

*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# Update on NOAA Aquaculture Program

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee  
Quarterly Meeting

November 12 , 2009

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**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**



## Program update will cover...

- ...Development of a National Marine Aquaculture Policy
- ...Status of Gulf FMP
- ...Update on Ocean Policy Task Force as it relates to aquaculture
- ...Highlights from NOAA AQ FY'2010 Annual Operating Plan





## NOAA's Aquaculture Program

- focus on sustainable aquaculture that supports coastal communities and working waterfronts
- largest marine aquaculture sector is molluscan shellfish
- hatchery/stock replenishment to support commercial and recreational fisheries and species/habitat restoration
- research program for all of marine aquaculture
- NOAA-USDA Alternative Feeds Initiative
- competitive grants (e.g., SK), financial assistance (FFP)





**“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”**

~ Dr. Jane Lubchenco

September 3, 2009



## NOAA to Develop National Aquaculture Policy

- priority of NOAA to review existing mandates and policies
- policy will address environmental, regulatory, and policy aspects of aquaculture
- federal standards for permitting aquaculture in federal waters will be addressed
- there will be opportunity for public comment





## Key Elements of Aquaculture Policy

- addresses all marine aquaculture
- enables aquaculture within context of stewardship, other marine uses
- decision-making based on best scientific information
- benefits nation's coastal communities, seafood consumers, and economy
- contribute to public understanding of benefits/challenges of sustainable aquaculture
- international cooperation



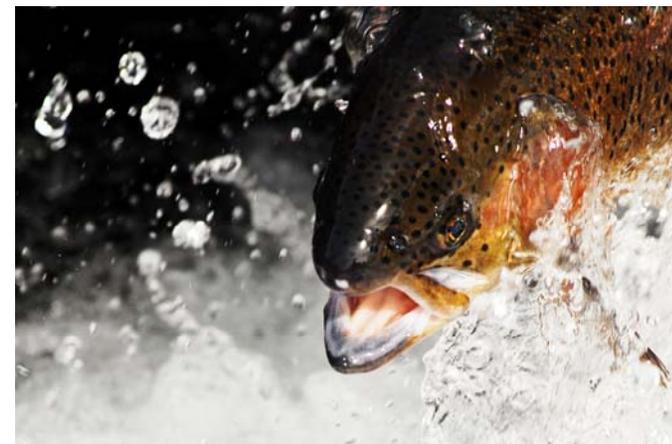
## Gulf FMP for Aquaculture

- DOC took 'no action,' Plan entered into law
- allows DOC/NOAA to maintain regulatory authority (no gap)
- agency appreciates effort that went into the Gulf Plan
- no permits issued until rule-making process is completed
- NOAA is committed to a national, rather than regional, approach
- new aquaculture policy will provide context for Gulf FMP review



## Congressional Activity

- the submission of the Gulf FMP raised the profile of aquaculture
- Congress looking at bills to enable and/or limit marine and/or offshore aquaculture
- House currently drafting new aquaculture legislation; 2007 draft Senate bill





## Ocean Policy Task Force

- will develop policy recommendations that balance multiple uses, including aquaculture
- held public meetings in six regions nationwide
- issued interim report on September 10, 2009
- currently accepting public comments online at [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/publicmeetings](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/publicmeetings)
- NOAA Aquaculture policy will account for the goals of the Ocean Policy Task Force



## FY'10 Operating Plan Highlights

- Science/Research
  - ❖ coordinate agency research activities
  - ❖ support NOAA and external science
  - ❖ host scientific symposiums
  - ❖ publish (shellfish, alternative feeds, finfish genetics)
- Policy/Regulatory
  - ❖ establish an internal Regulatory Working Group for aquaculture
  - ❖ draft permit guidelines for shellfish aquaculture
  - ❖ work on national policy
- Outreach
  - ❖ launch external newsletter
  - ❖ continue speaking at national and international venues