



Developing a West Coast Regional 'Best Scientific Information Available' Framework

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November 19, 2021

Presentation Overview

- Background
- BSIA criteria
- Format of Framework
- BSIA Points of Contact with SSC
- BSIA Disagreements between NMFS and SSC
- Moving Forward

Background

The [NMFS PD 01-101-10](#) Procedural Directive requires each Region to complete development of a BSIA framework by May 7, 2022

- This final collaborative document would need to be considered by the April 2022 Council meeting at the latest (preferably by March, if scheduling permits)
- Describes the key science development and review process for each FMP, culminating in BSIA determinations for:
 - Evaluating stock status, relative to adopted criteria/standards
 - Specifying annual catch parameters, as appropriate
- *It is ultimately the responsibility of NOAA Fisheries to make stock status determinations, approve catch specifications, and certify that these decisions are consistent with BSIA.* The agency relies on input and advice from the SSCs and peer review processes
- Documents differences between West Coast framework and the general NMFS BSIA framework (as described in the PD)
- Complements the [2016 FR Notice](#), Re: Nat. Standard 2
 - which describes joint NMFS-Council regional peer review processes (incl. our STAR), and acknowledges the legitimacy of outside processes; specifically mentioned are those associated with HMS, Pacific salmon, and hake treaties.



BSIA Criteria

- [NS2 Guidelines](#) (NMFS, 2013) identify seven criteria for BSIA
 - relevance
 - inclusiveness
 - objectivity
 - transparency/openness
 - timeliness
 - verification/validation
 - peer review
- The importance of peer review is grounded in the earlier [Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review](#) (GAO, 2005)
- These notices provide Agency flexibility in determining how and when to best conduct peer review

Framework format

1. Summary ([C.4 Attachment 1](#))

- Spells out the need for the framework and the format
- Identifies importance of peer review
- Describes BSIA POCs for SSC
- Describes the process in the case of disagreements

2. Workbook ([C.4 Attachment 2](#))

- Five sections
 - CPS • HMS • Salmon • Groundfish • Hake
- Each section identifies:
 - Partners (participating groups)
 - Role of each partner in each step (not all partners have a role in each step)

Framework: Groundfish-CPS BSIA

- Covers the review processes for the range of assessment products
 - Benchmark (Full) assessments,
 - Updates,
 - Data-moderate assessments, as appropriate
 - Data-poor assessments, as appropriate
 - Rebuilding Analyses, and
 - Catch-only Projections
- BSIA certification by Science Centers to the WCRO
- Status Determination by WCRO
- Changes made in response to SSC comments

Framework: HMS BSIA

- Documents the international review processes under which assessments and proxies for FMP species are reviewed (as part of international agreements)
 - International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
 - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
 - The science provider for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- Documents review process for HMS stock assessments conducted by NMFS outside the international RMFO arena
- BSIA certification by Science Centers to the WCRO
- Status Determination by WCRO

Framework: Salmon BSIA

- Documents the methodology review processes and identifies partners producing inputs to PFMC salmon management:
 - Pacific Salmon Commission
 - State and Tribal Agencies
- Documents roles of STT, MEW, and SSC in Council review process
- Documents contents of Review of Ocean Fisheries and Preseason Report 1
- Some reviews by bodies external to Council not available for description in draft framework - additional information has been requested
- The PD allows for flexibility in how BSIA criteria are met within abbreviated processes, such as that for salmon

Framework: Hake BSIA

- Documents assessment development and review processes under the bilateral agreement on Pacific hake/whiting with Canada
- BSIA certification by Science Centers to the WCRO
- Status Determination by WCRO

NMFS BSIA Points of Contact with SSC

- Focus on issues related to NS1, NS2 and corresponding guidelines
- The Centers may identify a POC (and a designee) per FMP
 - Drawn from levels ranging from supervisor/manager to division director and familiarity w/ science and management
- POCs are not expected to attend each SSC meeting
 - Stay apprised of issues
 - Attend SSC meetings, as needed
- Available for consultation by the SSC

BSIA Disagreements between NMFS and SSC

Premise: Disagreement exists between SCs and SSC on an assessment's status as BSIA

- Ultimate BSIA determination lies w/ Secretary of Commerce (NMFS)
- All efforts made to avoid/resolve disagreements
- Resolution will emphasize: timeliness, collaboration, & positive working relationships
- If needed, SC Directors will convene a Special BSIA Review Panel (SBRP)
 - Directors and 1-2 external experts will evaluate areas of disagreement
 - SSC may present
 - SC Directors will notify WCRO RA and Council ED and Chair of their conclusion.

Moving Forward

December 2021 - February 2022

- Revise Framework based on Council feedback, as appropriate

March or April 2022

- Present revised Framework to Council

May 2022

- NOAA Fisheries finalizes the Framework by May 2022

After

- NOAA Fisheries and Council identify situations where BSIA processes can be strengthened or better documented

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