

STANDARDIZE BYCATCH REPORTING METHODOLOGY - SCOPING

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.2, 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 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) and its advisory bodies conducted a preliminary review of its FMPs for consistency with the final rule. Council staff reviewed the initial findings and developed a scoping report (Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2) to continue the review and consider how to proceed with the consistency review. At the June 2021 meeting the Council is scheduled to conduct public scoping to determine where an FMP may be inconsistent with the final rule and warrants an FMP amendment. If the Council and its advisory bodies identify potential amendments, the Council should schedule time during the September and November 2021 Council meetings to complete the amendment process.

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.

Council Action:

Scope the Need to Amend Fishery Management Plans for Consistency with the Final Rule.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1: NMFS Final Rule for Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology.
2. Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2: SBRM Scoping Report.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.2 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology - Scoping Brett Wiedoff
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Scope the Need to Amend Fishery Management Plans for Consistency with the Final Rule

PFMC
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