How much assistance is a coach allowed to provide the team in preparing for the policy briefing?
The Policy Briefing is a student team driven project, which means coach guidance should only be provided on the front end to help the team understands the process, and to point them in the right direction. All the other work should be done entirely by the student team. Peer editing is highly encouraged.

Coach guidance should be limited to providing students with an understanding of the new concept, suggesting resources, offering ideas about appropriate stakeholders, and providing recommendations for improving a student’s oral presentation style.

Coaches (or any individual(s) not on the student team) are NOT permitted to provide any coaching/assistance on content, text, thought, project development or development of the recommendations. Coaches cannot edit the team’s or individual student’s Policy Briefing Report and may not provide suggestions on presentation content on any of the Congressional Testimonies.

Do the three questions go to any of the 5 stakeholders depending on what the judges deem important to hear?
The judges will ask a total of three questions to each team, which may be addressed to any of the students. Since the questions will be developed based on the information that the students will have provided within their policy briefing report, each team will likely be asked three distinct questions.

Will each stakeholder have to answer the judges’ questions individually?
Only one person will answer each question; however, each team will be given 40 seconds to confer before they respond to the judge’s question.

An individual stakeholder will only be asked to answer one question; however, an individual student may be asked more than one question because s/he is representing two stakeholders (i.e. 4 person team/5 stakeholders), and/or s/he is the representative for the team recommendations.

Will each team get to see their scoring after the competition is over?
We will post the names of the top 8 teams in rank order when we post the names of the teams that will be advancing to double elimination. Each team will also receive a document that includes their total score and their overall ranking at that time as well.

Is there anything that the teams are expected to present to the judges, other than their testimony?
The teams are only required to present their testimony to the judges, but they should be prepared to answer questions from the judges. The judges will be looking for responses
from the students that show they have broader, more complete understanding of the situation than may be apparent in their 300 word testimony.

Are we expected to take the topic and localize it? Interview local Army Corps of Engineers for example? Teams are allowed to “localize” the topic. Teams are not required to interview anyone for this project.

Could you clarify what a nongovernmental would be? A nongovernmental stakeholder is a member of the community that is not connected with a government agency, but has an interest (either personal or professional) in the aquaculture industry (i.e. a restaurant owner, a non-profit organization, a local fisherman, a tribal community member, etc…)

Can you post this webinar audio on the NOSB website so that we can play it back at a team meeting? The webinar is posted at: http://www.nosb.org/2011/now-available-policy-briefing-concept-introduction-rubric/

Are we choosing one of the 4-5 draft pieces of legislation or do we use all 4-5? The teams should use all of the suggested legislation as reference/background information, but only need to refer to the piece or pieces of legislation that resonate with them. Given the limited time and word restrictions the students should focus on the main points that they want to make.

Is the “state” stake holder necessarily from our state, or can we choose the state? No, you can pick a state.

Would a labor union be considered an NGO or an industry representative? Assuming you are referring to a labor union for the aquaculture industry, then they would probably most likely fit best under the industry representative category.

Students are not required to dress in a special way, but would it be ok if they wore suits? Whatever your team/school determines is appropriate attire for the event is fine with us. Our comments on clothing were primarily to ensure the students didn’t misinterpret their role and think that they should become thespians – dressing up and acting out a stakeholder “character.” They should be presenting their stakeholder as if they were a lawyer; however, we are not requiring students to wear suits because we know some of them have costumes that they enjoy competing in.

Is there a specified order for the stakeholders to address the judges or can the team select the order? There is no specific order.