



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Potentially Update National Standard 4, 8, and 9 Guidelines

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Arlington, VA

Objective and Goal for the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR)



Objective: Determine if updates to the Guidelines for National Standards 4, 8, and 9 are needed to improve federal fisheries management.

Goal: Solicit public input on the current guidelines: areas/issues that may benefit from further consideration and/or revisions, as appropriate.

Background

MSA National Standards:

- NS 4 – **allocations** shall: be fair and equitable; promote conservation; not result in excessive shares.
- NS 8 – consider impacts to **communities**; provide for sustained participation; minimize adverse economic impacts to the extent practicable.
- NS 9 – minimize **bycatch**, and bycatch mortality, to the extent practicable.



ANPR Focuses on 2 Current Challenges

- Climate-Related Impacts on Fisheries
- Promoting Equity and Environmental Justice in Fisheries



Comment Period Closed September 12, 2023

Outreach and Engagement:

- Presentation at each Fishery Management Council
- 1 National webinar
- 2 Tribal webinars

392 Comments Received

- 9 Fishery Management Councils/State Management Agencies
- 38 Fishery Organizations
- 11 Tribes
- 10 eNGOs
- 321 individual stakeholders, the majority from Alaska



Initial Impressions

- NMFS received many comments from Fishery Management Councils and others expressing that changes to the guidelines are not needed.
 - They posit the current guidelines do not hinder responses to climate and EEJ issues where needed.
- Other fisheries participants, representatives of fishing communities, and environmental groups support some changes to the guidelines, especially related to NS4 and NS9.
- In general, most commenters were against changes to the definition of fishing communities (removing place-based requirement / focusing more on engagement than dependence).
- A large number of stakeholders commented that they are concerned about the impacts of trawling on fisheries and habitats.

Next Steps

- NMFS is reviewing the comments received.
- If warranted, NMFS will begin drafting a proposed rule, with targeted publication in spring 2024.
- Any proposed rule will have an opportunity for further comment and Council engagement.
- We intend to provide an update to the CCC in May 2024.

