



# FROM AN IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION

## THE COUNCIL PROCESS

is guided by federal laws and policies.

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**IT TAKES MANY STEPS** to get from an **IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION**.

Each issue is reviewed at several meetings,  
and some issues are more complex and take longer.

**1** Most **IDEAS** can be brought to the Council during public testimony or through an advisory body. New issues are often raised up during Staff Tasking at the end of the meeting.

**2** **DISCUSSION PAPER** / Expanded Discussion Paper: The staff prepares a discussion paper to explore the scope of an issue and can help the Council develop alternative solutions. For very complex issues, several discussion papers may be needed to explore all components of an issue. Based on the discussion paper and public input, the Council adopts a problem statement and identifies several distinct alternatives for **ANALYSIS**. (Simpler issues may go directly to analysis and initial review.)

**3** **INITIAL REVIEW:** Staff prepares a draft analysis incorporating applicable laws, public input and development from earlier stages. Depending on feedback from the SSC, stakeholder advisory bodies and the public, the Council will determine whether the analysis is ready to advance to final action or needs more development.

**4** **FINAL ACTION:** Staff revises the analysis based on advisory body and Council recommendations. The public provides comment, and the AP makes a recommendation to the Council regarding a preferred alternative. The Council makes a final decision.

*The ability to comment is available at every stage.*

## APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

The National Marine Fisheries Service **PREPARES REGULATIONS BASED ON COUNCIL ACTION** and after a comment period and approval, new regulations take effect and are enforced.

