

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 16 – ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS
 AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

The reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) in 2006 established new requirements to end and prevent overfishing through the use of annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs). The reauthorization also contained new requirements for the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to recommend acceptable biological catch (ABC) levels to the Council that account for scientific uncertainty. Federal fishery management plans (FMPs) must establish mechanisms for ACLs and AMs by 2010 for stocks subject to overfishing and by 2011 for all others, with the exception of stocks managed under an international agreement or stocks with a life cycle of approximately one year. On January 16, 2009, National Marine Fisheries Service published amended guidelines for National Standard 1 (NS-1) to provide guidance on how to comply with new provisions of the MSA (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1).

At its March 2009 meeting, the Council identified several issues to be considered in the amendment process including: stock exceptions, updated conservation objectives, stock classification, status determination criteria, scientific and management uncertainty, accountability measures, how to account for state/tribal fisheries, and *de minimis* fishery provisions. The Council also adopted the following tentative schedule for completing the Salmon FMP amendment in time for the 2011 management season.

| Stage | Date |
|---|----------------|
| NS-1 Guidelines Final Rule | January 2009 |
| Council initiates FMP amendment, and provides initial guidance on scoping issues. | March 2009 |
| Council Appoints ad-hoc salmon plan amendment committee | June 2009 |
| Formal scoping of issues, initial development of alternatives, and determination of NEPA analysis (EIS or EA) | September 2009 |
| Adopt alternatives for public review, including preliminary preferred alternatives, if possible | April 2010 |
| Final Council action | September 2010 |
| Secretarial approval | January 2011 |
| Changes in existing fishing regulations | May 1, 2011 |

The ad hoc salmon amendment committee (SAC) met August 4-5 to further scope amendment issues and begin the process of developing alternatives for issues already identified (Agenda Item G.1.b, SAC Report).

Council Task:

- 1. Complete the scoping process by identifying all issues to be addressed in Salmon FMP Amendment 16.**
- 2. Provide guidance on the range of alternatives to be considered for issues identified.**
- 3. Discuss the schedule for amending the Salmon FMP.**

Reference Materials:

- 1 Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1: National Standard 1 Guidelines
2. Agenda Item G.1.b, SAC Report: Report of the Salmon Amendment Committee – Overview of Scoping Considerations for Salmon Fishery Management Plan Amendment 16.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Complete Scoping of Issues and Provide Guidance on Preliminary Alternatives

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