Sustainable Fishery Management Using the Best Science Information Available

Gulf SSC Meeting
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TAKEAWAYS

- National Standard 2 (MSA) mandates BSIA

- Each region has an NS2-compliant framework for ensuring that BSIA is used for management

- Multiple data streams considered in stock assessment and other processes for developing management advice

- Regional BSIA framework needs to apply to all data/models equally; peer review done at a degree commensurate with "novelty"

- Final "accepted" approach provides management advice and the BSIA framework ensures that the advice is based on BSIA

- A single element (e.g., particular data source) should not be labelled as BSIA

- Certain elements (data/models) may be appropriate for one management application and not another

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POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

NS2 Guidelines (Federal Register)

NS2 Peer Review Processes (Federal Register)

BSIA Framework (Procedural Directive)

Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act (Report to Congress)

Rec. Survey Certification & Implementation (Policy Directive)

Rec. Survey Implementation Guidance (Procedural Directive)

NS2 Guidelines Describe BSIA

- Scientific information: factual info, data, models, analyses, technical info, or scientific assessments
- Criteria for evaluation:
  - *Relevance* (pertinent and appropriate)
  - *Inclusiveness* (disciplines, points of view, LEK/TEK)
  - *Objectivity* (accurate, unbiased, precision known)
  - *Transparency & Openness* (comm. & stakeholders)
  - *Timeliness* (available when needed, minimize delays)
  - *Verification & Validation* (documentation & assurance)
  - *Peer Review* (lengthy description in guidelines)

BSIA FRAMEWORK PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE

- Complements NS2 Guidelines with who/how/when?
- Provides a general framework to improve communication, coordination, and transparency:

    1. Stock assessment

    2. Peer review

    3. Assessment revision

    4. SSC and NOAA Fisheries steps

    5. Councils develop catch specifications

    6. NOAA Fisheries approval/final BSIA certification

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NOAA Fisheries BSIA Framework

1. Stock assessment – technical basis for mgmt. decisions

   - Covers data-limited to comprehensive methods

   - Guided by ToR

2. Peer review – NS2 compliant regional process

   - Inclusive of all data, analyses, and communication (including externally provided); guided by ToR

   - Evaluate technical merits of: Stock status relative to overfishing/overfished criteria, projections for implementing OFL/ABC control rules

   - May conclude science supports some, but not all, decisions

3. Assessment revision – respond to peer review where appropriate

   - Coordinated between NMFS and SSC; constrained by ToR

NOAA Fisheries BSIA Framework

4. SSC and NOAA Fisheries steps

   - SSC considers peer reviewed assessment and makes catch recommendations (ABC) after determining regional BSIA framework was followed

   - Assessment results are locked in a central database, implicitly indicating consistency with BSIA (formal determination memo can be used)

   - NMFS makes stock status determinations

   - NMFS: establish POCs to SSCs to facilitate and address concerns

5. Councils develop catch specifications (e.g., ACLs)

6. NMFS reviews and approves Council catch specifications, certifies BSIA as basis for mgmt. action

SUMMARY

- Procedural directive describes general BSIA framework
- Each Science Center – Reg. Office – Council grouping: develop and document a regional BSIA framework (timeline, roles, and made publicly available)
- Documenting the regional framework improves communication, coordination, and transparency
- Applying the regional framework ensures mgmt. decisions are based on BSIA
- All data/models subject to the same regional BSIA framework
- **A single element (e.g., particular data source) should not be labelled as BSIA**

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Thank you