



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Opportunities for Public Input into Fishing Regulation Development

Step 1: Guiding law developed and amended -- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

- Established councils, annual catch limits, accountability measures and requirement to end overfishing

Responsibility: Congress

Step 2: Management Plans are drafted or modified via Amendments and Frameworks (includes environmental & socio-economic analysis)

- Public hearings in local communities
- Advisory Committees
- Open Full Council and Committee meetings

Responsibility: Fishery Management Councils

Step 3: Proposed Rule published in federal register

- Typically a 30-day public comment period (at this point only corrections, minor revisions can be made to the Management Plan, Amendment or Framework, but all comments received are responded to by the agency)

Responsibility: NOAA Fisheries Service

Step 4: Management Plan or Amendment or Framework approved, partially approved or disapproved

- Must satisfy requirements under Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Responsibility: NOAA Fisheries Service

Step 5: Final Rule published in federal register

- Typically 30-days prior to regulations going into effect
- Implementation of the new regulations

Responsibility: NOAA Fisheries Service