



# D2 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology

February 2020 Council Meeting

## Action Memo

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver  
Action Required: 1. Review SBRM report  
2. Adopt or revise recommendations

## BACKGROUND

On January 19, 2017, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule ([82 FR 6317](#)) establishing national guidance for compliance with this requirement. As required by 50 CFR 600.1610(b), Councils, in coordination with NMFS, must review their FMPs and make any necessary changes so all FMPs are consistent with the guidance by February 21, 2022.

The national guidance, codified at 50 CFR 600.1605(a) defines a standardized reporting methodology as “an established, consistent procedure or procedures used to collect, record, and report bycatch data in a fishery.” This information, in conjunction with other relevant sources, is used to assess the amount and type of bycatch occurring in the fishery and inform the development of conservation and management measures to minimize bycatch. **The regulations require that a FMP must identify the required procedure that constitutes the standardized reporting methodology for the fishery and explain how the procedure meets the purpose to collect, record, and report bycatch data.** The proposed and final rules explain that a standardized bycatch reporting methodology (SBRM) could include one or more combination of data collection and reporting programs such as observer programs, electronic monitoring, and industry reports (e.g. landing reports or “fish tickets”).

The SBRM final rule requires the Council to explain how the SBRMs meet the stated purpose in the rule based on specific considerations which Council must address when reviewing or establishing a SBRM. This report comprises the review of the SBRMs in the NPFMC’s FMPs (BSAI and GOA Groundfish, BSAI Crab, Scallops, Salmon, and Arctic) for consistency with the national guidance. The NMFS Alaska Regional Office will use this review, along with any other relevant information, to determine whether the SBRMs are fully consistent with the guidance, or if any FMP changes are necessary prior to the February 2022 deadline. As stated in the final rule, NMFS strongly recommends that the Council provide direction, as needed, to NMFS about how to adjust the implementation of a SBRM consistent with the FMPs. Additionally, the Council, in coordination with NMFS, should periodically review SBRMs to verify continued compliance with the MSA and the final rule. Such a review should be conducted at least once every five years.