



## Announcing Appointments to MAFAC's NEW Climate and Marine Resources Task Force and Aquaculture Task Force

(January 26, 2015) The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) and NOAA Fisheries are pleased to announce the formation of two new Task Forces to support MAFAC Subcommittee work on the important topics of climate and aquaculture. Interest was high for both new task forces, and 12 individuals were selected for the Climate and Marine Resources Task Force and 11 for the Aquaculture Task Force. Applications were received from a strong pool of highly qualified individuals who represented a diversity of backgrounds, expertise, skill sets, gender, and regional perspectives.

The new members of the Climate and Marine Resources Task Force are:

**Rowan Baker** – Retired Fish & Wildlife biologist

**Merrick Burdan** – Executive Director, Marine Conservation Alliance

**Charles Colgan** – Resource Economist & Professor, University of Southern Maine

**Samantha Danchuk** – Assistant Director, Environmental Planning and Coastal Resilience Division, Broward County, Florida

**Rick Gaffney** – Recreational fisherman & entrepreneur

**Patrick Halpin** – Professor & Director, Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab, Duke University

**Robert Leaf** – Assistant Professor, Gulf Coast Research Lab, University of Southern Mississippi

**Andy Pershing** – Chief Scientific Officer, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

**Sylvia Spalding** – Communications & Staff Lead, Marine Planning and Climate Change Policy, Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council

**Lisa Suatoni** – Senior Scientist, Oceans Program, National Resources Defense Council

**Gale Vick** – Consultant, Environmental Issues, Tanana Chiefs Conference

**David Wallace** – Owner, Wallace & Associates, and consultant to commercial fisheries interests

For more information on the Climate and Marine Resources Task Force and its members, [click here](#).

The new members of the Aquaculture Task Force are:

**Megan Davis** – Interim Executive Director, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute/Florida Atlantic University

**John Forster** – President, Forster Consulting, Inc.

**Joe Hendrix** – President/Founder, SeaFish Mariculture

**Gary Jensen** – Former National Program Lead for Aquaculture, US Department of Agriculture

**Jeff Lotz** – Director, Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center, University of Southern Mississippi

**George Nardi** – General Manager, Golden Eagle Sable Fish Inc.

**Brian O'Hanlon** – Founder/Chief Technical Officer, Open Blue Sea Farms, Inc.

**Paul Olin** – Aquaculture Specialist, University of California Sea Grant Extension Program

**Neil Sims** – Co-Founder & CEO, Kampechi Farms, LLC

**Lisa Tucker** – Aquaculture Research Analyst, Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch

**Paul Zajicek** – Development Director, National Aquaculture Association

For more information on the Aquaculture Task Force and its members, [click here](#).