

**Annotated Agenda**  
*MAFAC Meeting – Silver Spring, MD*  
*Oct. 15-17, 2019*

1. **Title of Discussion:**       **Overview of the role of Senior Advisor for Seafood Strategy**
2. **Presenter:**               **Michael Rubino, PhD**, Senior Advisor for Seafood Strategy
3. **Objective/Purpose (Informational)**

Purpose is to provide an opportunity to learn from and discuss with Dr. Rubino his new Senior Advisor position, its role, the priorities that he will focus on, and how his work may intersect with the seafood education, marketing, and promotion work of MAFAC's Commerce Subcommittee.

**4. Background/Synopsis**

As Senior Advisor, Dr. Rubino works with industry, scientists, and government agencies to foster innovative aquaculture and seafood policy, science, and technology developments. In particular, he is examining ways the federal government can partner with industry and others to increase the value of U.S. commercial fisheries, expand U.S. aquaculture production, transition innovative R&D to commercial use, and encourage Americans to eat more U.S. produced seafood. He also represents NOAA on the federal interagency Subcommittee on Aquaculture.

Dr. Rubino was most recently the Director of the Office of Aquaculture at NOAA Fisheries, where he led the development of aquaculture regulations for federal and state waters, the National Shellfish Initiative, the USDA-NOAA Alternative Feeds Initiative, a refresh of the NOAA and Department of Commerce aquaculture policies, and the development of new science tools for aquaculture management. Prior to his work at NOAA, he led the development of international agribusiness, environmental, and renewable energy investment funds at the World Bank. Earlier, Dr. Rubino co-founded an aquaculture R&D company with operations in South Carolina and the Caribbean and was a partner in a shrimp farm in South Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Michigan.

As a prelude to the discussion, Dr. Rubino recommends that MAFAC review this presentation, "[\*The Future of the Seafood Industry\*](#)," developed by Gunnar Knapp, Professor Emeritus of Economics University of Alaska Anchorage, for the July 2018 International Institute of Fisheries Economics & Trade (IIFET) Conference in Seattle.

**5. Action to be taken by MAFAC members**

This is an opportunity for MAFAC members to get information and discuss this new effort.