I. Introduction

Central to the missions of the National Marine Fisheries Service is the agency’s obligation to rebuild sustainable fisheries. The principal statute guiding our fulfillment of this mission with regard to federal fisheries is the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and it is adopted by reference as the Agency’s Policy on Fishery Management.

II. Objective

Section 2 of the Act provides the findings of Congress and the purpose of the Act. It, in particular, serves as the philosophical basis for the agency’s operations in the realm of domestic fishery management.

III. Authorities and Responsibilities

It is the policy of NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries to implement the Act and other relevant authorities and guidance promulgated by Congress, NOAA and other Federal agencies.

IV. Measuring Effectiveness

This policy will be reviewed and updated if necessary in accordance with the NMFS Policy Directive System.
V. References

Procedural directives will be issued to implement this policy as needed.

Signed

Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

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