



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

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# Presentation Overview

- Background
- BSIA criteria
- Format of Framework
- BSIA Points of Contact with SSC
- BSIA Disagreements between NMFS and SSC
- Finalizing the framework

# Background

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

- 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 provide Agency flexibility in determining how and when to best conduct peer review

# Framework format

## 1. Summary ([H.1, 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 ([H.1, 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)
- Only a few changes since November, to provide additional detail/clarity, where requested

# 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 disagreements
- Resolution will emphasize: timeliness, collaboration, positive working relationships
- SC Directors will convene a Special BSIA Review Panel (SBRP)
  - Directors and 1-2 external experts will evaluate areas of disagreement
  - Public meeting
  - SSC may present their perspective
  - SC Directors will notify WCRO RA and Council ED and Chair of their conclusion.

# Moving Forward

## May 2022

- NOAA Fisheries finalizes the Framework by May 2022

## After

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



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