

STANDARDIZED BYCATCH REPORTING METHODOLOGY – FINAL ACTION

On January 19, 2017, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a [final rule](#) to implement a provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) that requires all fishery management plans (FMPs) to establish a standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in a fishery. The final rule establishes requirements and provides guidance to regional fishery management councils (RFMCs) 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). The implementing regulations provide that each RFMC, in coordination with NMFS, must conduct reviews of its FMPs for consistency with the rule. All FMPs must be consistent with the rule by February 21, 2022.

At the [November 2020](#), [June 2021](#), and [September 2021](#) meetings, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and its advisory bodies (ABs) conducted reviews of its FMPs for consistency with the final rule. Since the September meeting, Council staff has worked with NMFS staff and General Counsel to further examine the draft FMP amendment language presented by the ABs for consistency with the final rule. Council staff has provided draft amendment language for final review by the Council and its advisory bodies (Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1). As noted in Attachment 1, the Coastal Pelagic Species, Pacific Salmon, and Highly Migratory Species FMPs may need to be amended. The Groundfish FMP was reviewed by the Groundfish Management Team and the Council at past Council meetings and have been found to be compliant with the final rule; therefore, no changes to the FMP are necessary nor presented in Attachment 1. The Salmon FMP language shown in Attachment 1 includes revisions made after the September Council meeting. FMP language in Attachment 1 for the CPS and HMS FMPs is the same as proposed in September 2021.

At the November 2021 meeting, the Council is scheduled to identify and adopt FMP language to bring FMPs into compliance with the final rule. It's expected that advisory bodies will review Attachment 1 and finalize their rationale and final recommended FMP amendment language at the November Council meeting. Advisory bodies may provide text modifications to supporting fishery documentation (i.e., stock assessment and fishery evaluation documents or salmon preseason documents) that include details describing SBRM for their respective fisheries. This information does not need to be adopted by the Council. Changes to supporting documentation would be used to support the proposed FMP amendment language proposed by the ABs.

After the November meeting, Council staff will transmit one consistency-review package to NMFS. The package will include a transmittal letter with an analytical document that describes how the FMPs are consistent, proposed amendment language with rationale for the changes, and proposed modifications to supporting documents that are needed to further describe SBRM.

Council Action:

Identify Compliant Fishery Management Plans (FMP) and Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives for FMP Amendments, as Necessary.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.8, Attachment 1 – Draft Amendment Language to West Coast Fishery Management Plans.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- C.8 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Brett Wiedoff
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Identify Compliant Fishery Management Plans (FMP) and Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives for FMP Amendments, as Necessary

PFMC
10/28/21