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A Practitioner's Guide to Fisheries Social Impact

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Why develop this Manual?

By providing a standard procedure for producing an SIA, this Manual will further two primary objectives:

- 1) to assure that all SIAs are based on “the best scientific information available” (per National Standard 2 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)) and
- 2) to help social scientists who have never conducted an SIA or need a brush-up. We assume that anyone planning to conduct an SIA and reading this guide will first have carefully reviewed the official the NOAA/NMFS [Guidelines for Assessment of the Social Impact of Fishery Management Actions](#) (SIA Guidelines) (NMFS 2007).

Context of the Manual

- Relationship to official SIA guidance
- Legal and policy framework



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What is the context of the Manual?

- Why a Step-by-Step Guide to SIAs?
 - The formal Guidelines are high-level
 - Not all staff assigned to SIAs have formal training
- What is its relationship to the official SIA Guidance?
 - It supports the official Guidance but does not replace it.
 - Official Guidance states: “Individual fisheries and issues will call for a range of social factor analysis methods and techniques, and selection of these tools will require case-by-case judgment (emphasis added).”
 - This Manual provides background for making those case-by-case judgments.

Why do we do SIAs?

Legal and policy framework

- Laws that require SIA
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)
- Executive Orders (EOs) relevant to SIA
 - E.O. 12898 on Environmental Justice
 - E.O. 12875 on Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership
 - E.O. 13175 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
- NOAA Fisheries policy directives
 - NMFS Guidance for Social Impact Assessments
 - National Standard 8 Guidelines
 - NMFS Guidance for Conducting a Review of Catch Share Programs



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SIA within the EIS

- SIA vs Affected Human Environment
- Social vs Economic Impact Assessments

Where within an EIS are social factors discussed?

- **SIA vs. Affected Human Environment section**
 - The AHE describes the baseline status of the fishery before implementation of any new regulations
 - The SIA analyzes and describes the likely changes, due to proposed regulatory actions, to the social fabric of the fishery.
- **Social vs. Economic Impact Assessments**
 - Both the social and the economic assessments use some of the same data
 - But “[w]hile SIAs focus on social and cultural values and systems [related to the economy], economic impact assessments focus on market and non-market values and systems” (Official SIA Guidelines), including to firms, fleets and industries.



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Development of an SIA

- Types of regulatory actions
- Who is likely to be affected
- Key social factors
- Finding the data
- Writing the SIA

Development of an SIA

- Identify the type of regulatory action
 - Allocations
 - Closed areas/seasons
 - Gear restrictions
 - Size limits
 - Trip and fish-based limits
 - Days-at-Sea
 - Overall catch limits
 - Limited access and limited entry
 - Catch shares

Development of an SIA (cont.)

- Whom does the regulation affect?
 - Interest/Fleet-based groups
 - Place-based communities
 - Choosing which communities to focus on
 - Fishing engagement and reliance
 - Regional and local quotient
 - Querying stakeholders
 - Social groups
 - Commercial fishermen
 - Recreational fishermen
 - Subsistence
 - Tribes
 - Other indigenous groups
 - Minority and low-income populations
 - Fishery-dependent shoreside businesses



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Development of an SIA (cont.)

- What are key social factors to examine?
 - Size and demographic characteristics of the fishery-related work force
 - Cultural issues of attitudes, beliefs and values
 - Social structure and organization
 - Life-style issues, health and safety issues, and the non-consumptive and recreational uses of living marine resources and their habitats
 - Historical dependence on and participation in the fishery
- Must all social factors be addressed?
 - No. Only those reasonably expected to be affected by the this particular action.

Development of an SIA (cont.)

- Finding the data needed
 - Primary data collection and Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)
 - Literature review
 - Secondary data
 - Primary data
 - Semi-structured interviews and oral histories
 - Focus groups
 - Surveys
- Writing the SIA – key sections to include
 - Why we do SIA
 - How were key communities chosen
 - Relevant background data on those communities
 - Discussion of those impacted under each proposed action
 - Summary of key points

Appendices

- A. Other relevant laws and executive orders
- B. Other relevant policy directives
- C. Tools and methods

Appendices

- A. Other relevant laws and Executive Orders

- Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice
- Executive Order 13707 – Using Behavioral Science Insights to Better Serve the American People
- Executive Orders related to Treaty Tribes
- Executive Order 12866 – Regulatory Planning and Review
- Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA)
- Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA)

- B. Other relevant policy directives

- White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Guidance on Cumulative Effects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Guidance on Environmental Justice under NEPA
- Dept. of Commerce Environmental Justice Strategy
- Policies and processes regarding tribes
- Office of Management and Budget Guidance on Implementing E.O. 12866
- The Small Business Administration’s Guide for “How to comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act”
- NOAA Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Policy
- NMFS Guidance for Conducting a Review of Catch Share Programs



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Appendices (cont.)

- **C. Tools and methods**
 - **General secondary data**
 - **Community Social Vulnerability Indicators (CSVIs)**
 - Fishing engagement and reliance
 - Social vulnerability and gentrification pressure vulnerability
 - **Climate vulnerability**
 - **Semi-structured interviews and oral histories**
 - Choosing interviewees
 - Conducting interviews
 - Transcribing and analyzing interviews



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Appendices (cont.)

- C. Tools and methods (cont.)
 - **Focus groups**
 - Locations and dates
 - Choosing the sample population
 - Setting up the focus group
 - Conducting the focus groups
 - Analyzing focus group data
 - **Surveys**
 - Creating the survey
 - Beta testing
 - Choosing the sampling strategy
 - Choosing the survey method
 - Analysis of survey data

Questions?



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