

Program Reviews: Improving NMFS Science



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Science and
Technology



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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 has:

- Initiated a systematic six-year peer review cycle, with annual external reviews at each Center and the Office of Science and Technology (OST)
- Developed Strategic Science Plans for each Fisheries Science Center and the OST

NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews

- 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

First six-year cycle of annual reviews cover these topics:

- Year 1 - Strategic planning (2012)
- Year 2- Data collection and management under MSA (2013)
- Year 3 - Stock assessment methods under MSA (2014)
- Year 4 - Protected resource science (2015)
- Year 5 - Climate and ecosystem science (2016)
- Year 6 - Economics and social science (2017)



NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews

Steps in the Review Process

1. National Terms of reference for each year's review developed by the NOAA 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 conducted
5. Panel oral report out at end of review
6. Reviewers 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

NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews: 2013 (fish data collection programs)

- Overall positive response and useful reviewer feedback
- Science Centers provided responses with planned actions
- Overarching themes addressed in national response
 - Comprehensive data management and informatics systems
 - Statistical survey and sampling design
 - Strategic planning
 - Staffing shortfalls
- National Response outlines actions to address recommendations

NOAA Fisheries Science Program Reviews 2014

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 8-12 (Silver Spring)



More Information and results of 2013 programs reviews:
<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/science-program-review/>