

**WEST COAST FORUM 2012  
NATIONAL STANDARD 1 & OPTIMUM YIELD**

**The Clement Monterey, Monterey CA  
September 4-7, 2012**

**Learning Objectives**

Participants at the 2012 West Coast Forum will:

- Enhance their understanding of National Standard 1 (NS1) and the concept of optimum yield (OY);
  - Identify successes and challenges to achieving optimum yield, and examine how different Councils have interpreted and implemented National Standard 1;
  - Discuss how the National Standard 1 guidelines currently provide a framework to support Councils in achieving optimum yield, and where additional support may be needed;
  - Explore innovative approaches for evaluating tradeoffs and balancing competing objectives through the Council decision making process;
  - Build skills to lead their Council in structuring and facilitating tradeoff discussions; and
  - Have the opportunity to exchange ideas and opinions relevant to the current Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to revise the NS1 Guidelines.
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**Tuesday, September 4**

**6:00 – 9:00 pm**      **Welcome reception**  
*Cannery Row Brewing Company*

**Wednesday, September 5**

**7:30 – 8:30 am**      **Breakfast**  
*The Clement Monterey, Ocean Terrace Ballroom*

**8:30 – 9:15 am**      **Opening remarks and participant introductions**

- Opening remarks  
*John Henderschedt (Executive Director, Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum)*  
*Meg Caldwell (Executive Director, Center for Ocean Solution, Stanford University)*  
*Buzz Thompson (Director, Stanford Woods Institute, Stanford University)*
- Agenda overview  
*Kim Gordon (Program Manager, Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum)*
- Participant and speaker introductions

- 9:15 – 10:30 am**     **Setting the stage: National Standard 1 and optimum yield**  
*Galen Tromble (Chief of Domestic Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries)*  
*Dr. Richard Methot (Stock Assessment Expert, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries)*
- Objective: Review the current guidance for National Standard 1 and provide a common understanding of the concept of optimum yield.
- 10:30 – 10:45 am**     **BREAK**
- 10:45 – 12:15 pm**     **Optimum yield across Council regions**  
*Facilitators: Fisheries Forum staff*
- Objective: Share regional examples of the different approaches Councils have taken to manage toward optimum yield, and highlight how the considerations associated with optimum yield are incorporated into the annual catch limit (ACL) specifications process.
- Discussion questions:
- At what point in the management process are Councils talking about Optimum Yield and/or the considerations associated with OY?
  - Are these discussions always framed as “Optimum Yield” discussions, or do Councils optimize yield through other pathways?
  - What are some of the differences between how Council regions discuss OY and/or optimize yield?
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm**     **Lunch**  
*The Clement Monterey, Ocean Terrace Patio*
- 1:15 – 2:45 pm**     **Group discussion: The utility of optimum yield**  
*Facilitators: Fisheries Forum staff*
- Objective: Discuss the relationship between the objective of OY and the process for specifying ACLs. Identify where additional guidance and/or clarity would assist Councils with incorporating OY considerations and balancing tradeoffs.
- Discussion questions:
- Based on the examples discussed earlier (OY across Council regions), what have Councils learned by taking steps to “optimize” yield from their fisheries? How could these experiences translate to other fisheries and scenarios?
  - How does the ACL process facilitate ‘optimization’?
  - How should the objective of optimum yield influence the way in which we manage our fisheries?

- 2:45 – 3:00 pm**      **BREAK**
- 3:00 – 4:45 pm**      **Breakout session 1\***
- 4:45 – 5:00 pm**      **Day 1 wrap-up**
- 7:00 – 10:00 pm**    **Cocktail reception and dinner**  
*Monterey Bay Aquarium*

**Thursday, September 6**

- 7:30 - 8:30 am**      **Breakfast**  
*Clement Monterey Hotel, Ocean Terrace Ballroom*
- 8:30 – 8:45 am**      **Welcome and recap of Day 1**
- 8:45 – 10:15 am**    **Tools training: Getting to ‘optimum’**
- Tradeoff Analysis**  
*Dr. Ben Halpern (Director, Center for Marine Assessment and Planning (CMAP),  
University of California Santa Barbara)*
- Structured Decision Making**  
*Graham Long (Partner, Compass Resource Management Ltd.)*
- Objective: Explore the application of (a) *tradeoff analysis* as a tool for identifying tradeoffs, characterizing the relationships between multiple objectives, and evaluating management alternatives; and (b) *structured decision making* as a systematic and transparent approach for incorporating multiple tradeoffs and balancing competing objectives in the decision making process.
- 10:15 – 10:30 am**    **BREAK**
- 10:30 – 12:15 pm**    **Breakout session 2\***
- 12:15 – 1:30 pm**      **LUNCH**  
*Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University*
- 1:30 – 3:15 pm**      **Breakout session 3\***
- 3:15 – 3:30 pm**      **BREAK**
- 3:30 – 5:00 pm**      **Forum wrap-up: What have you learned and how will you put it to use?**

**FISHERIES**  
Leadership & Sustainability  
**FORUM**

**5:00 – 5:30 pm**      **Closing comments and evaluations**

**6:30 – 9:30 pm**      **Dinner**  
*The Sardine Factory*

**Friday, September 7**

**7:00 – 8:30 am**      **Breakfast**  
*C Restaurant, Clement Monterey Hotel*

**8:30 – 12:00 pm**      **Field trip – History of Monterey Bay**

**12:00 – 1:00 pm**      **Lunch**  
*Heritage Harbor Patio across from Fisherman’s Wharf*

**\*Breakout Group Rotations**

The Forum will feature three rotating breakout sessions. Participants will join their peers and invited experts in exploring the following topics:

**1) Temporal Flexibility and Optimum Yield**

*Galen Tromble (Chief of Domestic Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries)*  
*Katherine Renshaw (Attorney-Advisor, Fisheries and Protected Resources Section, NOAA Office of General Counsel)*

Current NS1 guidelines instruct Councils to set management targets and determine a stock’s status in the context of a single fishing year. Participants will discuss whether temporal flexibility (e.g., multi-year catch limits and longer-term overfishing definitions) could provide Councils with additional options for achieving optimum yield.

Discussion questions:

- Over what period of time is it appropriate to harvest and assess fishery resources?
- What types of temporal flexibility would benefit your Council and how would that flexibility better position your Council in managing toward optimum yield?

**\*Breakout Group Rotations (continued)**

**2) Bycatch and Rebuilding in Multispecies Fisheries**

*Deb Lambert (Fishery Policy Analyst, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries)*

*Dr. Dan Holland (Economist, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA)*

*Dr. Troy Hartley (Research Associate Professor, Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences; Director, Virginia Sea Grant)*

In multispecies fisheries, bycatch of non-target and rebuilding stocks can constrain catch of healthy target stocks. Participants will discuss how Councils have balanced rebuilding overfished stocks while maintaining robust target fisheries, and explore potential policy approaches for enhancing Council's ability to achieve optimum yield in multispecies fisheries.

Discussion questions:

- What guidance exists to inform Councils in balancing the competing social, economic and ecological goals in multispecies fisheries?
- What tools or approaches would improve flexibility to achieve optimum yield from multispecies fisheries, while still achieving rebuilding and conservation objectives?

**3) Data Limited Fisheries and Catch Targets**

*Dr. Luiz Barbieri (Marine Fisheries Research Section Leader, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute)*

Many Councils manage data poor stocks and are challenged to derive meaningful catch targets and consider social, economic and ecological factors. Participants will discuss impediments and opportunities for moving toward optimum yield in data limited scenarios, and identify areas where Councils can benefit from additional guidance.

Discussion questions:

- What lessons have Councils learned through implementing ACLs for data poor stocks?
- How can Councils be better supported when making decisions in the face of high uncertainty?

***What is the relationship between the 2012 West Coast Forum  
and the NS1 ANPR request for comment?***

While the Fisheries Forum continually strives to ensure that its topics, presentations, and discussions are timely and relevant to current fisheries policy in the U.S., the 2012 West Coast Forum presents a unique opportunity. Not only does the topic of the Forum address several important aspects of the NS1 guidelines as identified in the recent advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, but we have the honor and privilege to include in our discussions several members of NOAA Fisheries leadership who will be directly engaged in reviewing the comments to that ANPR. While the discussions at this Forum will hopefully provide them with some valuable insights and ideas about potential solutions to management challenges under the existing NS1 guidelines, the discussions should be considered an "iterative exploration" of those issues rather than a process that will generate formal comments and response.

Since its inception, the Fisheries Forum has subscribed to the Chatham House rule for all of its discussions. That same rule applies to this Forum. The agency will not consider our discussions at this Forum as formal comment, nor will it assign particular thoughts or observations to a specific participant or Council following the Forum, and any statements made NOAA personnel at the Forum should not be construed as part of the formal rulemaking process. The Fisheries Forum will generate a summary of the Forum and distribute it to Council members and NOAA Fisheries leadership as we always do, but that summary will not be in the form of comments to the ANPR. Participants at the Forum are welcome to submit separate comments to the ANPR prior to the September 15 close of the comment period.