

Annotated Agenda: NOAA Law Enforcement

MAFAC, Annapolis, Maryland

October 19-21, 2010

- 1. Title of Discussion:** NOAA's Law Enforcement update and compliance assistance program
- 2. Discussion Presenters:** Alan Risenhoover, Acting Director, Office of Law Enforcement, NMFS
- 3. Objective/Purpose:** Informational and Action

The purpose of this session is to (1) briefly update MAFAC on NOAA law enforcement activities in response to the findings of several reports by the Department of Commerce Inspector General, and (2) seek MAFAC's assistance in developing a comprehensive strategy for NOAA to provide compliance assistance to its regulated community.

4. Background/Synopsis:

The Department is working to implement new activities to better serve the needs of our stakeholders and improve the way NOAA engages and interacts with its regulated community. This new component will be aimed at improving and expanding NOAA's compliance assistance, collaboration, and outreach activities. The Department is requesting assistance from MAFAC to develop proposals for activities or program enhancements that will improve compliance with all marine resource statutes.

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is establishing a Compliance Assistance Program and Compliance Liaison (CL) position to improve compliance assistance to the fishing industry and other stakeholders in the Northeast. The OLE CL will listen to the industry and work directly with them to solve problems – whether those problems involve understanding the regulations, ensuring their gear is in compliance, or getting additional information regarding regulations. The CL will not be an enforcement officer and all work will be done in a collaborative fashion.

The OLE CL position will be closely linked to and coordinated with the outreach, communication, and education team being formed in the Northeast Regional Office. The OLE CL must have expert knowledge of the regulations, will have to draw upon the expertise of program staff, and will need to be closely aligned with Regional outreach staff to ensure consistency and efficiency of messaging and products. The CL would be another point of contact for industry and would respond to their questions about regulations and how to be compliant.

NOAA is looking to identify a range of activities that would be supported by the regulated community to improve compliance with regulations.

5. Options listed from 1 to n:

6. Preferred Recommendation:

Record of Decision:
Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:
Assigned to:
Due Date: