

Margo Schulze-Haugen - NOAA Federal

From: Margo Schulze-Haugen - NOAA Federal
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 7:57 AM
To: Sarah McLaughlin - NOAA Federal
Cc: Brad McHale - NOAA Federal
Subject: Re: Town Hall Meeting in Providence

I spoke with David on Friday and I'm surprised that he emailed you on Saturday with these questions. I think you can respond that, since he has spoken with Ciaran and me, there is no more information to provide. Thanks. Margo

On Sun, Sep 13, 2015 at 8:13 PM, Sarah McLaughlin - NOAA Federal <sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov> wrote:

I have not responded to this Saturday email.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Schalit <dschalit@gmail.com>
Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015
Subject: Town Hall Meeting in Providence
To: Sarah McLaughlin - NOAA Federal <sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov>

Hi Sarah,

Thanks for the info. I managed to get in touch with Ciaran. Unfortunately, she doesn't have any more info than was in the press release. So far, the only people I've been able to find who have any info at all on this proposal are Peter Baker at the Pew and the Conservation Law Foundation, and they are not terribly forthcoming. I would assume there is someone at NOAA who is handling this matter if it is going to be a public comment meeting held by NOAA. Or perhaps FWS is the responsible agency? I wish I could find this person or persons.

We are without anything more than the most scant information on the proposal given in NOAA's brief September 3 press release. This is a problem if we are to make intelligent public comment. I have only today found out that NOAA neglected to include in their press release two additional canyons that are part of the proposal (Nygren and Heezen, both within the US EEZ). I would assume, as is usual with NOAA public meetings, that someone at the Sept 15 meeting will elaborate on the concept at the beginning of the meeting. Problem with this is very simple: if we wait for an explanation and possibly some printed matter to be given at the meeting on which we can base our written comments (rather than having to guess at what is being proposed), we will have no time to draft these comments afterwards because the deadline for public comment is the end of the day of the meeting. This is more or less guaranteed to make a great many Northeast fishermen extremely irate, and unfortunately, with good reason.

Forgive me as I am just complaining out loud to you. It's very frustrating because from what I am able to understand of the proposal it appears that this proposal will negatively affect BAYS and possibly SWO fishermen. And this is simply unnecessary. We can have strong, lasting and meaningful protections for the eastern Canyons that will protect this ecosystem without negatively affecting BAYS fishermen (whose gear never comes close to the seabed). We have been working very much in earnest with NOAA and the East Coast councils on precisely this since 2012. There has been a veritable mountain of work done on this by the councils and NOAA. Are you familiar with the [Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment](#) and the [MOU](#) that was signed two years ago?

Sorry for my little rant here.

Regrettably, I will not be at the IAC meeting because I am a technical advisor, not a member. But I will see you in Malta.

All the best,

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David Schalit
[917-573-7922](tel:917-573-7922)

On September 11, 2015 at 9:44:54 AM, Sarah McLaughlin - NOAA Federal (sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov) wrote:

Hi Dave - My understanding is that the NOAA Office of Communications is the best contact for info about this meeting. Here is the website:

<http://www.noaa.gov/media.html>

Our regional communications person says Ciaran (pronounced Karen) is the one to speak with. [\(202\) 482-6090](tel:202-482-6090)

See you at the IAC soon. - Sarah

On Fri, Sep 11, 2015 at 2:13 AM, David Schalit <dschalit@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

I received an email notification from NOAA External Affairs regarding a Town Hall meeting in Providence RI on Sept 15 having to do with proposed protections for certain eastern Canyons and some seamounts in the Gulf of Maine. Would you be able to give me contact info for the responsible at NOAA on this? I'd like to find out if other meetings are going to be scheduled in the region. Thanks.

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David Schalit
[917-573-7922](tel:917-573-7922)

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