

PRELIMINARY WEST COAST REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DETERMINING THE
BEST SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and the National Standard 2 guidelines interpreting the MSA require Regional Fishery Management Councils (RFMCs) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to base decisions on the best scientific information available (BSIA). NMFS policy directive [01-101-10](#), which became effective on May 7, 2019, directs the NMFS regions to work with their respective RFMCs to develop a transparent regional framework for determining BSIA and document it in the context of stock status determinations and catch specifications to be used in fishery management decision-making. Regional BSIA frameworks are intended to generally describe current working arrangements. The policy directive requires development of a regional BSIA framework within three years of finalizing the directive, or May of next year.

The NMFS West Coast Region and science centers have been working with the Pacific Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to develop a draft West Coast BSIA regional framework (Attachment 1; further framework details for each West Coast Fishery Management Plan are provided in the supporting workbook provided under Attachment 2). The SSC will provide their recommendations to the Council and NMFS at this meeting to further the development of the West Coast BSIA framework.

The Council should consider the recommendations of NMFS, the SSC, and other advisors before providing comments to NMFS on the draft West Coast BSIA framework.

Council Action:

Review the preliminary BSIA framework and provide comments.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 1: West Coast Best Scientific Information Available Regional Framework.
2. Agenda Item C.4, Attachment 2: West Coast Best Scientific Information Available Regional Framework Workbook (*Electronic Only*).
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.4 Preliminary West Coast Regional Framework for Determining the Best Scientific Information Available John DeVore
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review the Preliminary Framework and Provide Comments