



NOAA
FISHERIES

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Protected Species Science Program Review

Introduction and Charge to Review Panel

Steve Ignell

Deputy Director for Science and Research

16-20 March 2015



NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews

Reviews of science programs at NOAA Fisheries science centers are conducted annually to:

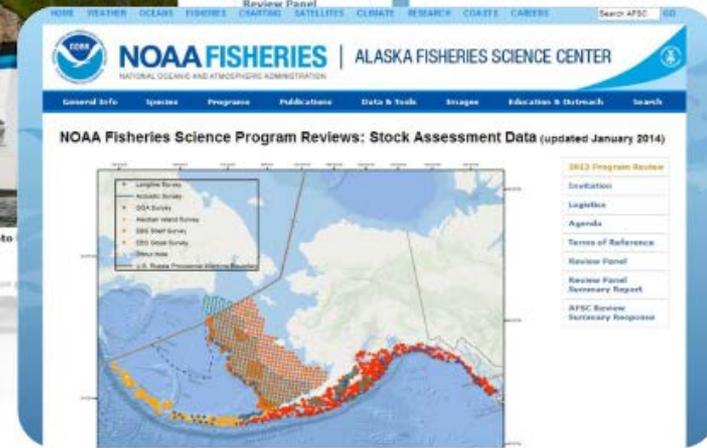
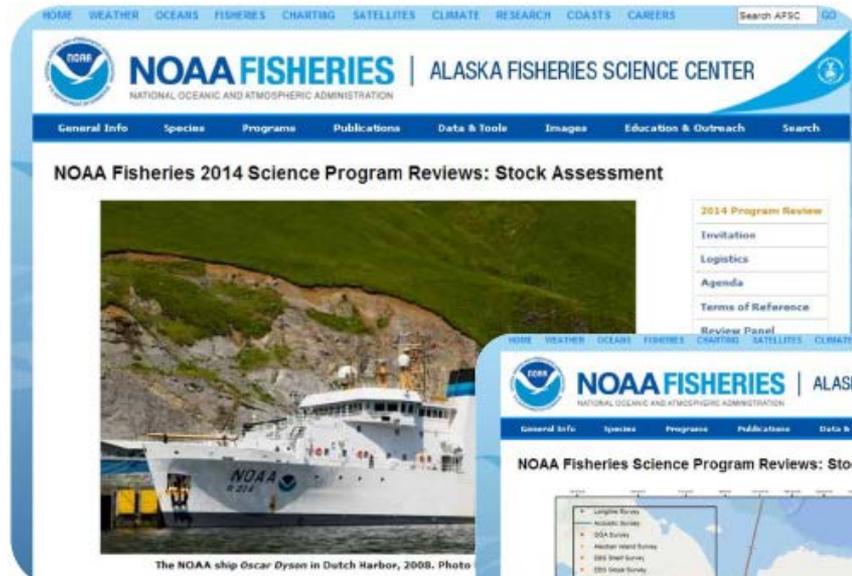
- Evaluate the quality, relevance, and performance of science and research conducted in NMFS science centers and associated laboratories
- Strategically position the science centers and the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology in planning future science and research

Objectives of the Science Program Reviews

- Evaluate NOAA Fisheries' current scientific programs that provide information to support the conservation and management of marine mammals, endangered or threatened wildlife, and species of concern
- Assess the extent to which current science programs are focused on the highest information needs identified by NOAA Fisheries managers

Previous AFSC Science Program Reviews

- 2013 NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review: Stock Assessment Data
- 2014 NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review: Stock Assessments
- Reports and responses to these reviews are available on the AFSC Program Review website



2015 Science Program Review: Protected Species

Protected species research at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center focuses on marine mammals



Terms of Reference for the 2015 Review: Overarching Questions for Reviewers

1. Do current and planned protected species scientific activities fulfill mandates and requirements under the ESA and MMPA, and meet the needs of the regulatory partners?
2. Are there opportunities to be pursued in conducting protected species science, including shared and collaborative approaches with partners?
3. Are the protected species scientific objectives adequate, and is the best suite of techniques and approaches to meet those objectives?

Terms of Reference for the 2015 Review: Overarching Questions for Reviewers

4. Are the protected species studies being conducted properly (survey design, statistical rigor, standardization, integrity, peer review, transparency, confidentiality, etc.)?
5. How are advances in protected species science and methodological approaches being communicated and applied in NMFS?

Panel Recommendations Lead to Action

- AFSC Leadership will respond to Panel report
- Recommendations are incorporated into subsequent years' Guidance Memos, Activity Plans, and employee Performance Plans
- Periodic status reports to NOAA Fisheries Headquarters and Science Board
- Examples of actions in response to FY13 and FY14 reviews:
 - Analyses of sampling efforts to determine if reductions could be made without loss in management value;
 - Investments in electronic monitoring capabilities;
 - Encouraging more non-AFSC staff to participate in fishery Plan Team processes;
 - Conducting applied research to address catchability and gear selectivity



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Questions?



NOAA FISHERIES