



National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA Fisheries 2003 Constituent Sessions

William Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), is convening special constituent sessions in conjunction with the New England Fishery Management Council meeting on September 16 (3 p.m. – 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.). The sessions are intended to gather public input on ways to improve the effectiveness of NOAA Fisheries and its management of living marine resources. This will be a collaborative effort involving all major marine fisheries interests - councils, commercial and recreational fishermen, tribal representatives, environmental organizations, and federal and state government.

The primary objective is to assemble and provide a comprehensive analysis of the diverse opinions, attitudes, and perspectives of marine resource stakeholders as they relate to broad themes in management and daily operations. The secondary objective is to identify performance measures for fishery management.

To help us better understand constituents' concerns, NOAA Fisheries is soliciting public comments on:

- 1- What is the most important issue facing fisheries in your region?
- 2- Who has responsibility over this issue? If unclear, or uncertain, who should be in charge?
- 3- Identify and describe a possible solution or solutions that would remedy the issue?
- 4- Does the solution require
 - (a) no changes to the present administrative or statutory structure, or
 - (b) administrative changes, and if so, what changes would you propose, or
 - (c) statutory changes, and if so, what would they be?
- 5- How could one measure whether the solution is being properly implemented and working?
- 6- Briefly describe the best way to keep you informed about changes within NMFS and fisheries management.

To respond to NOAA Fisheries' e-comments visit NOAA Fisheries Web page:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/emeetings>

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[Last Updated – September 2, 2003]