



ESMWG Evaluation of External Reviewers for NMFS Science Center and Program Reviews

A Presentation to the
NOAA Science Advisory Board

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Outline



- Purpose
- Issue
- Presentation of Briefing
- NOAA Coordination and Views
- Desired Outcome



Purpose

- In 2012, NMFS will implement a standard scientific review process for NMFS Science Center and Program activities. Reviews will be conducted annually to ascertain the quality, relevance, and performance of NMFS science programs.
- NMFS requests the SAB to grant approval of a proposal to have individual members of the Ecosystem Science and Management Working Group (ESMWG) evaluate external reviewers for annual NMFS science reviews.



Issue



- NMFS wants to ensure the highest level of credibility for the annual science review process by providing an objective process to select external reviewers.
 - As such NMFS would like to engage the ESMWG to review qualifications of reviewers to ensure:
 - External reviewers have the expertise to review discipline-specific science conducted by NMFS
 - External reviewers are current in their field of expertise



Objective of Science Reviews



- Strategically position the NMFS science enterprise to be responsive to existing and emerging requirements.
- Ensure that NMFS research continues to provide the scientific underpinnings for its legislated stewardship mandates, is linked to the NOAA Strategic Plan, and is consistent with the evolving NOAA strategy execution and evaluation (SEE) process.



Review Cycle

- The proposed reviews will take place on a five-year cycle, with each Science Center conducting separate reviews of its programs annually:
 - Year 1: Strategic Planning – no reviews
 - Year 2: Research supporting MSA
 - Year 3: Research supporting ESA and MMPA
 - Year 4: Strategic Research
 - Year 5: Emerging Issues, major programs not included above



Review Themes

- The breadth of programs is large, therefore the programs will be broken down into themes, of which three will be reviewed that year. For example, themes for Program 2 (Magnuson-Stevens) may include:
 - survey techniques
 - population abundance and distribution models
 - biology and life history
 - stock structure
 - ecosystem considerations, etc.



General Reviewer Validation Criteria



- High-ranking and broadly experienced
- Qualified to evaluate the quality, relevance, and performance of the science covered



ESMWG Commitment

- First meeting of year ESMWG discusses the themes for review, who should evaluate reviewers, and timeline for process
- Individual ESMWG members review a maximum of 24-36 CVs and biographic sketches provided by NMFS (years 2-5)
- Individual ESMWG members provide NMFS a list of validated reviewers with input NMFS can use to select invited reviewers
- Example timeline for selecting external reviewers:
 - February/March: NMFS will provide information packets for each external reviewer to be considered
 - April 15: individual ESMWG members provide NMFS a list of validated reviewers
 - June: Reviews commence



NOAA Coordination & Views



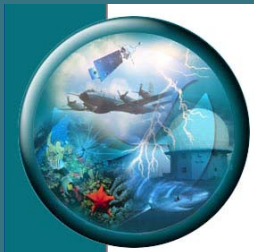
- Meets guidance on external review panels in the draft NAO for Optimizing Research and Development Enterprise Portfolio Handbook: Evaluation Chapter.
 - “distinguished and expert scientists, science administrators, and stakeholders who are qualified to evaluate the quality, relevance, and performance of the science”
 - “chosen via an objective process and provide adequate coverage of the science topics under review”
 - “no financial or professional conflict of interest with the Program being evaluated” – NMFS will determine this with standard NOAA procedure



Desired Outcome



- SAB grants approval for individual ESMWG members to evaluate external reviewers for NMFS science reviews on an annual or as needed basis.



Backup Slides



- *[if applicable]*