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Atlantic HMS Best Scientific Information Available (BSIA) Framework

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species
Advisory Panel Meeting
September 8, 2021

Outline

- Reminder: what is BSIA?
- NOAA Fisheries BSIA framework
- Atlantic HMS regional BSIA framework
 - Structure & layout of document
- Current BSIA procedures for three Atlantic HMS stock assessment processes:
 - ICCAT stock assessments (tuna, billfish, swordfish)
 - SEDAR stock assessments (domestic sharks)
 - “External” stock assessments
- Requested Feedback
- Next Steps

Spring 2021 Advisory Panel Presentation
introducing the regional Atlantic HMS
BSIA Framework:

[https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/
may-2021-hms-advisory-panel-meeting](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/may-2021-hms-advisory-panel-meeting)

May 26 / Day 2, 1:00 p.m.



NOAA Fisheries Framework for Determining that Stock Status Determinations and Catch Specifications are Based on Best Scientific Information Available

Reminder: Intent is to describe the process, not change it.


Department of Commerce · National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration · National Marine Fisheries Service

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE PROCEDURE 01-101-10
Effective on: May 7, 2019
To be reviewed on: May 7, 2024
Fisheries Management
Fishery Management Actions 01-101
NOAA Fisheries Framework for Determining that Stock Status Determinations and Catch Specifications are Based on the Best Scientific Information Available

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/policy-directive-system>

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Type of Issuance: Initial

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I. Introduction

The [Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act](#) (MSA) mandates that fishery management decisions in the U.S. be based on the best scientific information available (BSIA). The purpose of this document is to provide clarity and increase transparency in how BSIA determinations are made and documented in the context of stock status determinations and catch specifications. The document generally represents status quo working arrangements and should not require significant changes to current regional processes.

The MSA and National Standard 2 (NS2) guidelines provide legislative and policy context for the scientific basis of fish stock status determinations and catch recommendations and specifications, but do not describe the specific steps involved. Relevant excerpts are provided in Appendix A. Per MSA 302(g)(1)(E), peer review processes established by the Secretary of Commerce and a Regional Fishery Management Council are deemed to satisfy the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review. The regional peer review processes developed by NMFS and the Councils are described in the 2016 Federal Register Notice entitled Regional Peer Review Processes (81 FR 54561; August 16, 2016). This procedural directive provides a framework for following the steps in the BSIA process, and complements NS2, NS2 guidelines, and



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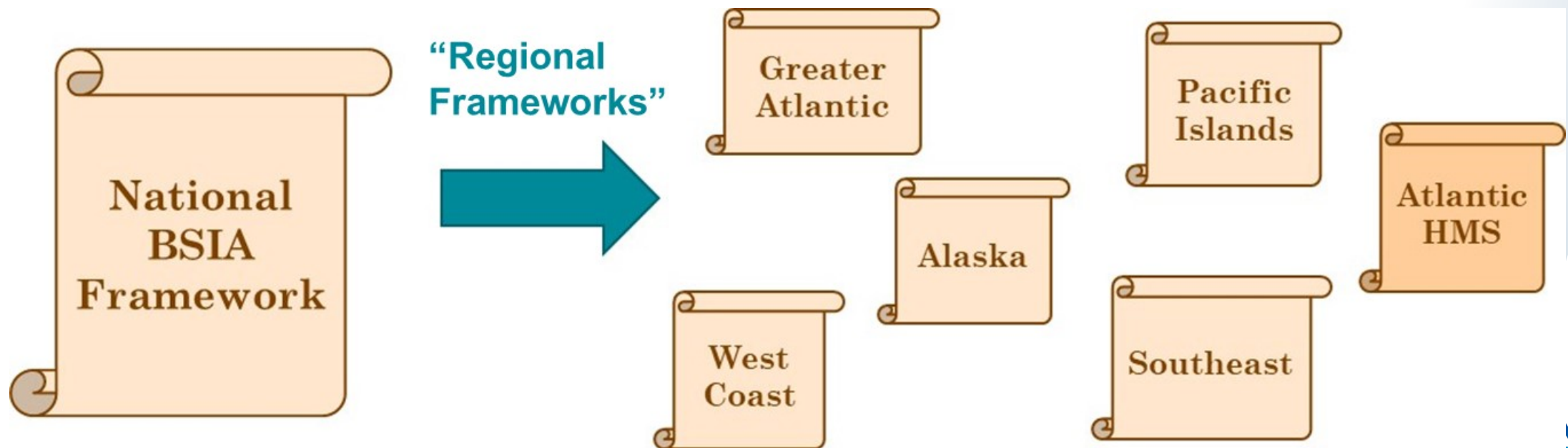
Reminder: What is BSIA?

- Factual input, data, models, analyses, technical information, or scientific assessments
- Surveys or sampling programs
- Models that are mathematical representations of reality constructed with primary data
- Established and emergent scientific information
- Dynamic!
- Means different things under different circumstances – a good BSIA statement clarifies scope and uncertainty



NOAA Fisheries BSIA Framework

- A National BSIA Framework provides a recipe to operationalize guidance concerning stock status determinations and catch specifications (quota rules) across the regions



Atlantic HMS BSIA Framework

Six BSIA Framework Steps:

Step 1: Stock Assessment

Step 2: Peer Review

Step 3: Revision

Step 4: Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and NOAA Fisheries steps

Step 5: Catch specifications

Step 6: NOAA Fisheries approval

ICCAT

SEDAR

**External
Assessments**



Atlantic HMS BSIA Framework: Organization of the Document

- Introduction
 - Overview of National Standard 2, the NOAA Fisheries BSIA Framework procedural directive (“national framework”), and the regional BSIA frameworks
 - Brief summary of Atlantic HMS management



Atlantic HMS BSIA Framework: Organization of the Document

- Framework description for each stock assessment process – ICCAT, SEDAR, “external” assessments:
 - Background – high level narrative and description of the stock assessment process
 - Table identifying major process components associated with national BSIA framework step



Table 3. HMS BSIA Framework for SEDAR stock assessments.

HMS BSIA Framework Policy Components	HMS BSIA Framework Description	Documentation and Recent Examples
NOAA Fisheries BSIA Framework Step 1: Stock Assessment		
A. Prioritization process and scheduling	The Atlantic HMS Management Division, in coordination with SEDAR and the SEFSC, prioritizes and schedules stock assessments in accordance with guidance on Prioritizing Fish Stock Assessments and other considerations. Detailed schedules are created and published online for each workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once finalized, assessment schedules are published by SEDAR staff at http://sedarweb.org/ Notice of all SEDAR meetings are published in the Federal Register Benchmark - SEDAR 65 Blacktip Shark Assessment schedule
B. Supporting panel appointment	NOAA Fisheries periodically solicits nominations to participate in the SEDAR Pool. Members of the SEDAR Pool selected for a particular assessment consider the scientific information, including data and models, used in stock assessments and advise NOAA Fisheries about the conservation and management of Atlantic sharks.	Terms of Reference for the HMS SEDAR AP. Recent nomination process completed for 2021-2022 SEDAR Pool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement by NOAA Fisheries Federal Register notice (85 FR 48226; August 10, 2020)
C. Terms of reference (TOR)	TORs specifying the tasks and objectives for an assessment are developed by the SEFSC and Cooperator according to the SEDAR Operating Policies and Procedures. Following approval by a Steering Committee and appropriate Cooperator, a project-specific TOR on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benchmark - SEDAR 65 Atlantic Blacktip Shark TOR (2019-2020) Standard - SEDAR 54 Sandbar Shark TOR (2016-2020) TORs for other assessments can be found on the respective project page at sedar-projects

National Framework
Step #

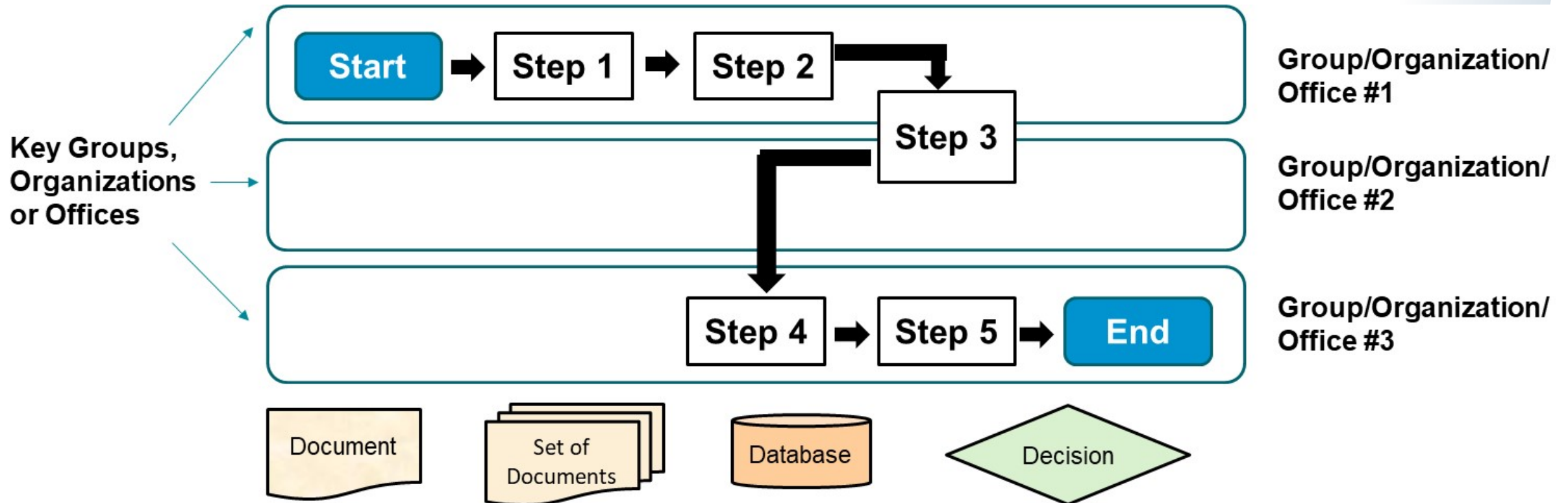
Major steps
specific to HMS
assessments

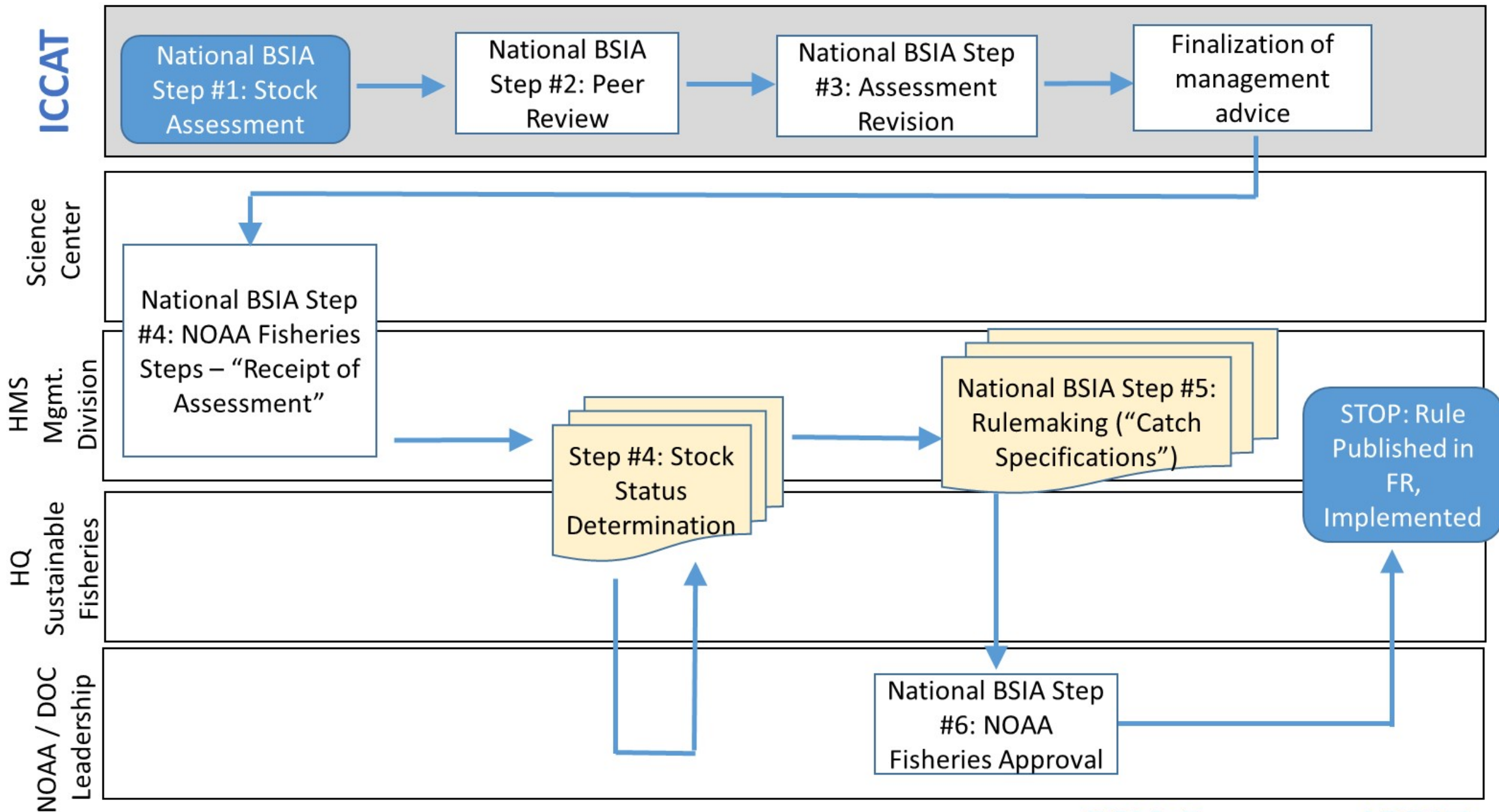
Description –
Who? What?
When? How?

Examples

Summary of BSIA Framework By Stock Assessment Process

- High level simplification – not all nuances, steps, or context
- See framework for steps and descriptions





BSIA Process – ICCAT

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National BSIA
Step #1: Stock
Assessment

National BSIA
Step #2: Peer
Review

National BSIA Step
#3: Assessment
Revision

Finalization of
management
advice

Science
Center

National BSIA Step
#4: NOAA Fisheries
Steps – “Receipt of
Assessment”

HMS
Mgmt.
Division

Step #4: Stock
Status
Determination

National BSIA Step #5:
Rulemaking (“Catch
Specifications”)

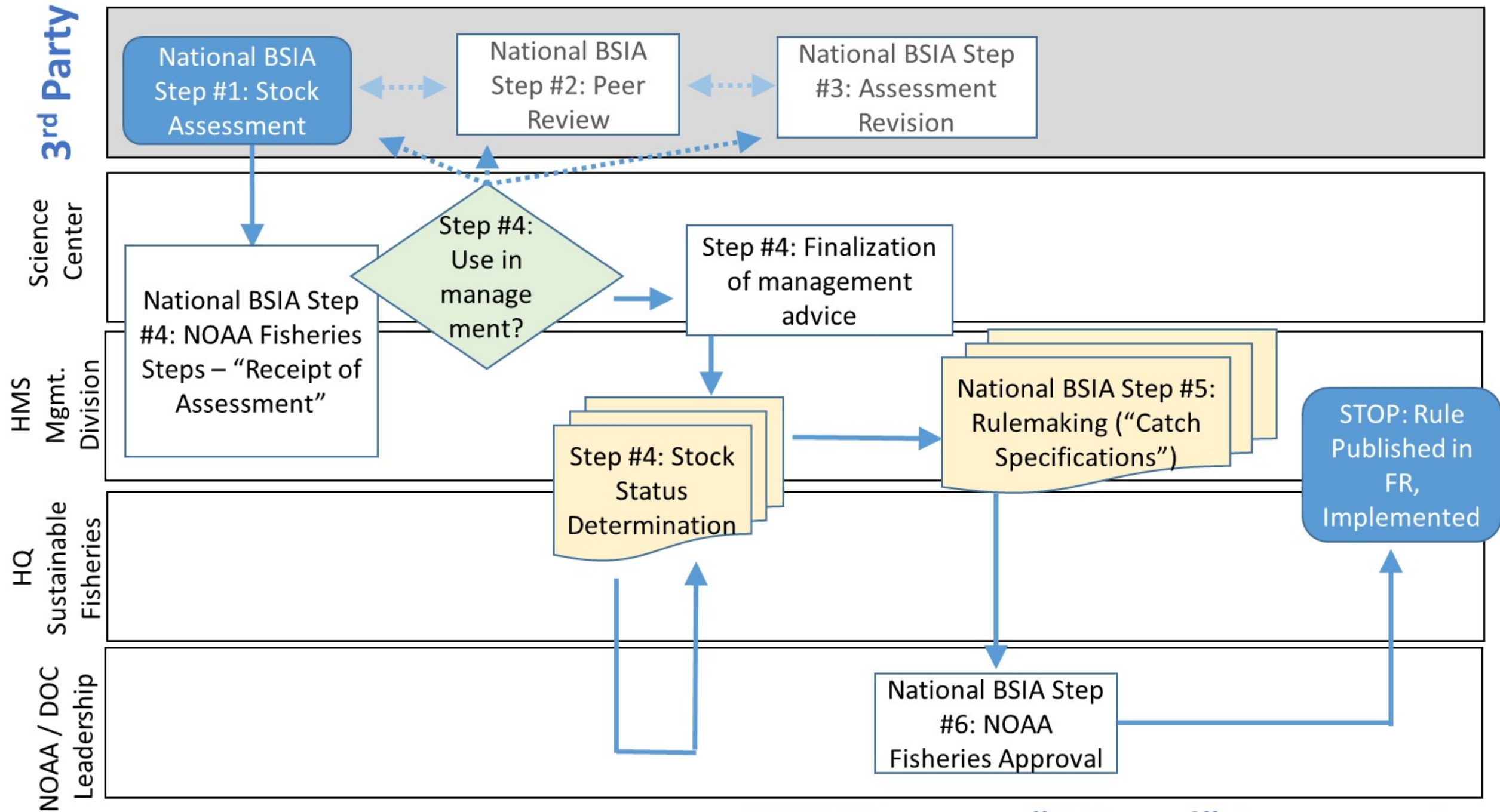
STOP: Rule
Published in
FR,
Implemented

HQ
Sustainable
Fisheries

NOAA / DOC
Leadership

National BSIA Step
#6: NOAA
Fisheries Approval

BSIA Process – SEDAR



BSIA Process – “External” Assessments

Next Steps: Feedback

- Final HMS BSIA Framework should include any feedback from:
 - HMS Advisory Panel
 - Other interested parties
- Intent is to accurately describe the process
 - Does it make sense?
 - Is there sufficient detail?
 - Are we missing anything?
 - Processes may change – how should we address this?
- Reminder: We are not debating the merits of the process or attempting to change the process



Next Steps: Timeline

- Publish draft Atlantic HMS BSIA Framework – Sept 2021
- Collect feedback – Fall 2021
- Prepare final Atlantic HMS BSIA Framework – Winter 2022
- Publish final Atlantic HMS BSIA Framework - May 2022



Questions?

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Feedback:

- Does it make sense?
- Is there sufficient detail?
- Are we missing anything?
- Processes may change – how should we address this?



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	ICCAT	SEDAR	“External”
Species	Tunas, swordfish, billfish, pelagic sharks	Domestically-managed sharks	To date, domestically-managed sharks
Website	www.iccat.int/en/	https://sedarweb.org	<i>N/A, could be published online</i>
Who?	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)	Cooperators, SEDAR staff, and others*	Third party, may include NOAA scientists
NS2** FR Process?	No	Yes	No
Recent examples	Western Atlantic bluefin (2021)	Hammerhead (2021)	Scalloped hammerhead (Hayes et al. 2009)

**Including but not limited to - Councils, Commissions, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC), Southeast Regional Office (SERO), Atlantic HMS Management Division, the “SEDAR Pool”, SEDAR staff, and the public.*

***NS2 FR Process = National Standard 2 Federal Register announced process, e.g., <https://bit.ly/3xVDdt4>*

