

Timeline for amendment analyses

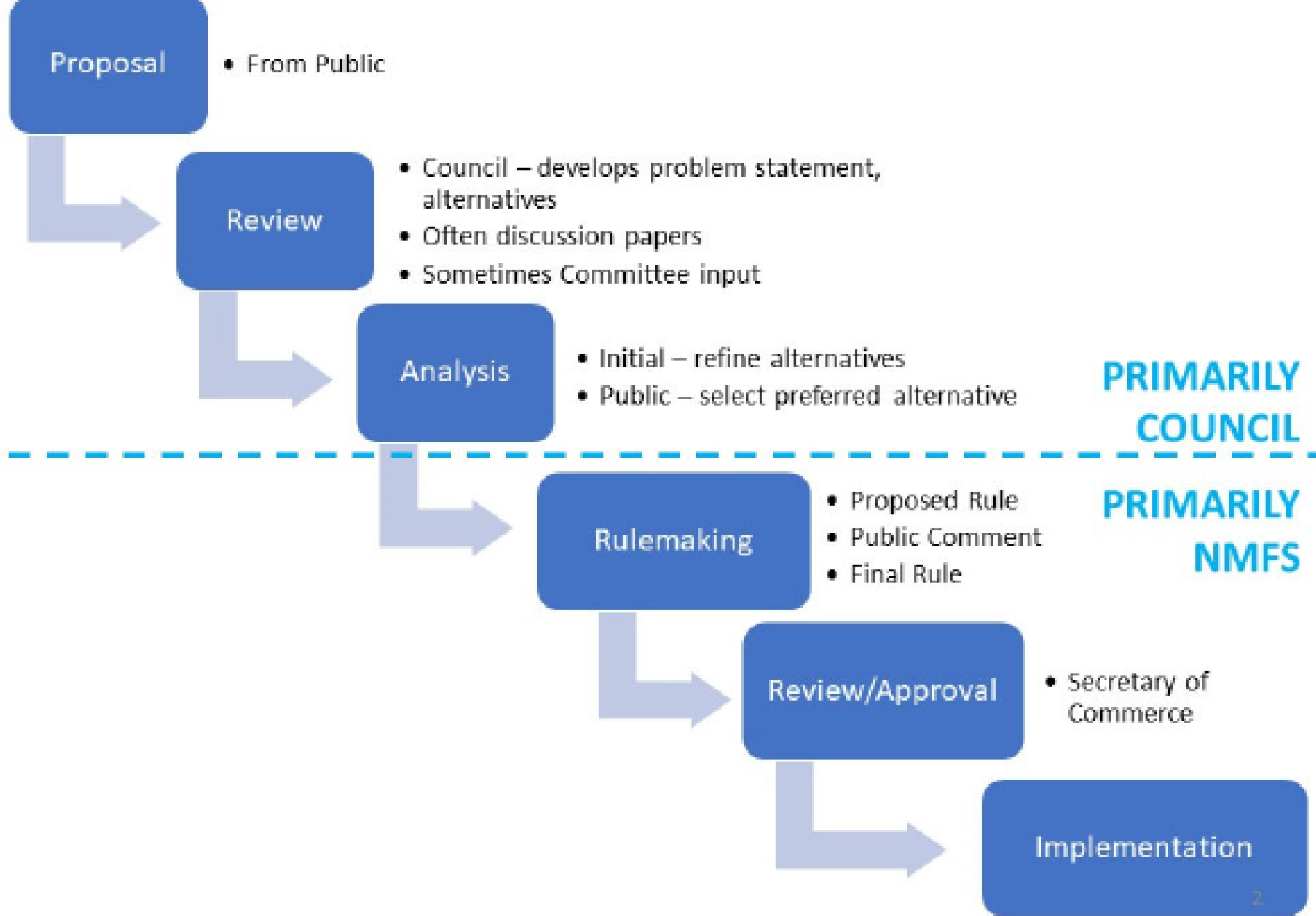
NPFMC Salmon Bycatch Committee
January 25



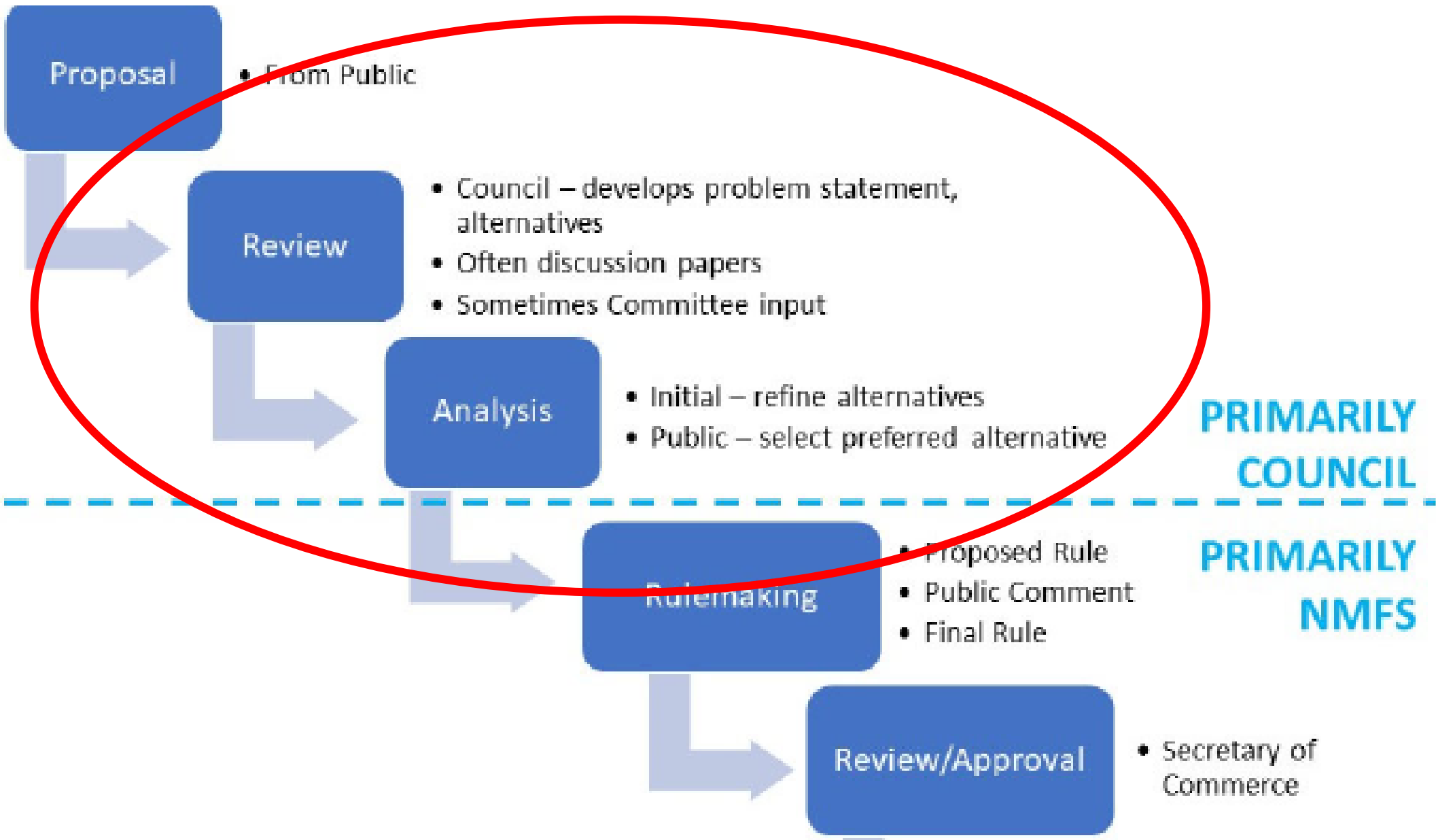
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Approximately 2 years



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Timeline for previous salmon bycatch analyses

- Amendment 91
 - 2007-2008:
 - multiple workshops with the SSC on genetics, incentive programs and cap levels
 - Salmon Bycatch Committee met several times to proposed cap levels based on historical bycatch
 - February 2008: Council review of discussion paper to finalize alternatives
 - June 2008: Initial review of analysis
 - December 2008: DEIS published
 - April 2009: Final Action Amd 91
 - January 2011: implementation

Timeline for previous salmon bycatch analyses

- Amendment 110
 - 2013: discussion paper on AEQ, fleet performance
 - June 2014: expended discussion paper building off 2013
 - Council selects Purpose and need and suite of alternatives
 - December 2014: initial review
 - April 2015: Final action
 - January 2016: implementation

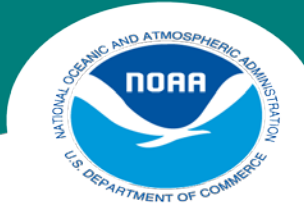
Drafting a purpose and need statement

Excerpted from NEPA training materials from Gretchen Harrington NOAA Fisheries



Purpose and Need for Action

- Critical first step
- Informed thru the public process
- Answers key questions—
 - **WHAT is the problem?**
 - **WHY are we taking action?**
 - **WHAT are the objectives of the action (solution)?**
 - **WHAT are we trying to achieve?**
- *Simple and concise*



Why is the “Purpose and Need” Important?

- Sets the stage for the entire document
- Should be neither too broad nor too narrow
- **Helps define all of the alternatives considered**
- If an alternative does not meet the purpose and need it should not be analyzed but could be included as “considered but eliminated from detailed study”



Relationship between the P & N and Alternatives

- **The purpose and need determines the *reasonable range of alternatives***

Iterative process...

- **Does the P & N yield a reasonable range of alternatives?**
- **Does the range of alternatives match the P & N?**



What is a reasonable range of alternatives?

- A reasonable alternative answers:
 - **Does the alternative meet the objectives and fulfill the underlying need for the action?**
 - **Is it technically and economically practical/feasible?**
 - **Does it make common sense?**
- Includes a “no action” alternative

Purpose and Need Chum2012

Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standards direct management Councils to balance achieving optimum yield with bycatch reduction as well as to minimize adverse impacts on fishery dependent communities. Non-Chinook salmon (primarily made up of chum salmon) prohibited species bycatch (PSC) in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery is of concern because chum salmon are an important stock for subsistence and commercial fisheries in Alaska. There is currently no limitation on the amount of non-Chinook PSC that can be taken in the directed pollock trawl fisheries in the Bering Sea. The potential for high levels of chum salmon bycatch as well as long-term impacts of more moderate bycatch levels on conservation and abundance, may have adverse impacts in fishery dependent communities.

Non-Chinook salmon PSC is managed under chum salmon savings areas and the voluntary Rolling Hotspot System (RHS). Hard caps, area closures and perhaps and enhanced RHS may be needed to ensure that non-Chinook PSC is limited and remains at a level that will minimize adverse impacts on fishery dependent communities. The Council should structure non-Chinook PSC management measures to provide incentive for the pollock trawl fleet to improve performance in avoiding non-Chinook salmon while achieving optimum yield from the directed fishery and objectives of the Amendment 91 Chinook salmon PSC management program. Non-Chinook salmon PSC reduction measures should focus, to the extent possible, on reducing impacts to Alaska chum salmon as a top priority.