

CONCLUDING REMARKS (GARM Chair)

GARM III represents the culmination of work during November 2007 – August 2008 undertaken by the scientists at the NEFSC on the assessment of the status of 19 Northeast groundfish stocks. In aggregate, it is likely one of the most labor – intensive exercises undertaken by the Center, being an in-depth review of the data, models, assumptions and uncertainties involved in each assessment which has provided benchmarks which will be used until the next review. The GARM III was a very significant workload for the Center, which the Panel chairman acknowledges being of very high quality. He also would like to highlight the strong sense of ‘team’ and its leadership, particularly by Paul Rago, Jim Weinberg and Fred Serchuk that was evident throughout the review. Without this, the GARM III would not have been the success that it was. The Panel would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made at the meeting by all participants, particularly those of Doug Butterworth, who attended this and all the previous three GARM III reviews on behalf of the fishing industry. Finally, the Panel would like to thank Colleen Close and Andrea Strout for logistic support and Michele Traver, Andrea Strout and Laura Garner who assisted in report preparation. All these contributions made it possible for the GARM III ‘assessment’ review to meet its terms of reference.