

Annotated Agenda

MAFAC Fall Meeting September 23-25, 2014 · Silver Spring, MD

1. Agenda Item: **Proposed Rule for the Gulf of Mexico Aquaculture Plan and other Aquaculture Office Efforts**

2. Presenter: Michael Rubino, Director, Office of Aquaculture

3. Objective/Purpose (Discussion/Action): (1) Present, discuss, and solicit input from MAFAC on the proposed rule for the Gulf of Mexico Aquaculture Plan and engage MAFAC and its members' expertise over the coming months to provide input on the coordinated permitting process; and (2) review the agency's 10-Year Plan for Marine Aquaculture (2007) and provide input on priorities to include in future strategic planning for the aquaculture program.

4. Background and Charges to the Commerce Subcommittee:

MAFAC has a longstanding history of engagement on aquaculture issues, and its input will be of great assistance as several new enterprises get underway. The aquaculture community's interest in permitting in federal waters has been buoyed by the recent release of the proposed rule for Gulf of Mexico waters. In tandem with this, the Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture has organized a Task Force to develop a permitting framework to address NOAA, Corps, EPA, and other federal agency requirements that will apply to commercial aquaculture activities in federal waters. The Task Force to date has primarily worked internally, but will need to reach out to constituents to ensure the permitting framework is workable.

Charge:

- Review and provide comment on the proposed rule for the Aquaculture Plan for Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (Fall 2014).
- Develop a mock-up description of a commercial, representative aquaculture project of the type NOAA may be asked to permit under the Gulf of Mexico FMP. The project description should provide sufficient detail to allow for testing of the coordinated permitting framework currently being developed by the Regulatory Task Force of the Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture. Goal is to "run" MAFAC's mock project through the draft coordinated permitting process (completion expected in early 2015), and MAFAC can provide feedback and suggestions to the Task Force (Spring 2015).

In response to a request from MAFAC in 2005, NOAA's Aquaculture Program drafted its 10-Year Plan to frame the agency's vision and plans for development of marine aquaculture in the United States. After MAFAC and public input, the plan was adopted in 2007 as an agency-wide policy document intended to guide a broad, national initiative for marine aquaculture. It's now timely to assess the progress made on the Plan's implementation to help guide future priorities for the Office of Aquaculture.

Charge:

- Review NOAA's progress on implementing the agency's 10-Year Plan for Marine Aquaculture (2007) and provide input on priorities to include in strategic planning for the aquaculture program. (Begin Fall 2014).

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: