

**Annotated Agenda**  
MAFAC Meeting, Silver Spring, Maryland  
October 13-15, 2015

## **Aquaculture Draft 5- Year Strategic Plan**

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### **Objective/Purpose (Information and Action)**

Provide information about and context for the development of a new draft FY 2016-2020 Marine Aquaculture Strategic Plan and for MAFAC to finalize its findings for recommendations for submission to the NOAA Fisheries Office of Aquaculture. The plan is currently open for public comment until October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015.

The presentation will include a discussion of key drivers and constraints for NOAA's aquaculture program, a summary of program accomplishments over the last 10 years, in addition to an overview of the plan itself.

### **Background/Synopsis**

Limits to wild fisheries, environmental changes, the nutritional benefits of seafood, and trends in global seafood markets underscore the need to develop U.S. marine aquaculture. U.S. marine aquaculture enhances coastal resiliency, creates jobs, improves food security and human nutrition, and is a tool for restoration of species and habitats.

In the draft 5-year Strategic Plan (Plan), the Office of Aquaculture takes a fresh look at our aquaculture priorities and address the regulatory, scientific, technical, communications, and organizational needs to advance U.S. marine aquaculture. This Plan is intended to ensure that NOAA Fisheries is focused on critical aquaculture priorities to ensure an efficient and strategic use of limited resources.

The Draft Marine Aquaculture Strategic Plan was developed over several months through a collaborative process and included input from the entire NOAA aquaculture team. In creating the Plan, the Office of Aquaculture sought review and input from other NOAA Fisheries Offices, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) and its Aquaculture task force (recommendations submitted in May 2015). The Office is currently requesting public comment until October 22, 2015.

The plan contains four goals with associated objectives and strategies:

- Goal 1: Regulatory Efficiency
- Goal 2: Tools for Management
- Goal 3: Technology Development and Transfer
- Goal 4: Informed Public

The plan can be downloaded at the following link:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/homepage\\_stories/21\\_draft\\_strategic\\_plan.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/homepage_stories/21_draft_strategic_plan.html)

### **Action to be taken by MAFAC**

Consider the recommendations of the Commerce Subcommittee, developed from input by the Aquaculture Task Force, for submission to the NOAA Fisheries Office of Aquaculture.