

PROPOSED AD HOC NATIONAL STANDARD GUIDELINES
COMMITTEE AND CHARGE

Background

The National Marine Fisheries Service is expected to issue a proposed rule to modify National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9 which ensure fair and equitable allocation of fishery resources (Standard 4), consider the economic impact of management decisions on fishing communities (Standard 8), and minimize bycatch and bycatch mortality (Standard 9). The expected proposed rule is in response to several ongoing fishery management challenges, including changes in environmental conditions, shifting distributions of fish stocks, and equity and environmental justice considerations that affect fishing communities that are currently or have been historically dependent on the resource ([Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making, May 2023](#); [Agenda Item H.6.a, Supplemental NMFS Presentation 1, September 2023](#); [Council Comment Letter October 2023](#)).

Given the complexity of the issues and the potential broad impact of the proposed changes on fishery managers and industry, Council staff recommends forming an ad hoc committee tasked with gathering representative input and advising the Council in drafting a comment letter. This committee would include interested members from all Advisory Bodies and the Scientific and Statistical Committee, similar to the structure of the Marine Planning Committee and the proposed Cross Fishery Management Plan (FMP) groups (see [Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1, June 2024](#)). This approach would replace multiple advisory groups submitting individual comments on the proposed rule, offering a diverse range of viewpoints from Council advisors, providing a solid basis for Council discussions, and optimizing the use of Council floor time. These recommendations stem from the Council’s recent discussions on enhancing Council efficiency.

Proposed Charge

The Ad Hoc Committee will meet to review and provide feedback on the proposed rule to modify National Standard Guidelines 4, 8, and 9 (allocation, communities, and bycatch, respectively). Members of the Committee are tasked with gathering input from their respective groups, discussing as a Committee, and preparing recommendations for Council consideration. The Committee is expected to meet online once or twice, as needed, after the proposed rule is issued, and will submit their report with recommendations for Council consideration. The Committee is expected to be disbanded after the Council submits their comment on the proposed rule.

Membership

Group	Positions (max)	Notes
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel	2	
Groundfish Advisory Subpanel	3	
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	2	
Salmon Advisory Subpanel	2	
Scientific and Statistical Committee	2	Social scientist or economist desired

Group	Positions (max)	Notes
Conservation	3	Advisory Body member
Tribal	3	Advisory Body member or other representative nominated by the Tribes
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	1	Management/technical team member or other representative nominated by the agency
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	1	
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	1	
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	1	

PFMC
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