



New England
Fishery Management
Council



Northeast Region Coordinating Council

Call for Applications: Stock Assessment Peer Reviewers

The Northeast Region Coordinating Council (NRCC) is seeking applications from qualified independent subject-matter experts to serve as peer reviewers for fishery stock assessments in the Greater Atlantic region (New England and Mid-Atlantic offshore waters). Peer review is a critical component of the stock assessment process, ensuring that the scientific data, quantitative models, and biological assumptions informing fishery management decisions meet the highest standards of scientific rigor and integrity under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

Qualified applicants will be added to a pool of potential candidate reviewers and solicited for interest/availability to participate in peer reviews when needed. Management Track Peer Review Meetings are typically held twice per year in Woods Hole, MA during late June and late September.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Pre-Meeting Preparation:** Thoroughly review draft stock assessment reports, supporting data inputs, model scripts, and background technical documents prior to the review meeting.
- **Review Meeting Participation:** Attend and actively participate in a 2-to-5-day hybrid peer review meeting (in-person attendance strongly preferred).
- **Technical Evaluation:** Evaluate the assessment relative to established Terms of Reference (TORs), focusing on:
 - Data quality, sampling methodologies, and fishery-independent/dependent indices.
 - Analytical and empirical modeling approaches (e.g., state-space models such as the Woods Hole Assessment Model, size- and age-based models, index-based methods).
 - Biological assumptions (growth, natural mortality, recruitment, stock structure).
 - Stock status determination criteria and future projection methodologies.
- **Reporting:** Co-author a consensus Peer Review Panel Summary Report addressing each TOR, providing clear scientific findings, uncertainties, and recommendations for future research.

Required Qualifications

- **Advanced Degree:** Ph.D. or Master's degree in Fisheries Science, Quantitative Ecology, Biometrics, Marine Biology, Natural Resource Management, or a closely related quantitative field.
- **Quantitative Expertise:** Demonstrated expertise in population dynamics, quantitative stock assessment methodologies, statistical modeling, and risk analysis in fisheries or marine ecology.
- **Analytical Tools:** Proficiency in reviewing/evaluating statistical stock assessment frameworks.

Preferred Qualifications

- Prior experience serving on regional stock assessment peer review panels (e.g., Research Track/Management Track, SAW/SARC, SEDAR, CIE, ICES, or STAR panels).
 - Specific expertise in northwest Atlantic ecosystem dynamics, life history characteristics, or survey design relevant to Greater Atlantic fish and invertebrate stocks.
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Effort, Compensation & Independence

- **Level of Effort:** Approximately 4-10 days per assessment review cycle, encompassing document review, meeting attendance, and report drafting/editing.
 - **Compensation:** Daily stipend and travel reimbursement will be provided in accordance with the NRCC contract protocols for peer review.
 - **Conflict of Interest:** Candidates must be free from real or perceived conflicts of interest and must not have participated directly in the development of the specific stock assessment(s) under review.
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Submission Instructions

Interested candidates should submit the following application materials:

1. **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Detailed academic background, relevant publication history, quantitative research experience, and previous panel/review participation.
2. **Cover Letter / Statement of Interest (1–2 pages):** Outlining technical areas of expertise, familiarity with assessment models/tools, relevant knowledge about species/stocks, life history characteristics, and environmental information for the Greater Atlantic region (i.e., New England and Mid-Atlantic), and ability to travel to and participate in-person in Woods Hole, MA.
3. **References:** Names and contact details for two professional references in quantitative fisheries or marine science.

Materials will be accepted on a rolling basis and maintained by the NRCC. Please send via mail or email to:

Cate O’Keefe, Executive Director at cokeefe@nefmc.org

New England Fishery Management Council; 50 Water Street; Newburyport, MA 01950

For more information, please refer to the [NRCC’s Description of Stock Assessment Process](#) and [NEFSC’s Management Track Stock Assessments website](#), which includes the Management Track Generic Terms of Reference. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Cate O’Keefe: cokeefe@nefmc.org.