, provided an overview of the subcommittee meeting to the full Committee, reading the recommendations that the group identified. Following the presentation, the subcommittee fielded several questions and comments and then Tom Raftican proposed a motion to adopt the first recommendation. Following a lengthy discussion and friendly amendment, the motion was passed. Mr. Franke then put forth a motion to adopt the second recommendation and it was seconded by Mr. Raftican before passing unanimously.

The final approved subcommittee report and recommendations are above in Section B on p. 6 of this Summary Report.

#### **20. Election of the Chair** (*Transcript*, Day 3, p. 313 and p.331)

Mark Holliday described the election process. Following the explanation, the Committee participated in a paper ballot in which members voted for a Chairperson and Vice-Chair. The nominees for Chairmen were Tony Chatwin and Keith Rizzardi and the nominations for Vice-Chairman were Martin Fisher and Dave Wallace. Mr. Rizzardi and Mr. Fisher were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively by majority vote.

# 20. MAFAC Business (Transcript, Day 3, p. 321)

Administrative business was presented by Mark Holliday. The discussion primarily focused on dates for the 2012 MAFAC meeting schedule. Dr. Holliday reported that, based on the Committee's availability, the best dates for the spring and fall meetings were May 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. After identifying these dates, the Committee suggested possible venues for the spring meeting and determined that San Diego or Seattle would be acceptable, with a preference for Seattle.

#### **21. Member Recognition** (*Transcript, Day 3, p. 341*)

Eric Schwaab closed the meeting by presenting service recognition plaques and sincerely thanking outgoing members Tom Raftican, Steve Joner, Bill Dewey, Heather McCarty, and Cathy Foy (*not present*) for their contributions to MAFAC and the agency. This was their final meeting as their terms expire on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



# DRAFT MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE October 25-27, 2011 ◆ Washington, DC

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001 (202) 737-1234

Day 1 – Tuesday, October 25, 2011			
Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30 – 9:15	45	Introductions and opening remarks  Agenda review	Monica Media, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA
		Agonaa rovion	Heather D. McCarty, Chair
9:15 – 9:45	30	MAFAC Business: Review of Action Item table	<b>Dr. Mark Holliday</b> , Director Office of Policy, NMFS
9:45-10:00	15	Introduction to new Communications Office staff	Judy Gan, Director, Office of Communications
10:00 – 10:30	30	2012 NMFS Regulatory Program Situation and Outlook/Q&A	Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS
10:30-10:45	15	Update on Office of Law Enforcement activities (Informational)	Bruce Buckson, Director, NMFS Office of Law Enforcement
10:45–11:15	30	2012 NMFS Science Situation and Outlook/Q&A	<b>Dr. Richard Merrick</b> , NMFS Chief Science Advisor
11:15–12:15	60	Budget Briefing (Informational/Action)     Status reports of FY2012, 13      Internal budget process and meeting the NOAA Healthy Ocean Goal     Paradigm shift to flat or declining federal budget; Budget Priorities Process	Gary Reisner, NMFS CFO, Office of Management & Budget Peg Brady, NMFS, NOAA Oceans Strategic Planning Lead Eric Schwaab
12:15-1:30	75	Lunch	
1:30-2:30	60	<ul> <li>NMFS Habitat Blueprint (Informational and Action)</li> <li>Introduction to Agency-wide effort, underlying science, policy and geographic priorities</li> <li>Input from MAFAC – future issues, future priorities</li> </ul>	Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS Brian Pawlak, Acting Director Office of Habitat Conservation
2:30-3:15	45	Blue Carbon Initiatives and Climate Adaptation Update (Informational & Action)  Introduction to 'Blue Carbon' – What is it? Linkages with habitat blueprint and other NMFS activities Calendar of opportunities for engagement (e.g., National Fish, Wildlife & Plant Strategy)	Roger Griffis, Climate Change Coordinator, NMFS
3:15 – 3:30	15	Break	

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3:30 - 5:30	120	Subcommittee Meetings	Subcommittee Chairs
		Discuss Habitat Blueprint     Discuss Blue Carbon, climate adaptation efforts     Follow up on Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force recommendations	Tom Raftican
3:30 - 5:30	120	Strategic Planning, Budget & Program Management Subcommittee  Budget prioritization	Heather McCarty
3:30-5:30	120	Commerce Subcommittee  Aquaculture prep-work	Steve Joner
5:30		Adjourn	
6:30-6:45		Group Dinner: Carmines Family-Style Italian	http://www.carminesnyc.com/locatio ns/wadc/index.php)

Day 2 - Wednesday, October 26, 2011			
Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30-9:00	30	National Ocean Policy Implementation (Informational)  Update on Draft Strategic Action Plans; timing of public comment period & Strategize on MAFAC engagement Integration w/ Ecosystem based Fishery Management, CMSP, Habitat blueprint	Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS
9:00:-10:00	60	Multipurpose Marine Cadastre and CMSP activities (Informational)  Introduction to the Marine Cadastre and its uses  Update on related CMSP activities	Tony LaVoi, Integrated Information Services Division Chief and David Stein, Geographer, NOAA Coastal Services Center Kirsten Larsen, Fishery Biologist, NMFS Office of Science & Technology Dr. Mark Holliday, Director Office of Policy, NMFS
10:00 -10:15	15	Break	
10:15 11:15	60	Implementing the NOAA/DOC Aquaculture Policies (Action)  Status report on the new policies Discuss next steps on Shellfish Initiative, Technology Transfer Initiative and Gulf Council Aquaculture regulations	Dr. Michael Rubino, Director, Office of Aquaculture Kris Sarri, Dept. of Commerce Policy Advisor
11:15 - 12:15	60	NOAA Caribbean Strategy	Dr. Jeff Payne, Deputy Director,

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		(Informational & Action) ■ Introduction to new NOAA-wide strategy ■ MAFAC input on goals and direction	NOS Coastal Services Center
12:15 – 1:30	75	Lunch	
1:30- 2:45	75	Subcommittee Meeting Ecosystem Discuss NOAA Caribbean Strategy	Tom Raftican
		Protected Resources Topics ■ Discussion on ESA species recovery policy.	Cathy Foy Angela Somma, Chief, Endangered Species Division
2:45 – 3:00	15	Break	
3:00 – 5:00	120	<ul> <li>Subcommittee Meeting</li> <li>Recreational Fisheries Webinar</li> <li>Discussion of prior MAFAC recommendations</li> <li>Presentation of Recreational Fisheries Action Plans to Subcommittee &amp; RFWG by NMFS Recreational Coordinators via webinar</li> <li>Update on MRIP</li> <li>Next Steps/RFWG Tasks</li> </ul>	Ken Franke, Recreational Subcommittee Chair Russ Dunn, National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries Forbes Darby, National Recreational Fisheries Coordinator
3:00 - 5:00	120	Vision 2020: Outline/Draft Updates and/or New topics > small group/individual work session(s)	Various Members
5:00 pm		Adjourn	

Day 3 - Thursday, October 27, 2011			
Time	Min.	Subject	Presenter
8:30 – 8:45	15	Public Comment Opportunity	Heather D. McCarty, Chair
8:45 – 9:45	60	Ecosystem Subcommittee Report and Discussion	Tom Raftican
9:45-10:45	60	Strategic Planning, Budget and Program Management Subcommittee Report and Discussion	Heather McCarty
10:45 – 11:00	15	Break	
11:00 – 12:00	60	Protected Resources Subcommittee Report and Discussion	Cathy Foy
12:00-1:00		Lunch	
1:00-2:00	60	Commerce Subcommittee Report and Discussion	Steve Joner

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2:00-3:00	60	Recreational Fisheries Subcommittee Report and Discussion	Ken Franke
3:00-3:30	30	Election of Chair	<b>Dr. Mark Holliday,</b> Director Office of Policy, NMFS
3:30-4:00	30	MAFAC Business:  2012 meeting schedule Thank you to outgoing members;	Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS Dr. Mark Holliday, Director Office of Policy, NMFS
4:00 pm		Wrap up/Adjourn	