

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
NATIONAL STANDARD GUIDELINES UPDATE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received a briefing from Ms. Erin Schnettler (NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries) on the recently finalized changes to the National Standard 1 guidelines. Major changes include: (1) measures meant to increase stability of fisheries harvest (phasing in changes to catch levels, carrying over unused quota into the next year, multi-year overfishing status determinations); (2) measures to increase flexibility in rebuilding plans (alternative ways to determine  $T_{MAX}$  and criteria for discontinuing rebuilding plans); (3) changes to criteria for determining adequate progress in rebuilding; (4) changes to criteria for determining which stocks require federal management; and (5) clarification of the meaning of optimum yield (OY) and advancement of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) including guidance for determining an aggregate maximum sustainable yield and OY for groups of species. In general, the applicability of the new guidelines and whether they will require or enable changes to status determination or management of individual stocks and fisheries must be determined on a case-by-case basis and may require changes to Fishery Management Plans.

There are new guidelines for determining if adequate progress has been made toward rebuilding of overfished stocks. The SSC intends to follow the new guidelines when it provides advice on whether progress toward rebuilding is adequate during the harvest specifications process.

PFMC  
11/17/16