

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTION 02-309-01

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Protected Resources Management

Ocean Noise Policy 02-309

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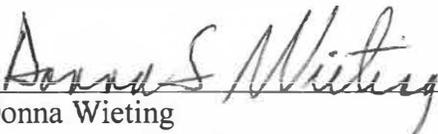
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Introduction

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has diverse roles to play in implementing the Ocean Noise Policy (Policy). Since 2012, NMFS offices, including science centers and regional offices, have been working to articulate those roles and identify both current activities and recommendations for future activities that would support NMFS' achievement of its Ocean Noise Policy goals.

The Ocean Noise Strategy Roadmap (Roadmap) is designed to serve as a resource for planning and tracking implementation of the Policy. The Roadmap contains both a synthesis of scientific support for the goals articulated for the Strategy and the Policy, and high-level recommendations that NOAA programs could effect to move towards these goals.

Objectives

NMFS Offices should actively consider how their individual actions and decisions contribute to our Ocean Noise Policy goals. This Procedural Directive directs relevant NMFS offices, including science centers and regional offices, to contribute to biennial work plans to implement the Ocean Noise Policy. Offices should use the Ocean Noise Strategy Roadmap as a reference and guide when identifying their contributions.

Structural Guidance

Contributions to implementation work plans will be drafted under the direction of relevant NMFS headquarters office directors and regional leadership (Regional Administrators and Science Directors). Collaboration among NMFS programs in the development of contributed projects is encouraged. Guidance and support for contributing to work plans will be provided by Ocean Noise Strategy leads within NMFS' Offices of Protected Resources, Science and Technology and the National Ocean Service's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

Timeline and Reporting

Offices must submit their contributions to the first biennial work plan within six (6) months of the issuance of this Procedure to the Strategy leads. Strategy leads in conjunction with the Office of Protected Resources will compile the information and present the work plan to the Chief Scientist and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs.

Programs must contribute to annual work plan progress reports to be compiled by Strategy leads. The Strategy leads in conjunction with the Office of Protected Resources, will present work plan progress reports to the Chief Scientist and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs on an annual basis.