

PREPARE COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATIONAL STANDARD
GUIDELINES 1, 3, AND 7

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published a proposed rule to revise portions of National Standard (NS) Guidelines for NS-1, NS-3, and NS-7 (Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1). The proposed revisions include:

- Increasing flexibility in setting timelines for rebuilding programs.
- Providing flexibility for better managing data-limited stocks.
- Clarifying guidance on which stocks require conservation and management.
- Enhancing current efforts by the councils to apply ecosystem approaches to management.
- Providing for more stable fisheries through guidance on multiyear overfishing determinations, phasing in results of new stock assessments, and the carryover of the unused portion of annual catch limits to subsequent years.
- Adding a definition for "depleted stocks" to recognize non-fishing-related impacts to fish stocks.
- Recommending the councils re-evaluate the objectives of fishery management plans, to ensure they reflect the changing needs of the fishery, including allocation of fishery resources.

In a letter dated October 12, 2012 (Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2), the Council provided comments on potential revisions to NS-1 Guidelines when the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking was published in 2012. For the most part, the proposed revisions did address the issues the Council mentioned in that letter. However, after reviewing the proposed guidelines at the March 2015 Council meeting, the Legislative Committee and Council agreed that the proposed NS-1 Guideline revisions address some, but not all, Council recommendations for a reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) ([Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental Attachment 4, March 2015](#)). In addition, because the proposed guidelines are not final and do not have the force of law, the Council recommended all issues identified by the Council should be addressed in a reauthorized MSA.

The current schedule calls for Council action at this meeting, with comments due by June 30, 2015. The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) meets June 23-25 and will consider Pacific Council recommendations, together with those from other councils, toward a possible CCC position.

Council Action:

Provide Comments on Proposed Revisions to National Standard Guidelines for NS-1, NS-3, and NS-7.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 1: Proposed Changes to the National Standard Guidelines.
2. Agenda Item F.2, Attachment 2: Council Letter to NMFS re: NS-1 Guideline Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Prepare Comments on Proposed Changes to National Standard Guidelines 1, 3, and 7
- a. NMFS Report
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Provide Guidance for Submitting Comments on the Proposed National Standard Guideline Revisions.
- Chuck Tracy
Wes Patrick

PFMC
3/26/15