



National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA Fisheries 2003 Constituent Sessions

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces eight regional constituent sessions to be held in conjunction with the Fishery Management Council meetings from June through September 2003. The session held during the Western Pacific Council meeting will be June 10 (6 p.m. – 8 p.m.) and June 11 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.). The sessions are intended to gather public input on ways to improve the effectiveness of NMFS and its management of living marine resources. The regional sessions 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 better understand constituents concerns, Dr. William Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for NMFS is requesting your input on some questions on NMFS' e-comments web site are:

- (1) Issue - What are the key issue(s) facing fisheries management, nationally or in your region?
- (2) Responsibility - Who should have management or conservation responsibility? If unclear or uncertain, who do you think should be accountable? (State issue with answer)
- (3) Process - How could the Federal process of managing fisheries be improved?
- (4) Performance Measure - How could one measure whether the solution is being properly implemented and working? (State performance measure with an issue)
- (5) Contact - Briefly describe the best way for NMFS to keep you informed about changes within the agency and fisheries management.

For information on the regional sessions and to submit e-comments visit the NMFS web page http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/constit_sessions_2003.html

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