

**Annotated Agenda**  
**MAFAC meeting – June 29-July 1, 2010**  
**Juneau, AK**

- 1. Title of Discussion:** Aquaculture Update
- 2. Discussion Presenters:** Michael Rubino, Manager, NOAA Aquaculture Program
- 3. Objective/Purpose:** For information and action

Dr. Michael Rubino will update MAFAC on the Aquaculture Listening Sessions that occurred between April 14 and May 21, 2010 and brief them on the next steps toward developing a national Aquaculture Policy. The discussion will include MAFAC's views based on the discussion questions below which were posed by NOAA to help shape the scope and objectives of a draft aquaculture policy and guide discussion at the public listening sessions.

1. What opportunities exist for developing sustainable marine aquaculture nationwide? What are the major impediments?
2. What are the most important environmental considerations, and how can these be addressed?
3. Which social and economic consequences or outcomes will be the most important in the next 5 years or in the next 20 years?
4. How can NOAA best support essential research and innovation? What should be the goals of NOAA-funded research related to aquaculture?
5. How can NOAA best communicate with the industry and public on aquaculture issues? What are the opportunities for partnerships?
6. What role should NOAA play with respect to aquaculture issues and initiatives at the international level?
7. What other considerations need to be addressed in NOAA's aquaculture policy?

**4. Background/Synopsis:** On September 3, 2009, Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, announced plans to develop a new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Aquaculture Policy. The policy will provide a foundation for sustainable aquaculture that will create employment and business opportunities in coastal communities; provide safe, sustainable seafood; and complement NOAA's comprehensive strategy to maintain healthy and productive marine populations, species, and ecosystems and vibrant coastal communities. As a first step, [NOAA requested broad input](#) on the components of a draft aquaculture policy from interested stakeholders including communities, state and local governments, tribes, businesses, associations, the aquaculture industry, commercial and recreational fishermen, the seafood industry, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. The public input period began with the launch of an online comment form on April 6 and ended on May 28, 2010.

Between April 14 and May 21, 2010, NOAA held seven in-person public listening sessions to gather input on a new NOAA Aquaculture Policy. The sessions were an open forum for the public to make recommendations to NOAA officials regarding a new policy that will address all forms of marine aquaculture. NOAA held sessions in Rhode Island, Louisiana, Washington State, Hawaii, California, and Alaska. NOAA also hosted a national call-in for those who could not make the regional sessions.

Just over 350 people participated in the seven in-person sessions, while just over 180 comments were submitted online. Summaries of the listening sessions and presentations by experts who were invited to make introductory remarks at the listening sessions are available online on the NOAA Aquaculture Program website. To view the summaries and presentations, [click here](#). To view the comments submitted online [click here](#).

**5. Options listed from 1 to n**

**6. Preferred Recommendation**

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Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: