

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting – Virtual
October 12-14, 2021

1. Title of Discussion: **The Path Towards the Strategic Plan for U.S. Aquaculture Economic Development**

2. Presenter: **David O'Brien**
Deputy Director
NOAA Fisheries Office of Aquaculture

Andy Jermolowicz
Assistant Deputy Administrator
USDA Rural Development

3. Objective/Purpose (Informational)

Provide an overview of the comments received during a series of virtual federal town halls to inform an early draft outline for a Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development.

4. Background/Synopsis

The interagency Subcommittee on Aquaculture (SCA) is drafting an economic development strategic plan focused on creating a robust, resilient, and environmentally sustainable domestic aquaculture sector by supporting existing operations and encouraging new entrants throughout the supply chain. This is in addition to draft strategic plans that have been developed focused on regulatory efficiency and aquaculture research and science.

Over the past year, a group of technical experts across several federal government agencies sought stakeholder input numerous times to develop a draft outline for the Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Economic Development. In its latest outreach engagement, the Economic Development task force invited the public to a five-part, virtual federal town hall series held September 21 - 24 to inform this early draft outline. After consideration of the public input, an updated draft outline will be published in the Federal Register for additional public comment.

Each session focused on one of the draft outline's four goals:

- Encourage Industry Investment
- Supporting Infrastructure and Workforce Development
- Expanding Market Opportunities for U.S. Aquaculture Products
- Support Aquaculture Communications and Literacy

This presentation will provide an overview of the input received on these topics and any additional topics raised during the town hall series, as well as next steps for the Economic Development Task Force.

5. Action to be taken by MAFAC members

Consider the comments and general information in the context of your on-going work to build resilience in fisheries and for seafood businesses and coastal communities.