

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION REPORT ON
ACTIVITIES OF THE OCEAN POLICY TASK FORCE AND CATCH SHARES TASK
FORCE

On June 11, 2009, President Obama established an Inter-agency Ocean Policy Task Force (OPTF) charged primarily with bringing forth a comprehensive strategy for coastal and marine spatial planning on a regional level. The OPTF, chaired by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and composed of senior policy-level officials across Federal government agencies, issued an interim report September 10, 2009. The interim report articulated a draft national policy and implementation strategy for a regional public process to regulate marine spatial planning. The West Coast is one of twelve regions where an authoritative body would be established. Council Vice Chairman Dan Wolford attended a public hearing on this matter in San Francisco, California on September 17, 2009 and presented the Council perspective on the interim report. A public comment period for the coastal and marine spatial planning framework and specifics opened December 12, 2009 and closed February 12, 2010. The matter is now before the President for consideration as an Executive Order or other implementation possibilities. Agenda item D.1.a, Attachment 1 is a briefing provided to the Council Coordination Committee on January 14, 2010 by Mr. Sam Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

On June 22, 2009, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Under Secretary Lubchenco announced the formation of a Catch Shares Task Force charged with developing a national catch share policy for marine fishery management. Dr. David Hanson was designated as a member of the task force upon nomination by the Pacific Council. A draft Catch Share Policy was issued December 10, 2009 (Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 2). The public comment period on the draft policy closes April 10, 2010.

A representative from the NOAA will provide information and an update on the NOAA Ocean Policy Task Force and the recently released draft Catch Share Policy.

Reference Materials:

- a. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1, NMFS Briefing Presentation on the Ocean Policy Task Force Process.
- b. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 2, Draft NOAA Catch Share Policy.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. Council Discussion and Comments
- Kerry Griffin/Jim Seger

PFMC
02/19/10