

## Guideline for Crab Assessments

### ***Notification:***

The appropriate time period for notification of intent to solicit an external stock assessment review would be in October. This would give the public the entire time period between May (when stock assessments are first reviewed by the CPT) and October (when TACS are announced) to determine if they had an issue with the stock assessment that they wished to have reviewed externally

### ***Timing:***

In order to alleviate possible complications with staff workloads, the appropriate time period for an external review (inclusive of any interactions with the stock assessment authors as well as any follow up workshop) would be from October-March. This would allow for the normal stock assessment, data analysis and TAC setting process to occur between April and October.

Ideally, the reviewer will work with Assessment Authors in a collegial setting where reviewers would make suggestions to the framework or information used in the assessment. If this procedure is adopted, the Assessment Author would work with the reviewer(s) to find a mutually acceptable time for a pre-assessment workshop.

### ***Responsibilities of External Reviewers and Assessment Authors:***

The pre-assessment workshop will allow the reviewer to discuss the stock assessment with the Assessment Author and make requests for model modifications or alternative use of information in the assessment. The External Reviewer should produce a written report of their recommendations. To the extent practicable, the Assessment Author will address the comments and suggestions documented in the External Reviewer's report in their SAFE document. In general it is assumed that the Assessment Author will be able to determine whether any changes in the stock assessment recommended by the External Reviewer are substantial enough to require review by the Plan Teams and SSC. Assessment Authors will have the professional discretion to decide when the External Reviewer's recommendations will be incorporated into the SAFE document. When the External Reviewer's recommendation involves a matter of professional discretion, such as the choice of statistical or computational methods, Assessment Authors will have the ability to decline to implement the recommendation. In addition, Assessment Authors may defer action on an External Reviewer's recommendation when complying with the recommendation would compromise the SAFE schedule. For example, if an External Reviewer made a request that would require extensive re-analysis of existing data that could not be accomplished prior to the Plan Team meeting, that request could be deferred to a subsequent year.

### ***Anticipated results of an external review:***

The CPT will receive both comments from the external reviewer (to the extent these are made available) as well as a report from the assessment author at the subsequent May CPT meeting indicating how comments by the external reviewer were addressed in the assessment.