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# Proposed NEPA Regulations

**Tom Nies**

**New England Fishery Management Council**

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New England  
Fishery Management Council

# NEPA Regulations

- Managed by Council on Environmental Quality
- Adopted 1978; only minor changes since
- Specify requirements for NEPA process, including document preparation, in broad terms
- Supplemented by various guidance documents, court decisions, Presidential Directives, etc.

# Reason for Updates

- Enhance decision-making
- Make decisions more efficient
- Incorporate court interpretations
- “...facilitate more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews by federal agencies.”

# Overview

- More definitive timetables for completion of reviews
- Provisions to promote informed decision-making
- Make regulations easier to understand and apply

# Sections

- **1500 – Purpose and Policy**
- **1501 - NEPA Threshold Applicability Analysis**
- **1502 - Environmental Impact Statement**
- **1503 – Comments on EIS**
- **1504 – Pre-Decisional Referrals**
- **1505 – NEPA and Agency Decision Making**
- **1506 – Other Requirements of NEPA**
- **1507 – Agency Compliance**
- **1508 – Definitions**

# Purpose and Policy

- NEPA compliance – addressing comments, comment periods
- Reduce paperwork – document limits, integrate with other requirements
- Reduce delay

# NEPA Threshold

- Does NEPA apply?
- Apply NEPA early
- Determine level of review
- Guidance on CE, EA, EIS decision
- Scoping
- Time limits

# EIS

- Shall not be encyclopedic
- Discussion proportional to impacts
- Page limit: 150-300 pages or fewer
- Format flexibility



# Agency Compliance

- May include designation of processes that serve the function of compliance with NEPA

# Possible Comments

- Support update
- Concern over page and time limits
- Cumulative effects?
- Support functional equivalency of other processes

Questions?