

# FROM AN IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION

## THE COUNCIL PROCESS

is guided by federal laws and policies.

**IT TAKES MANY STEPS** to get from an **IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION**.

Each issue is reviewed at several meetings,  
and some issues are more complex and take longer.

**1**

Most **IDEAS** can be brought to the Council during public testimony or through an advisory group. New issues are often raised during Council recommendations throughout the meeting or Council-initiated public scoping meetings.

**2**

### **DISCUSSION PAPER** / Expanded Discussion Paper:

The staff prepares a discussion/options paper to explore the scope of an issue and can help the Council develop management options. For very complex issues, a discussion paper may be revised to explore all components of an issue. Based on the discussion paper and public input, the Council adopts a problem statement and identifies several distinct alternatives for **ANALYSIS**. (Simpler issues may go directly to analysis and initial review.)

**3**

**INITIAL ACTION:** Staff analyses alternatives based on applicable laws, taking into consideration public input. Depending on feedback from the Science and Statistical Committee, stakeholder advisory groups and the public, the Council will determine whether the document is ready to advance to final action or needs more development. Staff revises the alternatives based on advisory group and Council recommendations.

**4**

**FINAL ACTION:** The public provides comment, and the advisory groups make recommendations to the Council regarding a preferred alternative. The Council takes a final action on the preferred management measure. Staff prepares the final document that is transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval.

THE ABILITY TO COMMENT IS AVAILABLE AT EVERY STEP.

## APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

The National Marine Fisheries Service **PREPARES REGULATIONS BASED ON COUNCIL ACTION** and after a comment period and approval, new regulations take effect and are enforced.



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