



NOAA FISHERIES

Office of
Sustainable
Fisheries

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Considerations for Comment on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Proposed Revisions to the Guidelines for National Standards 4, 8, and 9

NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on potential revisions to the Guidelines for National Standards 4, 8, and 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. A number of fishery management issues—including those related to climate-ready fisheries and equity and environmental justice—suggest a need to revisit the guidelines to ensure they remain appropriate for current U.S. fisheries management. This is a timely review to ensure the guidelines remain appropriate for current U.S. fisheries management.

The National Standards are principles that must be followed in any fishery management plan to ensure sustainable fishery management.

The guidelines being considered:

- National Standard 4—Allocations
- National Standard 8—Communities
- National Standard 9—Bycatch

NOAA Fisheries may determine no updates are needed to improve the national application of the guidelines. If we determine revisions are needed, NOAA Fisheries will undertake notice and comment rulemaking, providing an additional opportunity for public comment.

Submit Comments by Mail

Wendy Morrison
1315 East West Highway
13th Floor, Room 13357
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Comments Close:
09/12/2023



Items to Consider When Submitting Comments

NOAA Fisheries requests input on these topics

National Standard 4: Allocations

- Approaches to improve consideration of:
 - underserved/underrepresented communities
 - previously excluded entrants
 - new entrants
- Approaches for balancing access when stock distributions shift for:
 - historical users
 - marginalized individuals who may have been excluded historically
 - new users
- If revisions are needed to reinforce the NOAA Fisheries Allocation Policy
- Types of documentation, analyses, or alternative approaches that could be considered

National Standard 8: Communities

- If the definition of “fishing community” within the guidelines should be updated:
 - to allow communities that are not place based (i.e., fishery participants are not required to live in same geographic location)
 - to shift balance between dependence and engagement
- How to appropriately balance requirements for sustained participation of fishing communities with the need to improve consideration of:
 - underserved/underrepresented communities
 - previously excluded entrants
 - new entrants
 - communities with high level of social or climate vulnerabilities
- If updates to the guidelines are needed to improve the ability of communities to adapt to shifting stocks and changing environmental conditions.

National Standard 9: Bycatch

- How to modify guidelines to minimize bycatch in a manner that is equitable across different fisheries and gear types?
- Is there a need to better balance needs of bycatch and target fisheries in a manner that is equitable across different fisheries and gear types, especially when one or more fisheries are important for underserved populations?
- Update the guidelines to better account for changing distributions of target stocks, bycatch, and protected resources.

Other Challenges for Consideration

- Options for minimizing bycatch under the National Standard 9 practicability standard.
- Revisions to the guidelines that would incentivize reducing waste.



Comment period closes 09/12/2023

For more information visit: [fisheries.noaa.gov](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)

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