



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Science and
Technology

Program Reviews: Improving Our Science



19 February 2014



NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review

- Sound science is critical for managing the nation's fisheries and protected species. To maintain world-class science, NOAA Fisheries:
 - Started a systematic 6-yr peer review cycle in FY12
 - In FY12 developed Strategic Science Plans for each Fisheries Science Center and the Office of Science and Technology
 - During FY13-17 will annually conduct external peer reviews of each Center and OST's science programs

NOAA Fisheries Science Program Review

- First 6-year cycle of annual reviews cover these topics:
 - Year 1 - Strategic planning (FY12)
 - Year 2 - Data collection and management under MSA (FY13)
 - Year 3 - Stock assessment methods under MSA
 - Year 4 - Protected resource science
 - Year 5 – Climate-ecosystem science
 - Year 6 - Economics and social science



NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews

- External peer review provides:
 - Scientific exchange
 - Feedback
 - Standardization and advancement of science
 - Guidance for science investment
- Peer reviewers are:
 - Independent experts in the topic area
 - Unassociated with the science center
 - Free of conflicts of interest
- Reviews provide time for public comment



NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews

Annual Cycle in the Review Process:

1. National Terms of Reference developed by the Fisheries Science Board
2. Terms of Reference tailored to each Science Center's specific areas
3. Expert reviewers proposed, approved by NOAA Fisheries AA
4. Week-long review is conducted
5. Panel oral report out at end of review
6. Reviewers and Chair provide written reports detailing observations and recommendations
7. Science Directors respond to reviewer recommendations
8. National report developed, providing a synthesis across all reviews
9. Follow-up on actions to address recommendations

2013 Program Reviews:

NOAA Fishery's Stock Assessment Data Collection and Management

2013 Program Reviews

- The seven reviews for FY13 were scheduled between June and September 2013 as follows:
 - SEFSC – 3-5 June, Miami, FL
 - PIFSC – 25-27 June, Honolulu, HI
 - SWFSC – 29 July – 1 August, La Jolla, CA
 - NEFSC – 5-9 August, Woods Hole, MA
 - AFSC – 26-30 August, Seattle, WA
 - OST – 9-12 September, Portland, OR
 - NWFSC – 17-20 September, Seattle, WA
- All reviews were open to the public

2013 Program Reviews

- Review panels were chaired by a non-NOAA Federal scientist, and included:
 - 1 scientist from NOAA Fisheries (but not from the Center conducting the review)
 - 1 scientist from another NOAA line or staff office.
 - 3-5 (the majority) scientists external to NOAA.
 - Science Center Director (optional, and not from the Center conducting the review)

2013 Program Reviews

- Reviewers complemented:
 - “Herculean efforts” by staff to compile and summarize information
 - “World class survey programs”
 - “Tremendous mission in terms of geographic, political and cultural scope”
 - “Dedicated, creative, focused” staff
 - “Tremendous amount of work with limited resources”
 - “Exemplary professional conduct”
 - “Providing services of high value”

2013 Program Reviews

Summary Report: Overarching Themes

- Comprehensive Data Management and Informatics Systems
- Statistical survey and sampling design
- Strategic planning
- Staffing Shortfalls

2013 Program Reviews

- FY13 reviewers reports, Chair's summary reports, and Center Director responses are posted on Center websites, and at:

www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/science-program-review/index

2014 Program Reviews:

NOAA Fishery's
Stock Assessment Programs



2014 Program Reviews

- Topic will be Fishery Stock Assessments under the MSRA
- Reviews will follow similar formats to FY13 (e.g., external panel, 3-5 days long, same reporting)
- They will again be open to the public, and we encourage Council and Council staff participation in all or part of the reviews.

2014 Program Reviews

Tentative Schedule:

- AFSC: Mar 24-28 (Seattle)
- PIFSC: May 19-23 (Honolulu)
- NEFSC: May 19-23 (Woods Hole)
- NWFSC: June 9-13 (Seattle)
- SEFSC: July 8-11 (Miami)
- SWFSC: July 28 - 31 (La Jolla)
- S&T: Sept TBD (Silver Spring)