

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting – Silver Spring, MD
November 1-3, 2016

1. Title of Discussion: **2016 Revisions to National Standard 1 Guidelines**

2. Presenters: Deb Lambert, Fisheries Policy Analyst
 Office of Sustainable Fisheries

3. Objective/Purpose (Informational)

Provide an update on the final rule to revise the guidelines for National Standard 1 (NS1), 3, and 7. The revisions improve and streamline the guidelines to enhance their utility for managers and the public, and provide flexibility in meeting current Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) mandates. These guidelines relate to work being considered by the Resilience Working Group.

4. Background/Synopsis -- Four years ago, NOAA Fisheries requested public input on a proposed rulemaking on potential adjustments to NS1. MAFAC received a presentation on the proposal and provided feedback on the issues that were under consideration (See [MAFAC meeting, May 2012](#)). MAFAC also reviewed and discussed related NS1 topics following the Managing Our Nations Fisheries III conference ([May 2013](#)) and subsequent meetings.

The MSA establishes 10 National Standards for sustainable U.S. fisheries management. Every federal fishery management plan (FMP), FMP amendment, or regulation implementing a FMP in the United States must comply with these standards.

NS1 is a critical component of sustainable fisheries in the U.S. and requires that fishery conservation and management measures prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield (OY) from each fishery. NOAA Fisheries issues guidance – known as the NS1 guidelines – to assist the eight regional fishery management councils (Councils) and NOAA Fisheries in complying with these requirements

NOAA Fisheries published the [final rule](#) on October 18, 2016 with the Federal Register to revise the guidelines for National Standards 1, 3, and 7 (NS1) of the MSA and the General section of those guidelines. This final rule is primarily focused on revising the NS1 guidelines. The revisions to the General Section as well as the NS 3 and 7 guidelines were also for streamlining purposes.

The purpose of these 2016 revisions is to improve and streamline the guidelines to enhance their utility for managers and the public and provide flexibility in meeting current MSA mandates. These revisions do not establish new requirements or require councils to revise their current fishery management plans.

The revisions address a range of issues including:

- Providing stability to fisheries
- Adding flexibility to rebuilding plans
- Updating optimum yield and maximum sustainable yield concepts
- Improving guidance on managing data-limited stocks
- Consolidating guidance on identifying stocks to be included in federal fishery management plans
- Provisions to further advance ecosystem-based fisheries management

5. Action to be taken by MAFAC members – No Action