

Operational Guidelines for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
and Management Act Fishery Management Process
September 30, 2015

APPENDIX 1. Abbreviations and General Terminology

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A. Abbreviations.

The following list includes abbreviations used in the OGs as well as abbreviations that appear in other NMFS and Councils documents.

AA–	Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
APA–	Administrative Procedure Act
AR–	Administrative Record
ARA–	Assistant Regional Administrator
BA–	Biological Assessment
BO–	Biological Opinion
BiOp–	Biological Opinion
CE–	Categorical Exclusion
CEQ–	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR–	Code of Federal Regulations
COP–	Council Operating Procedures
CPE–	Comment Period Ends
CZMA–	Coastal Zone Management Act
CZMP–	Coastal Zone Management Plan
DEIS–	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DOC–	Department of Commerce
DOC/GC–	Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel
EA–	Environmental Assessment
EIS–	Environmental Impact Statement
EFH–	Essential Fish Habitat
EO–	Executive Order
EPA–	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA–	Endangered Species Act
FEIS–	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEP–	Fishery Ecosystem Plan
FOIA–	Freedom of Information Act
FMAT–	Fishery Management Action Team
FMP–	Fishery Management Plan
FONSI–	Finding of No Significant Impact
FRFA–	Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis
GC–	General Counsel
IPT–	Interdisciplinary Plan Team
IQA–	Information Quality Act
IRFA–	Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis
MRFSS–	Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey
MRIP–	Marine Recreational Information Program
MMPA–	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MSA–	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
NAO–	NOAA Administrative Order
NEPA–	National Environmental Policy Act

NID–	Negligible Impact Determination under the MMPA
NMFS–	National Marine Fisheries Service
NMSA–	National Marine Sanctuaries Act
NOA–	Notice of Availability
NOAA–	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI–	Notice of Intent
OAL–	Other Applicable Law
OFR–	Office of the Federal Register
OGs–	Operational Guidelines for the Fishery Management Process
OLE–	NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement
OMB–	The White House Office of Management and Budget
OPR–	Office of Protected Resources (Headquarters)
OSF–	Office of Sustainable Fisheries (Headquarters)
OSP/PPI–	The NOAA Office of Strategic Planning/Program Planning and Integration
PD–	NMFS Policy Directive
PDT–	Plan Development Team
PRA–	The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980
RA–	Regional Administrator
RFA–	Regulatory Flexibility Act
RID–	Regulatory Information Data
RIN–	Regulation Identifier Number
RIR–	Regulatory Impact Review
ROA–	Regional Operating Agreement
ROD–	Record of Decision
SBA–	Small Business Administration
SOPP–	Statement of Organization, Practices, and Procedures
SSC–	Scientific and Statistical Committee
TIA–	Takings Implication Assessment

B. Terminology

Action Plans. An “action plan” is a planning tool that many Council/Region pairs use to organize tasking and scheduling, as well as facilitate frontloading, for any particular action. Where relevant, Regional Operating Agreements (ROAs) provide specific details of how each Council/Region pair uses action plans. Action plans may include some or all of the following: description of the problem or objective, the proposed action, and potential alternatives; timelines for steps in developing the action and complying with OALs; Council and agency staff designated to work on the issue; and early identification of resources and analyses required. These plans provide a realistic, mutually-agreed upon path for the development and completion of Council actions. They may be working documents that are updated frequently.

Fishery Management Action Teams (FMATs), Plan Development Teams (PDTs), and Interdisciplinary Plan Teams (IPTs). FMATs, PDTs, and IPTs are additional mechanisms that Council/Region pairs may use to promote frontloading in the development of fishery management actions. The structure and functions of these teams vary by Council and are further

described in the ROAs. Depending on their purpose, these teams may include various mixtures of Council staff, NMFS staff, NOAA General Counsel, and, in some cases, Council members. Their functions vary, but may include development of alternatives, development of information for scoping, and development of technical information or analysis in support of specific Council actions.

Frameworking. “Frameworking” refers generally to establishing in an FMP/amendment or regulations a mechanism for implementing recurrent, routine, or foreseeable actions in an expedited manner. Such mechanisms may vary in terms of their structure, terminology, etc. A framework mechanism – and individual actions executed thereunder – must comply with the MSA and other applicable law. *See* Appendix 2 (Section C.2.v) or 3 (Section B.3.a) for further explanation.

Frontloading. Frontloading is the practice of involving relevant reviewers and contributors, and identifying legal and policy considerations, as early in the process as possible. Frontloading may require more investment of time upfront, but should help identify potential problems early and prevent them from becoming bigger problems in later stages of review and implementation.

Other Applicable Law (OALs). Various laws must be addressed in the context of fishery management action development, approval, and implementation. The relevant other applicable laws, some of which provide for consultations with States and Indian Tribes, are described in Appendix 2, Section D. In addition, various administrative orders, and other directives must often be addressed.

Scoping. “To scope” means to assess or investigate an issue or problem, or to look at it carefully. In a fisheries context, this typically involves public outreach and input from stakeholders. Although the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) does not use the term “scoping,” Councils engage in scoping activities to support their MSA mission. They continually review incoming information and conduct public meetings (often called “scoping meetings”), to gather information about needs for conservation and management. Once a management need has been identified, Councils may gather more focused input regarding potential responses through other open public meetings. In terms of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, the term “scoping” has a specific legal meaning. CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1501.7 describe a specific scoping process that must be completed as part of the process for development of an environmental impact statement. It is important for the Councils and Regions to be clear and inform the public when scoping activities pertain specifically to the NEPA-related requirements.