

NATIONAL STANDARD GUIDELINES UPDATE

The National Standards are principles that must be followed in any fishery management plan (FMP) to ensure sustainable and responsible fishery management. As mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has developed guidelines for each National Standard. When reviewing FMPs, FMP amendments, and regulations, the Secretary of Commerce must ensure that they are consistent with the National Standard (NS) guidelines.

NMFS recently published a final rule with revisions to NS guidelines (Agenda Item C.2.a, NMFS Report 1). These revisions were implemented to improve and clarify guidance within the NS guidelines. Agenda Item C.2.a, NMFS Report 2 provides the language in the revised NS guidelines in redline/strikeout to show how the guidelines were revised.

NMFS recently conducted a webinar to present a summary of the revisions to NS1 guidelines. Agenda Item C.2.a, NMFS Report 3 provides a copy of the slides of the PowerPoint presentation from that webinar. Further, Ms. Erin Schnettler, a NMFS Fisheries Management Specialist, will provide an update to the Council on revised NS guidelines at this meeting. This will afford the Council an opportunity to ask questions of clarification on the revised guidelines.

Council Action:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.2.a, NMFS Report 1: Federal Register Notice of the Final Rule to Revise National Standard Guidelines.
2. Agenda Item C.2.a, NMFS Report 2: Final Changes to the National Standard Guidelines.
3. Agenda Item C.2.a, NMFS Report 3: National Standard 1 Guidelines, Summary of 2016 Revisions.

Agenda Order:

C.2 National Standard Guidelines Update

- a. NMFS Report
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Discussion

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