

Annotated Agenda Template
MAFAC
October 21, 2010; Annapolis, MD

1. Agenda item Title of Discussion: **Future of NMFS Services**

2. Discussion Leader/Presenter: Mark Holliday

3. Objective/Purpose: NMFS primary emphasis is on science-based stewardship; in doing so what other current and future services should NMFS be providing and to whom. We will define “services” and discuss the current and future services NMFS should be providing.

4. Background/Synopsis:

NMFS and its predecessor agencies have a long history of providing services to industries, and to a lesser extent, services to consumers and communities (e.g., fish culture, support for development of new fisheries, financial services, seafood inspection, domestic and export market promotion, research on nutritive values, and research to develop new and improved gear and technologies for fishing and new methods for preserving, processing, packaging, and cooking fish).

NMFS core regulatory authorities were not enacted until the 1970s, and until the 1990s, the NMFS organizational structure included some form of an Office of Industry Services. NMFS reorganized in 1996, distributing these functions to the Office of the AA and a new Office of Sustainable Fisheries, focused on regulatory functions.

Current NMFS services include seafood inspection services, financial services, disaster assistance, habitat restoration, aquaculture services, data and information services (including *Fish Watch*), trade services, and projects to reduce impacts of commercial fishing gear on sea turtles and marine mammals.

Potential drivers for future services include:

- National concerns: economic recovery and job creation, energy security and sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security
- Broad ocean and coastal concerns: sustainable coastal economies and communities, offshore energy development, healthy ecosystems, seafood security, climate change impact assessment and adaptation, marine spatial planning
- New legislation

The time on the agenda will be used to:

(1) Look at current and past services in NMFS and then discuss:

- a) What customers should we try to accommodate in our strategy for future NMFS services - Consumers? Coastal communities? What industries/sectors? Others?
- b) How is NMFS currently serving the customers identified above - i.e. what current services are of interest to these customers?
- c) How could we better serve these customers (through new services, expansion of existing services, coordination of services, etc.)?
- d) What tools should we consider in working to improve the delivery of these services?

5. Options - potential future directions to be generated by group.

6. Preferred Recommendation (Include action/product/decision needed; responsible/accountable party; date/timeline/schedule for action):

Record of Decision:

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

Assigned to:

Due Date: