

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WHITE PAPER ON  
BEST SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE (BSIA)

Dr. Jim Hastie (National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS) briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on a revised draft of the white paper “Framework for Determining that Stock Status Determinations and Harvest Specifications are based on the Best Scientific Information Available” (Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1, June 2018). The SSC understands that the framework presented is meant to document the general process for determining the best scientific information available (BSIA), with the intention that each Council will document their own processes.

Current Council and SSC processes appear to be consistent with the proposed framework. However, the SSC notes that the identification and role of the NOAA Fisheries representative in SSC review of an assessment (item 4b.ii. in Attachment 1) should be clarified. Specifically, will the representative come from the Regional office, or science centers? SSC members do not act as agency representatives in SSC deliberations.

The SSC also notes that there is still not an established protocol to resolve a disagreement between NMFS and the SSC on a determination of BSIA. However, each of the Council’s other comments on previous versions (Agenda Item C.3, Situation Summary, June 2018) appear to be acknowledged in the revised draft.

PFMC  
06/09/18