

How YOU can make a difference

The public has input at various stages during the NEPA process. The typical length of time for these stages are:

- **30 day scoping and comment period** beginning when an agency issues a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public hearings and/or meetings are often held and written comments are accepted both via mail and via e-mail.
Scoping comments are submitted to Councils for fishery actions and to NMFS for other agency actions.
- **45 day comment period** beginning when an agency issues the draft EIS.
Comments on draft NEPA documents are submitted to Councils for fishery actions and to NMFS for other agency actions.
- **30 day comment period** beginning when an agency issues the final EIS (each action has a unique address for e-mail comments).
All comments submitted to NMFS for final NEPA documents.

Scoping and comment periods associated with particular actions can be accessed on the:

- [NERO Public Comments links page](#)
- [NERO Federal Register Actions and Public Comments page](#)
- [Federal Register Online](#)
- [NERO Website “Hot News” page](#)

For fishery actions, comment periods required under NEPA often run concurrently to comment periods required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other laws. Occasions may exist when interested parties may comment on analysis documents and rulemaking at the same time.

For additional information on public involvement please contact [David Tomey](#), NERO NEPA Coordinator, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. (978) 281-9391.

YOU can make a difference in the NEPA process by making timely comments and by making useful and important comments, such as:

- Comment on inaccuracies or discrepancies
- Comment on adequacy of the analysis
- Identify new impacts, alternatives, or mitigation measures, and
- Disagree with interpretations of impacts, and provide your rationale.