



NOAA
FISHERIES

BSIA Guidance Update

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Best Scientific Information Available

Outline

- Background
- Council input
- Status
- Next steps

Recap: Stairsteps to BSIA



BACKGROUND

NS2 describes BSIA and peer review, but not the end game of BSIA determination

NMFS developing BSIA document to clarify the BSIA determination process

- How & when in the process is BSIA firmly decided
- SSC role in BSIA process contributing to NMFS' final determination
- How the BSIA determination is documented

COUNCIL INPUT

Recent Timeline

- Feb. 2017 CCC: draft BSIA framework presented to Councils
- May 2017 CCC: provided ppt & 2-pager for comment
- Spring 2017: series of presentations to various Councils and subcommittees (verbal feedback)
- Summer 2017: 4 Councils provided written comments

COUNCIL INPUT

Summary of comments received

- Need process when NMFS/SSCs disagree or when decisions changes or other concerns arise
- Process/timing/roles need to be clear
- Many detailed comments regarding BSIA flowchart from presentation to Councils/committees
- Application to international stocks and stocks assessed by entities other than NMFS
- Stakeholder involvement
- Framework should be flexible
- BSIA for other mgmt. decisions and non-assessment sources

NEW DRAFT BSIA WHITE PAPER

- Adds background context
- Recommends that each Regional Office-Center-Council group document how they apply the BSIA framework
- Outlines the general BSIA framework steps
 - Draft stock assessment
 - Peer review
 - Assessment revision
 - SSC consideration
 - NMFS status determination & SSC harvest recommendation
 - Council harvest specification
 - NOAA Fisheries approval with National Standard consistency certification
- Appendix – with references to MSA and NS2 guidelines

NEW DRAFT BSIA WHITE PAPER – KEY CHANGES

- Emphasizes the role of the SSC
- Describes BSIA as a process, rather than a specific product
- Recommends that a NOAA Fisheries representative should be available during SSC deliberations to alert the SSC to potential science and management concerns (see (4)(b)(ii))
- Addresses when there is ambiguity or disagreement regarding assessment results (see (4)(b)(iv))

BSIA Framework Clarifies Expected Product

- How good is the scientific basis for each^{*} of:
 - Stock status relative to the overfishing status determination criteria (SDC) specified in the FMP;
 - Stock status relative to the overfished SDC specified in the FMP;
 - Implementation of established harvest control rules;
 - Any proposed revisions to SDCs, harvest control rules, or other management actions.

***Not all assessments will attempt all 4 components**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Does the revised white paper address your concerns?
- Does the white paper sufficiently provide clarity and increase transparency in how BSIA is achieved?
- How much more detail is needed in this framework, and in each regional documentation of its implementation?

NEXT STEPS

- Request Councils review revised draft
- Provide comments by May 2018 CCC if possible, else July
- Finalize document in Fall 2018

BEST SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE

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- Available for discussions & questions
(email, phone, in person)

Thank you!

