

STANDARDIZE BYCATCH REPORTING METHODOLOGY

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) filed a final rule to implement a provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) that require all fishery management plans (FMPs) to establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in a fishery (Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1). . The final rule establishes requirements and provides guidance to regional fishery management councils and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce regarding the development, documentation, and review of such methodologies, commonly referred to as standardized bycatch reporting methodologies (SBRMs). Therefore, regional fishery management councils in coordination with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), must conduct a review of its FMPs for consistency with the rule. All FMPs must be consistent with the rule by February 21, 2022.

At the November 2020 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduled to review each FMP for consistency with the final rule and discuss next steps. Council staff developed Attachment 2 to summarize the final rule and developed criteria to assist the Council and its advisory bodies in their review. Council staff also provided excerpts from sections of each FMP for the SBRM consistency review (Agenda Item C.3, Attachments 3-6). The goal is to identify any FMPs that may need to be amended by the Council to be consistent with the rule. If the Council and it's advisory bodies identify potential amendments, the Council could schedule a time during a future Council meeting to verify the need, examine the workload associated with development of FMP amendment(s), and schedule further action to complete the amendments.

Once all FMPs are consistent with the rule, the Council, in coordination with NMFS, should conduct a review of standardized reporting methodologies at least once every five years in order to verify continued compliance with the MSA and the final rule.

Council Action:

Review Fishery Management Plans for Consistency with the Final Rule and Discuss Next Steps.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: NMFS Final Rule for Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology.
2. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2: Summary of Final Rule and Criteria for Consistency Review.
3. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 3: Coastal Pelagic Species FMP SBRM Information.
4. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 4: Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP SBRM Information.
5. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 5: Highly Migratory Species FMP SBRM Information.
6. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 6: Pacific Coast Salmon FMP SBRM Information.
7. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

C.3 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology

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- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Review Fishery Management Plans for Consistency with the Final Rule and Discuss Next Steps

PFMC

10/21/20