

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC
November 10-12, 2009
Silver Spring, MD

1. Agenda item Title of Discussion: Update on NOAA Aquaculture Program Activities

2. Discussion Leader/Presenters: Dr. Michael Rubino, Manager, NOAA Aquaculture Program (leader)

3. Objective/Purpose: Information Only - Dr. Rubino will provide an update on recent NOAA Aquaculture Program activities with a focus on the topics below. The briefing will run for 30 minutes followed by question/answers for the remainder of the time.

- Development of a National Marine Aquaculture Policy
- Status of the Fishery Management Plan for Regulating Offshore Marine Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico
- Status of Congressional interest in national aquaculture legislation
- Update on aquaculture and the Ocean Policy Task Force
- Highlights from the Aquaculture Program's FY2010 Annual Operating Plan

4. Background/Synopsis: On September 3, 2009, NOAA announced its intent to develop a comprehensive national policy for sustainable marine aquaculture in the coming months, providing a framework for addressing aquaculture activity in federal waters. The national policy also will provide context for the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Regulating Offshore Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico, which took effect on Sept. 3. "We will develop a national policy that focuses on the protection of ocean resources and marine ecosystems, addresses the fisheries management issues posed by aquaculture, and allows U.S. aquaculture to proceed in a sustainable way," said NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco. The national policy will build on NOAA's significant work to date to safeguard U.S. coastal and ocean environments, while enabling sustainable domestic aquaculture that adds to the U.S. seafood supply and supports important commercial and recreational fisheries. The policy also will include development of coordinated federal standards for permitting aquaculture facilities in federal waters and strategies to provide the scientific information needed for permitting decisions.

- New National Policy: <http://aquaculture.noaa.gov/news/welcome.html#natlpolicy>.
- FMP for Gulf of Mexico: <http://aquaculture.noaa.gov/pdf/nmfslettogulf09.pdf> and <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Aquaculture%20FAQs%202009-09.pdf>
- U.S. Ocean Policy Task Force: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/comments>
- Dr. Rubino will give a verbal update on bullets 4-5 above

5. Options listed from 1 to n: This is an informal briefing. No decisions required.

6. Preferred Recommendation: This is an informal briefing. No decisions required.