



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

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FISHERY-DEPENDENT AND FISHERY-INDEPENDENT DATA REVIEW

I am writing to invite you to participate in a Fishery-Dependent and Fishery-Independent Data Program Review at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) in Seattle, Washington on August 26-30, 2013.

This review is the first in a new 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 will be conducted on a five-year cycle, with a different thematic focus each year. This year's review focuses on the data collected to support stock assessments under the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This year's review will directly inform the 2014 review on stock assessment methodology and issues such as uncertainty in results and explicit consideration of environmental factors.

Reviewers will provide advice to the AFSC on the direction and quality of our fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data collection and management programs. 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 August 25, 2013.

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/2013/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

