

Update on NS1 Guideline Revisions and MSA Reauthorization

MAFAC

December 2013

National Standard 1

- “Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.”
- The most recent NS1 guideline revision, in 2009, focused on implementing the MSA requirement, from the 2007 reauthorization for Annual Catch Limits to end and prevent overfishing.
- http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/laws_policies/national_standards/ns1_revisions.html

NS1 Schedule

- May 2012 – NS1 Guidelines ANPR published
- October 2012 – Comment period ended
- December 2012 – NMFS NS1 Guidelines Workshop
- May 2013 – MONF III conference
- September 2013 – NAS Report on Rebuilding
- Ongoing
 - NMFS Leadership briefings on NS1 Issues
 - Continuing to identify legislative vs. regulatory vs. technical guidance vs. communication issues
 - Analysis of options/technical workgroups

6 Themes

1. Stocks in need of conservation and management
2. Aligning science with management
3. Improving the stability of fisheries
4. Improving the performance of ACLs & AMs
5. Improving guide on rebuilding plans
6. Optimum Yield & EBFM

Stocks in Need of Conservation & Management

- Develop criteria for identifying whether stocks are in need of conservation and management.
- Considering:
 - Risk of species experiencing overfishing.
 - Adequacy of state and international management.
 - Importance to the ecosystem

Aligning Science with Management

- Describing appropriate methods to set ACLs and AMs.
- Stock assessments providing risk-neutral OFLs.
- Lack of credibility in data-poor methods and resulting perceptions.
- Socio-economic tradeoffs considerations in the development of ABC control rules.

Improving the Stability of Fisheries

- Considering new overfishing and overfished definitions.
- Using phase-in approaches to setting catch limits based on new scientific information.
- Using ABC control rules to prevent stocks from becoming overfished.

Improving the Performance of ACLs & AMs

- Alternatives when stock assessment projections of OFL are not available.
- Options for more flexible AMs.
- Effective use of carryover.

Improving Guidance on Rebuilding

- Consider introducing the term “depleted” when abundance is low but overfishing has not occurred.
- Consider new ways of defining rebuilding timelines.
- Provide guidance on evaluating and determining adequate progress.
- Consider findings of the NAS study on rebuilding.

Advancing OY & EBFM

- Provide guidance on specifying MSY and OY at an appropriate level.
 - Stock, stock complex, fishery, or system-level.
- Encourage re-evaluate MSY and OY on a regular basis.
- Consider if additional guidance is needed for forage fish species to maximize yield for the system overall or to improve ecosystem resiliency.

Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization

- Magnuson-Stevens Act authorized through 2013
- Congressional hearings
 - House Natural Resources
 - March 2013 – Reauthorization overview
 - May 2013 – Data collection
 - September 2013 - Rebuilding
 - Senate Commerce
 - March 2013 – Interjurisdictional Fisheries/MSA
 - July 2013 - New England/Mid-Atlantic
 - November 2013 - Southeast
 - TBD – Pacific, North Pacific

Managing Our Nation's Fisheries III

- 9 Topics:

Improving Fishery Management Essentials

- Annual Catch Limit science and implementation
- Rebuilding program requirements
- International Fisheries

Advancing Ecosystem-based Decision Making

- Assessing ecosystem effects – adapting to climate change
- Forage fish management
- Habitat considerations

Providing for Fishing Community Stability

- Recreational and subsistence fisheries
- Community protection, jobs, seafood quality
- Assessing and integrating social and economic tradeoffs

- Theme leads are working on Conference findings
 - Non-consensus findings presented at conference
 - Matrix of findings by Session, categorized as Statutory, Regulatory, or Policy approaches for addressing the findings
 - Conference report - TBD

MSA Reauthorization Engagement/Input

- October 2013 CCC conference call on MNF III Findings/MSA reauthorization – potential for CCC position
- MAFAC recommendations
- Recreational visioning
 - TRCP Marine Recreational fishing visioning
 - MAFAC Recreational Workgroup white paper
 - April 2014 Recreational Summit
- NS1 Guidelines
- External Reports
 - NAS Rebuilding Study
 - NRDC – Bringing Back the Fish (Rebuilding under MSA)
 - Pew and Ocean Conservancy – “It’s a Keeper” report on MSA

Questions?

