

**Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
Report by Aquaculture Subcommittee
May 15, 2003, San Diego California**

**‘National Offshore Aquaculture Act 2003’
Review & Recommendations**

Subcommittee Members Present: Don Kent (Chair), Bonnie Brown, John Forster, Elizabeth Sheehan, Randy Fisher (Advisor).

The Aquaculture Subcommittee of the MAFAC reviewed the ‘National Offshore Aquaculture Act 2003’, a legislative initiative that would enable the federal government to lease sites in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for aquaculture. The Subcommittee on Aquaculture found this to be a reasonable first attempt and an acknowledgment that aquaculture is a legitimate use of the EEZ. The following changes and recommendations were submitted to the full Committee of MAFAC and adopted by unanimous vote on May 15, 2003, as an advisory document.

I Recommended Changes to Legislative Initiative

- Lease program should be identified as an Experimental Lease Program
- Terms of leases need to be shorter with an automatic review and renewal process provided.
- The bill needs to underscore the need to restrict locations where offshore aquaculture would occur in the initial stages.
- The purpose of the bill must not be restricted to simply reducing seafood imports, but rather expanded to contribute to community development.

II. Recommended Strategy for Implementation

- Amend the JSA charter to include offshore expertise and elevate stature of members
 - Need for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture to expand upon their existing expertise and not duplicated effort.
 - Limit Environmental Protection Agency monitoring to reasonable effects
 - Specify elements of an application
 - Source of funding and term for action
 - Promote coordination with state agencies, particularly with regard to issues of consistency within the EEZ, to obtain agreement with a state’s authority.
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