



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Best Scientific Information Available – Draft Document

May 2017 CCC Meeting
Gloucester, MA

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Best Scientific Information Available

Outline

Objectives

Challenges

General Steps

Status

OBJECTIVES

Fishery management must be based on BSIA

- Document aims to:
 - Describe BSIA certification process for stock assessments to support:
 - Fishing recommendations (OFL & ABC)
 - Stock status determination
 - Harvest specifications (ACL)
- Identify roles & facilitate coordination with SSCs

CHALLENGES

- Coordination of peer review, status determination, & fishing limit specification
- Assessment uncertainty and suitability for determining stock status and fishing limits
- When in the process BSIA is firmly decided
- SSC role in contributing to NMFS' BSIA determination
- How the BSIA determination is documented

GENERAL STEPS

Draft Stock Assessment



**Regional Peer
Review (NS2)**



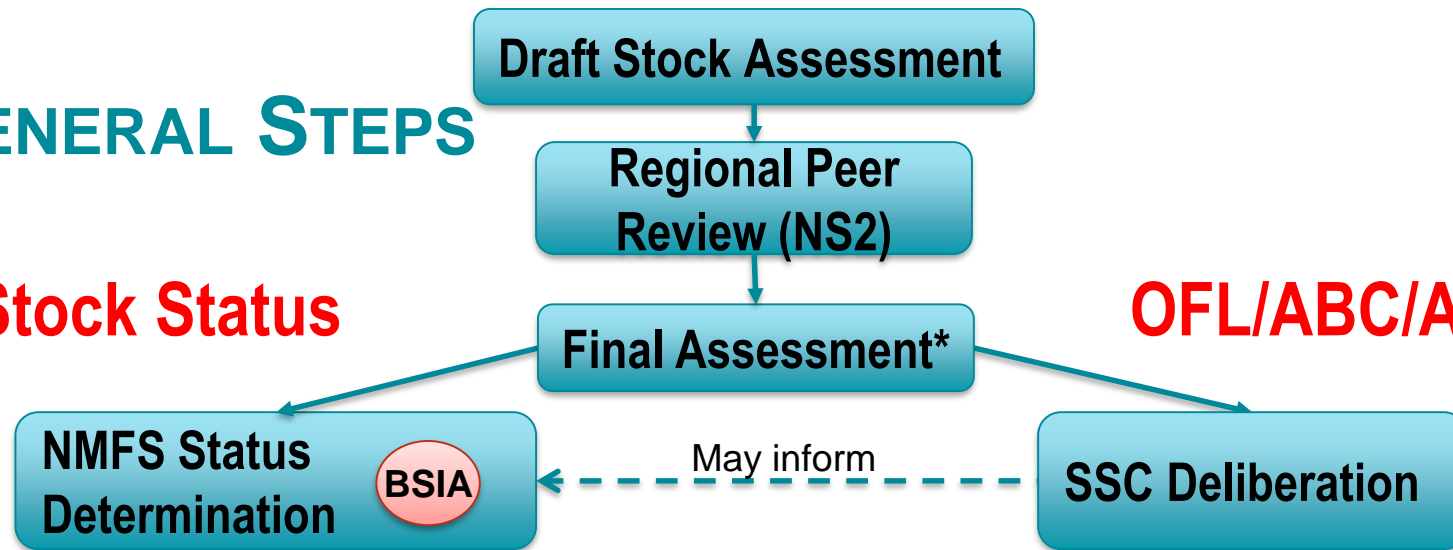
Final Assessment*

*Science centers may certify final assessments as BSIA

GENERAL STEPS

Stock Status

OFL/ABC/ACL



4 aspects evaluated for BSIA

1. Overfishing
2. Overfished
3. Catch level
4. Amendments (SDC, harvest policy, rebuilding plan)

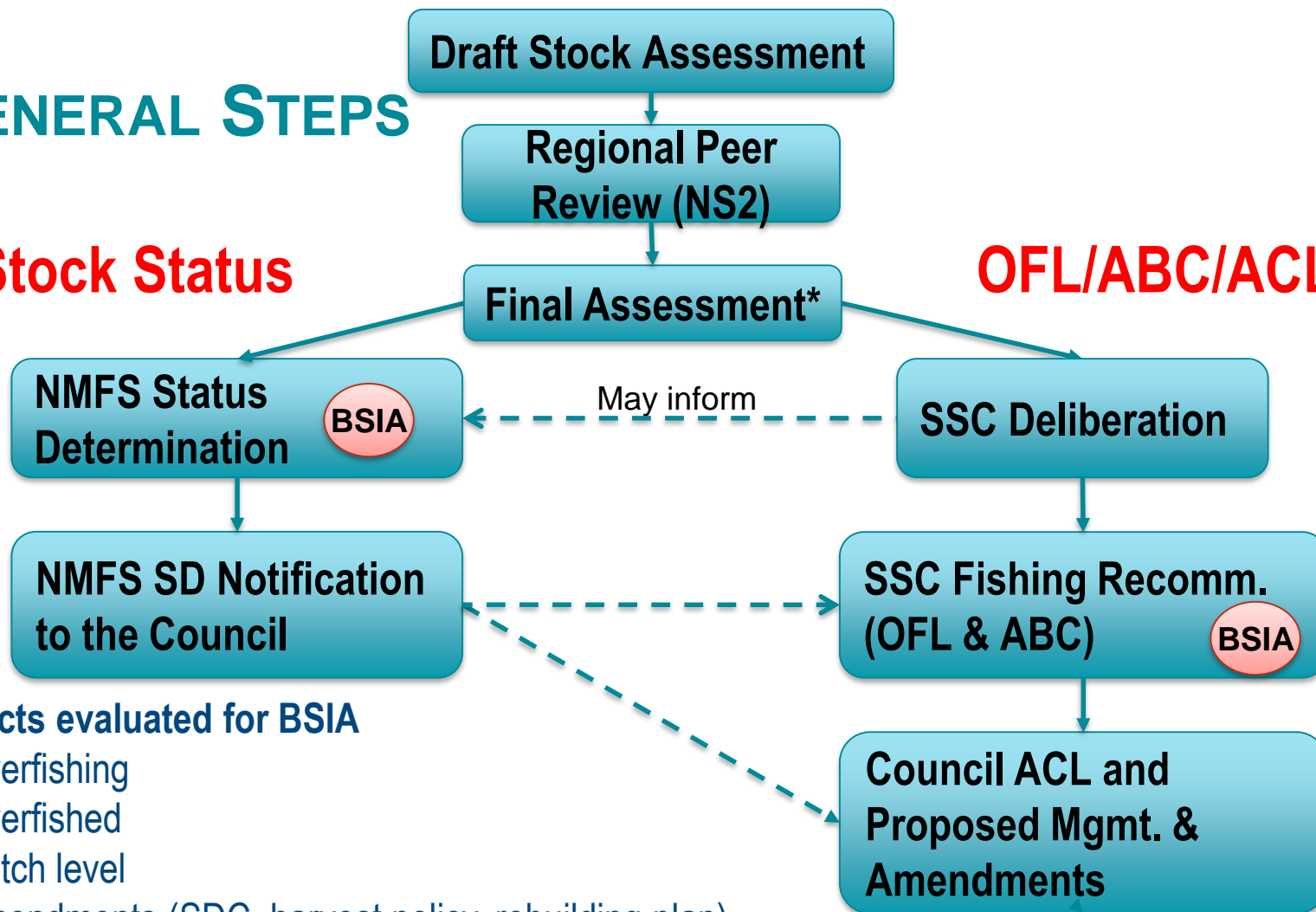
Ultimately, NMFS makes final BSIA declaration.

***Science centers may certify final assessments as BSIA**

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GENERAL STEPS

Draft Stock Assessment

Regional Peer
Review (NS2)

Final Assessment*

Stock Status

OFL/ABC/ACL

NMFS Status
Determination

BSIA

May inform

SSC Deliberation

NMFS SD Notification
to the Council

SSC Fishing Recomm.
(OFL & ABC)

BSIA

Council ACL and
Proposed Mgmt. &
Amendments

NMFS Approval with NS
Certification

Final BSIA

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DOCUMENT STATUS

Further agency review and revision

- Estimate 1-2 months before next version
- Distribute for Council review
- Request: conduct review and discuss at Council meeting
- Provide 3-4 months for comments

BEST SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Points of contact

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- Available for discussions & questions (email, phone, in person)

Thank you!

