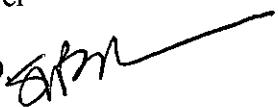




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

MEMORANDUM FOR: White Marlin Peer Reviewer

FROM: Stephania K. Bolden, Ph.D. 
Fishery Biologist

SUBJECT: Peer Review of Atlantic White Marlin Status Review

DATE: 30 August 2007

Enclosed please find the draft Atlantic white marlin status review compiled by the Biological Review Team (BRT). The BRT appreciates your willingness to peer review the document, especially within such a short time frame.

General directives:

1. Please base your review on the overview of the scientific information contained within the status review: assess if the BRT correctly interpreted and applied the research and results.
2. Please refrain from commenting on the conclusions of the BRT, however if you believe that justification is lacking or specific information was applied incorrectly in reaching that conclusion, please specify.
3. The Literature Cited is included but is still in progress.
4. Some source citations for table and figure require updating.
5. Remember that the contents of the document are to remain confidential until the Federal Register Notice is published in late December 2007. I will be sure to let you know via e-mail on how to obtain copies of the final status review

A few items regarding your peer review:

1. The Office of Management and Budget published a Peer Review Bulletin (December 2004) that requires online posting of this peer review as it has been determined to be "influential." This peer review bulletin is intended to enhance the quality and credibility of the federal governments scientific information. To ensure that we have a transparent process for public disclosure, names and affiliations of each peer reviewer is posted online as well as comments. While we must identify peer reviewers by name and affiliation, NMFS has the ability to post a compilation of reviewer comments. Therefore, I will not associate individual comments with reviewer name; rather I will compile the unabridged comments and organize by a reviewer number. Previously submitted Peer Reviews are available at <http://www.cio.noaa.gov/itmanagement/prplans/Prsummaries.html>.
2. The Peer Review Bulletin further requires that non-Federal peer reviewers complete a "Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure" form – I attach the form and request that return it with your review. I also include an agency circular that includes definitions of some terms.



Please note that you are required to submit a CV with the signed form. Peer reviewers who are federal employees do not need to sign the conflict of interest form, rather they must comply with applicable federal ethics requirements such as those at:

www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_07/5cfr2635_07.html.

3. Notably, if NMFS receives a FOIA request, anonymity of peer reviewers or comments cannot be guaranteed.

Regarding logistics:

1. Please feel free to mark directly on the draft and return it to me via the pre-addressed, pre-paid FedEx envelope included. You may also submit comments electronically to me in whatever format you wish (e.g., word document).
2. Please make sure that you return a signed conflict of interest form with the peer review and attach a CV. I tabbed locations within the form that require your signature or initials.
3. I have included a copy of the 2002 Status Review for your information – you do not need to return it to me.
4. Please return the draft with your comments to arrive no later than Monday September 17th.

Again, thank you very much for your willingness to review the status review. The team appreciates your dedication to the process and the species. Please feel free to call (727 824-5312) or e-mail me (stephania.bolden@noaa.gov) if you have any questions.

Attachments