



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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FISHERY STOCK ASSESSMENT SCIENCE PROGRAM REVIEW

I am writing to invite you to participate in a Stock Assessment Science Program Review at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) in Seattle, Washington on March 24-28, 2014.

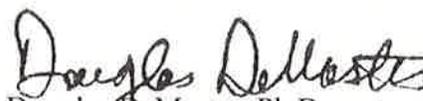
This review is the second in a standardized process to peer review science conducted by each of the six NOAA Fisheries science centers and the headquarters Office of Science and Technology. Science program reviews are being conducted on a five-year cycle, with a different thematic focus each year. This year's review focuses on the overall program of fishery stock assessment modeling, approach, review process, and communication. The data streams utilized in fishery stock assessments were reviewed in 2013 (see http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/program_reviews/2013/default.htm).

Reviewers will provide advice to the AFSC on the direction and quality of our fishery stock assessment program. Opportunities for input by members of the public will be provided each day. To accommodate interested parties outside the Seattle area, a virtual meeting space has been arranged. If you would like to join some or all of the meeting online, please RSVP to Jennifer.Ferdinand@noaa.gov by March 24, 2014.

Documents provided to the reviewers and presentations prepared for the review will be made available on the AFSC's website at: www.afsc.noaa.gov/program_reviews/2014/default.htm. Reviewers' reports and the AFSC's response will also be made available at this website.

Peer reviews of our science programs are important to maintaining the AFSC's standard of high quality, timely scientific information to support decision makers. I am looking forward to this new feedback mechanism to evaluate and improve our science programs, and hope that you can join us or visit our website for more information.

Sincerely,


Douglas DeMaster, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director

