

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC, Key West, Florida
May 24-26, 2011

1. Title of Discussion: Allocation Project

2. Discussion Leader/Presenter: Emily Menashes, Acting Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

3. Objective/Purpose: INFORMATIONAL-- to provide a briefing of current scoping efforts to understand the range of allocation issues, concerns, challenges, and needs.

4. Background/Synopsis: The Office of Sustainable Fisheries has initiated a project to examine all fishery allocation issues (not just commercial and recreational) across the Nation; to identify issues, challenges, cautions, and experiences of different stakeholders; and to identify if additional guidance or tools would be useful in addressing allocation issues. The project is being led by George LaPointe, former Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

As stocks continue to rebuild, it presents a renewed opportunity to review quota allocations. It is always a relevant topic as part of ongoing evaluation of national fishery management policy, it is raised in the National Catch Share Policy as well as the Recreational Action Plan, and an important consideration for Councils when social and economic changes occur in fisheries or in fishing communities.

This project has two phases, and is currently in the early stages of Phase I, which is focused on a scoping of the issues. A first round of discussions has been held with Councils (chairs, vice chairs, and executive directors), NMFS Regional Administrators, select MAFAC members, and other selected individuals. A second round of contacts will be made with other targeted groups based on the initial discussions and feedback from the Council Coordination Committee and MAFAC. These discussions will include regional fishery commissions; state agencies; recreational, commercial, and environmental stakeholders; and other suggested interviewees.

Broader public input will be solicited through a web portal, after which project coordinators will develop a summary of all interviews, and options for NMFS consideration. Phase II of the project will be the implementation of accepted Phase I recommendations.

5. Options listed from 1 to n: TBD

6. Preferred Recommendation: TBD

Record of Decision:

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

Assigned to:

Due Date: