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# Guidelines for National Standard 2

Next steps?



## Overview and Process

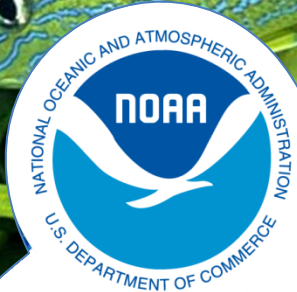
**National Standard 2 (NS2): Conservation and management measures shall be based upon the best scientific information available.**

**NS2 amended guidelines were published in July 2013.**

Developed to comply with provisions in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (MSRA) of 2007 to improve scientific integrity.

“final rule” can be found at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-07-19/pdf/2013-17422.pdf>



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## National Standard 2 Benefits

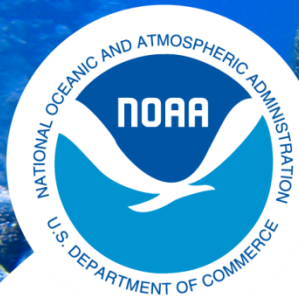
- The revised guidelines make only modest adjustments to current operating practices.
- The guidance will align MSRA science with President Obama's and NOAA's scientific integrity policy.
- Formalizing these guidelines, will strengthen the reliability and credibility of scientific information used by NOAA.
- This will improve public trust and benefit stakeholders.



## Rule Content

National Standard 2 provides guidance on:

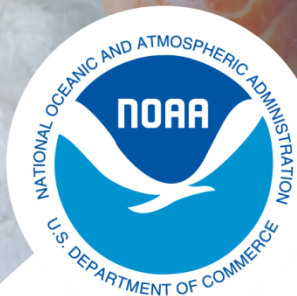
- What constitutes Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA),
- Scientific peer review standards,
- Role of Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSC) in the review of scientific information,
- Purpose, content, and availability of Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) reports.



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## Best Scientific Information Available

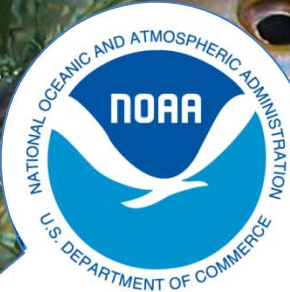
- Includes guidance on what constitutes the Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) for improving fishery conservation and management.
- The 2004 National Research Council recommendations are adopted on the importance of relevance, inclusiveness, objectivity, transparency, timeliness, verification, validation, and peer review for BSIA.
- NS2 guidelines consider the definition of BSIA to be a dynamic process involving continuous improvements.



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## Peer Review Standards

- The guidelines provide peer review standards, including reviewer selection criteria such as
  - Reviewers must abide by conflict of interest rules and
  - Must not have contributed to the development of the scientific information under review.
- The intent of the MSRA to provide the Secretary and Councils with the discretion to establish peer review processes is affirmed.
- MSRA peer review is now consistent with the Information Quality Act and the OMB Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.

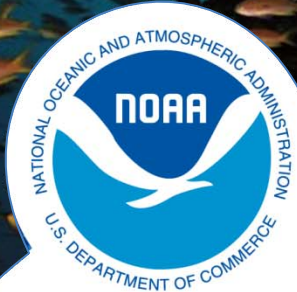


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## Role of Scientific and Statistical Committees

- Guidelines affirm the function of the Scientific and Statistical Committees (SSCs) is to evaluate scientific information and provide recommendations to their Council.
- SSC's assistance in the peer review of scientific information is reaffirmed.
- Participation of an SSC member in a peer review should not impair their advisory responsibilities to their Council.
- If SSCs members participate in a peer review, those SSCs members must meet peer reviewer selection criteria described in NS2 guidelines.



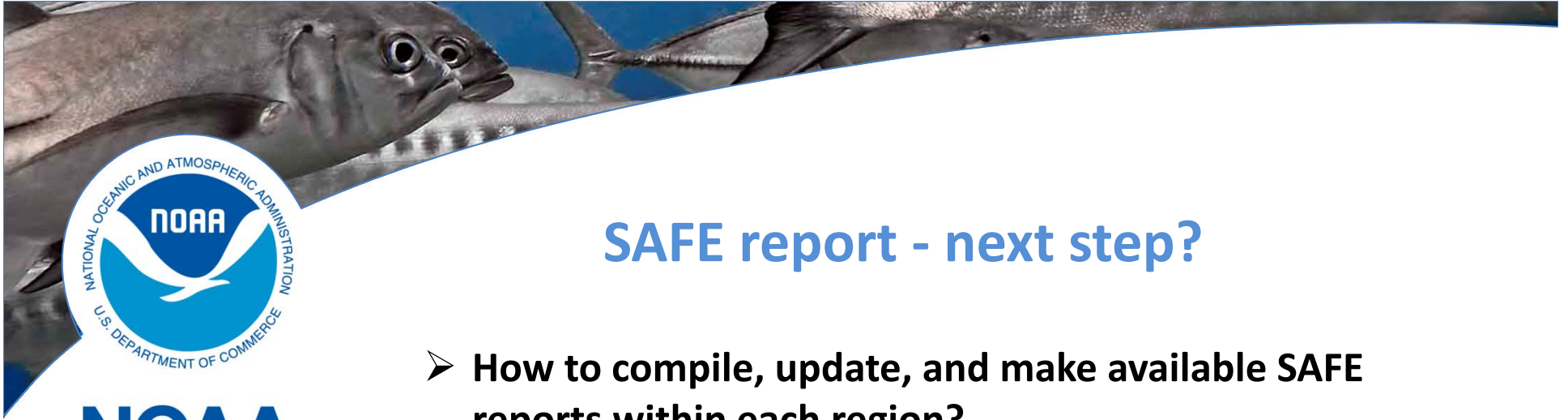


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## Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports

- The guidelines emphasize the importance of the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report as the source of science information on managed fish stocks for the Secretary and the Councils.
- Clarification is provided on the purpose and content of SAFE reports.
- SAFE reports must be made publicly available via website by the Council or NMFS.





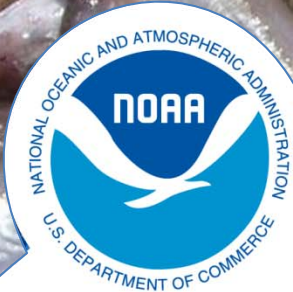
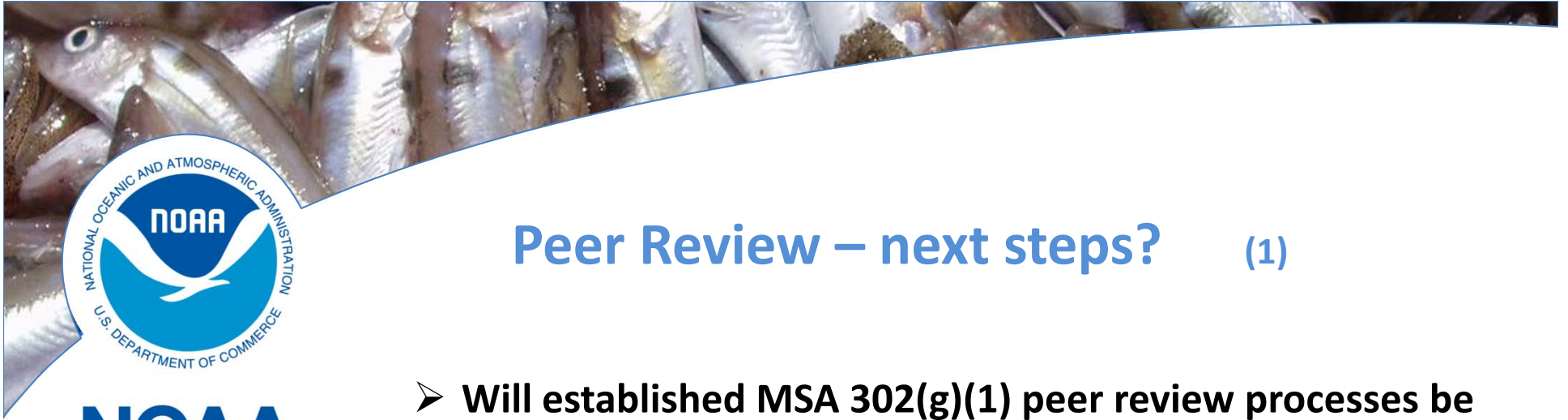
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## SAFE report - next step?

- **How to compile, update, and make available SAFE reports within each region?**

NS2 (d) "SAFE report ... refers to a public document or set of related public documents, that provide the Secretary and the Councils with a summary of scientific information..."

NS2 (d)(5)(ii) "SAFE report ... must be made available by the Council or NMFS on a readily accessible web site."



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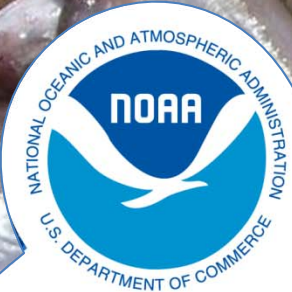
## Peer Review – next steps? (1)

- **Will established MSA 302(g)(1) peer review processes be publicly announced in the Federal Register?**

NS2 (b)(4) “Secretary will announce the establishment of a peer review process under MSA section 302(g)(1)(E) in the Federal Register...”

MSA 302(g)(1)(E) “Secretary and each Council may establish a peer review process for that Council for scientific information used to advise the Council about...”

NS2 (b)(1)(i) “Secretary and Council have discretion to determine the appropriate peer review process...”



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## Peer Review – next steps?

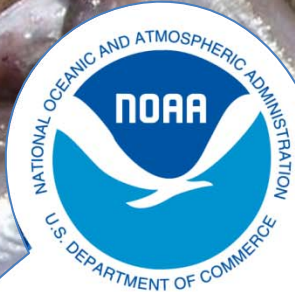
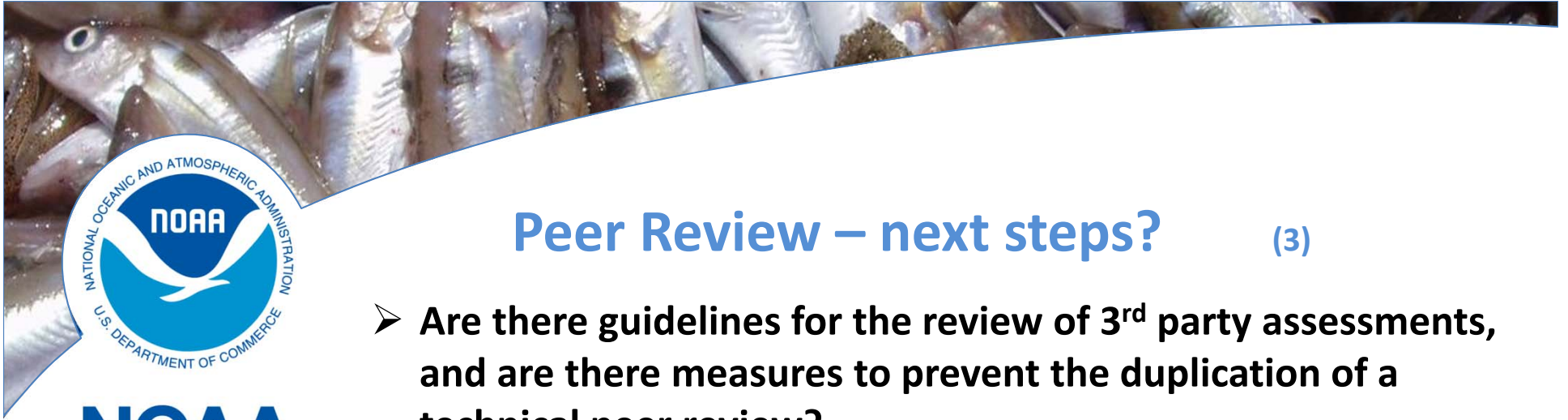
(2)

- **What triggers the need for external peer review (routine cycle, updates, benchmark)?**

NS2 (b)(1) “Secretary and Council should focus on providing review for information that has not yet undergone rigorous peer review, but that must be reviewed in order to provide reliable, high quality scientific advice...”

OMB Peer Review (II)(1) “each agency shall conduct a peer review on all influential scientific information that the agency intends to disseminate.”

OMB Peer Review (I)(6) “influential scientific information means ... will have or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or private sector decisions”



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## Peer Review – next steps? (3)

- **Are there guidelines for the review of 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessments, and are there measures to prevent the duplication of a technical peer review?**

NS2 (b)(1) “Duplication of previously conducted peer review should be avoided.”

NS2 (c)(4) “the evaluation by the SSC of the peer reviewed information should not repeat the previously conducted and detailed technical peer review.”

MSA 302 (g)(1)(E) “Secretary and Council may establish a peer review...”

NS2 (b)(1)(iii) “...terms of reference... of any peer review should be determined in advance...”