

## FINAL 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, which is May 7, 2022.

The Council considered the NMFS draft West Coast framework for determining BSIA last November and requested the NMFS West Coast Region consider the comments and recommendations provided by the [Scientific and Statistical Committee](#) and the [Salmon Technical Team](#). A final draft of the West Coast framework for BSIA is provided as Attachment 1 (further framework details for each West Coast Fishery Management Plan are provided in the supporting workbook provided under Attachment 2). Agenda Item H.1.a, NMFS Report 1 provides a summary of changes made to the draft West Coast BSIA framework since the November 2021 meeting and proposed steps going forward.

### **Council Action:**

**Review the final draft of the West Coast framework for BSIA and provide comments.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1: West Coast Best Scientific Information Available Regional Framework.
2. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 2: West Coast Best Scientific Information Available Regional Framework Workbook (***Electronic Only***).
3. Agenda Item H.1.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Service Final Draft West Coast Framework for Best Scientific Information Available.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

H.1 Final 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:** Provide Comments on the Final Draft of the West Coast Regional Framework