I. Introduction

This is NMFS’ policy on how to provide criteria, establish procedures, and provide guidance to ensure that decisions made by NMFS under the authority of the ESA, as amended represent the best scientific and commercial data available.

II. Objective

This policy is intended to complement the current public review processes prescribed by sections 4(b)(4)(6) and 10(a)(2)(B) of the ESA and associated regulations in title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

III. Guidance

The July 1, 1994 Federal Register Notice *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and