

**DRAFT (revised March 12, 2003)**

**Initial Planning and  
Outline for Proposed Conference in D.C. - November 2003**

Conference Title: '25 Years Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act: A Foundation for the Future of Fisheries Management'. **Or**, 'A Quarter Century of Fisheries Management Progress - And a Look to the Future'. **Or**, 'Managing the Nation's Marine Fisheries - Past, Present, and Future'. Format (draft attached) will be keynote speakers, followed by regional perspective from each Council/Region; followed by workshop/panel discussions on specific issue areas.

Objective: (1) to educate the public and policy makers on the fishery management process, successful management examples by region, protected resource issues, and current management and research initiatives; (2) to provide a forum for information exchange and to solicit a wide range of perspectives on future management and marine research directions.

Sponsors: Regional Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries are proposed to be primary sponsors. NPFMC will take the lead on conference planning and logistics, with assistance from an Organizing Committee.

All on the initial planning meeting agreed that sponsors would be Councils and NOAA Fisheries only. Industry or other groups could sponsor evening events, for example, but not be conference co-sponsors.

Dates/venue: We have reserved the dates of November 13-15, 2003 for the Conference, at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel and Conference Center, 2500 Calvert Street, Washington, D.C.

Target Attendees: We expect to attract Congressional members and their staffs, U.S. Ocean Commissioners, PEW Commissioners, fishing industry, environmental organizations, Native/Community interests, regional Council members and staff, federal and state fisheries agencies, academics, researchers, and interested public.

Funding: Funding would come from contributions by sponsors (regional Councils and NOAA Fisheries). NPFMC proposes to cover the majority of direct conference expenses (meeting rooms, logistics, proceedings, invited speaker travel, coffee, banquet, etc). Each Council/NOAA may need to contribute minimal amount, 5k to 10k for example. Each Council/NOAA would have to cover travel/hotel room/per diem expenses for their attendees. We currently have a total of 250 rooms blocked at a conference rate of \$179/nite.

POTENTIAL FORMAT/AGENDA (second draft)

Thursday, November 13 - Plenary Session- Main Ballroom - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

First one-third of Day 1 devoted to welcome and keynote speakers. Admiral Lautenbacher tentatively scheduled for opening remarks. Bill Hogarth also available on first day of conference to provide additional opening remarks. Keynote speakers should include Senator Ted Stevens and Admiral James Watkins (U.S. Ocean Commission). Coast Guard Admiral Collins another possibility. Other suggestions included George Bush, other Senators (Snowe, Hollings, Breaux,), and House side Rep.

Two-thirds of Day 1 devoted to presentations from each of the 8 Regions. Focus would be on what each region has done successfully, and what challenges remain at regional level. Plan on 30-45 minutes each. Presenter could be Council ED or Chair, and/or RA from NMFS - each Council/Region would be expected to confer and determine this themselves, and prepare the necessary powerpoint presentation, etc.

Friday, November 14 - Panel Discussions - Main Ballroom - 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

We agreed to have all panel sessions sequentially in main ballroom. For Day 2 and first half of Day 3 we could accommodate approximately 6 panel discussions, with 5-6 participants on each panel (allowing time for initial presentation of invited speaker/moderator, 15 minute talk for each participant, half hour of panel discussion, then half hour of questions from the audience). We agreed that each panel should have some mix of industry, scientific, environmental, government, management, etc. Panel topics agreed to are the following 6:

- Fisheries Governance*
- Bycatch Issues (national vs regional approaches)*
- Addressing Habitat Concerns*
- Ecosystem Planning - What's Realistic?*
- Marine Research*
- ESA/Protected Resource Management*

*Need input from each Region/Council on primary panel speaker/moderator and other panel participants.*

Saturday, November 15 - Panel Discussions continued - Main Ballroom - 8:00 am to noon

Saturday, November 15 - Wrap-up - Main Ballroom - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Panel Discussion moderators (with help from rappateurs) summarize each panel and discuss overall results and recommendations.