

**Concurrent Session and Focus Topics:
Program and Process Description**

Conference Purpose, Process, Schedule and Format

The conference will be convened by the collective Regional Fishery Management Councils in their capacity as the Councils' Coordination Committee as described in the Magnuson Stevens Act, with the Pacific Fishery Management Council serving as primary host. Towards the purpose of identifying ways to advance the sustainability of United States marine fishery management, 27 invited speakers will describe ideas for improvement, which will be distributed in advance of the conference and discussed in an audience interaction environment where additional ideas may be brought forward. Nine panels will consider the discussions from each focus area, and attempt to identify findings that have a high potential to advance fishery sustainability to a higher level. These findings will be presented in a plenary session to a panel of influential individuals who will offer reactions as to supportability and implementation potential. The Councils' Coordination Committee will consider the findings and other results of the conference with regard to possible recommendations to relevant authorities.

The conference will be held May 6-9, 2013 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., and will begin with registration and a reception during the evening of May 6. The conference will open the morning of May 7 in plenary session. This initial session will include presentations from high-profile featured speakers and perspectives from the Regional Fishery Management Councils.

The conference will then break into concurrent sessions the afternoon of May 7 through May 8 to allow participants to delve deeper into important contemporary topics, as described below. Following the concurrent sessions, conference attendees will reconvene in plenary session the morning of May 9. During the final plenary sessions, the conference will focus on preliminary ideas and conclusions developed in the concurrent sessions. The conference will conclude with a panel with broad representation that will be charged with providing initial reactions to the ideas and findings crafted in the concurrent session, relative to their applicability to change current fishery management practices or their potential for new legislation. The attached meeting agenda graphic illustrates the flow of conference events.

Concurrent Session Format and Program

The conference will be organized around three moderated sessions with the following themes and Chairs: *Improving Fishery Management Essentials* chaired by Mr. David Witherell (Deputy Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council), *Advancing*

Ecosystem-based Decision-making chaired by Mr. John Henderschedt (Executive Director, Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum), and *Providing for Fishing Community Sustainability* chaired by Dr. Mark Holliday (Director, Office of Policy, National Marine Fisheries Service).

Each moderated session will include three focus topics germane to the session theme. The first of the three focus topics will occur on the afternoon of May 7 with the other two scheduled for the morning and afternoon of May 8, each roughly 3.5 hours in length. Detailed written descriptions of the moderated sessions, the focus topics, the speakers, and pertinent reference materials are available on the conference website www.managingfisheries.org. Speaker papers will be posted on the website a month prior to the conference.

The session chairs will open and moderate each of the three focus topics sessions that will begin with 20 minute presentations from each of three speakers, covering a range of ideas and perspectives on the topic. In their presentation, speakers will summarize the ideas and perspectives contained in their papers submitted for review in advance of the conference, and will include their ideas on possible ways to advance sustainability in the context of the particular focus topic. Presentations will be followed by an audience interaction period of about an hour, where conference participants will have the opportunity to both support and challenge the ideas presented.

Following the audience interaction period, the three speakers will be joined by four participants, chosen in advance of the conference, to form a seven-member panel with broad representation. The panel will be charged with condensing the ideas and perspectives from the session into findings via moderated discussion. These findings will be later shared in plenary session for consideration as overall conference results.

Two rapporteurs will be assigned to each of the focus topic sessions. These rapporteurs will be charged with capturing summary minutes of the sessions as well as major conclusions and recommendations. Working with the rapporteurs, the session chairs will prepare a short presentation on their respective focus topic conclusions.

Concurrent Session Reports to Plenary

The conference will reconvene in plenary session the morning of May 9. Session chairs and rapporteurs will present key findings from their respective focus topic sessions in the context of identifying improvements to national fishery practices, policies, and laws. The conference will conclude with a panel of influential representatives from organizations that may have a role in implementing the recommended improvement; including both houses of Congress, heads of Federal and State fishery agencies, recreational and commercial fishing interests, tribal or subsistence communities, environmental advocacy organizations, and Regional Fishery Management Councils. This “Reactions Panel” will be asked to provide their initial reactions to the conference

conclusions, including input on the merits of the recommendations, the feasibility of their implementation, or ways to improve or clarify the conclusions.

Following the conference, conference staff will report the results to the Councils' Coordination Committee and work with the appropriate conference participants to publish and widely distribute the conference proceedings.