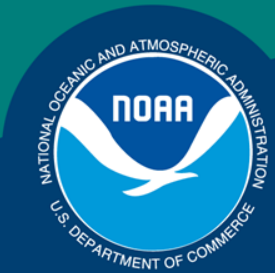


Science, Service, Stewardship



Stock assessment improvements

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**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

Improving the stock assessment process

- Improved transparency and collaboration
- Streamlined, frequent Operational/Update assessments
- Benchmark/Research assessments as needed
- Emphasis on climate change and ecosystem considerations (EBFM)
- Seeking feedback as we make improvements

Improved transparency and collaboration

- Continue and enhance efforts to make the assessment process more accessible and understandable
- Increase opportunities for fishermen and research partners to contribute data and analyses to support assessments
- Examples:
 - Joint Council Trawl Survey Advisory Panel – improve transparency and address data concerns
 - Follow up to “Fish Tank” and “Taking Stock” efforts that identified opportunities for improvement and research
 - Independent review of cooperative research program and better integration of program products in Center research and assessments
 - Expansion of Center’s outreach capabilities

Streamlined, frequent assessments

- Seeking to increase frequency and timeliness of assessment advice while also increasing time spent on critical research
- Apply simpler approaches to update assessments
 - “Updates” and “Operational” assessments
 - Update existing models with new data, with varying flexibility to explore/adjust model – but less than “Benchmark”
- Ongoing efficiency initiative to standardize data and streamline reporting

Benchmark/Research assessments as needed

- Evaluation of existing and innovative modeling and assessment approaches
- Incorporation of new data streams and research results
- Include consideration of climate change and ecosystem factors
- Extensive peer review
- Analysis- and time-intensive, but set the stage for future updates or operational assessments based on sound science

Emphasis on climate change and EBFM

- **Inclusion of climate change and ecosystem considerations in Benchmark assessments**
 - Already developing models that can include environment
- **Improved coordination within Center and with partners**
 - Climate, Ecosystem, Habitat, and Assessment Steering Group to lead coordination
- **Annual Ecosystem Reports to Councils**
- **Continued development of multi-species and ecosystem models**

Seeking feedback as we make improvements

- Committed to improving transparency and collaboration
- Interested in feedback now, as we improve the process as well as engagement in the new process
- Seeking input from Councils, NRCC, stakeholders, and the public during this design phase
- Welcome all feedback – but particularly interested in feedback on process improvement
 - More frequent, streamlined assessments
 - Less frequent, intensive Benchmark/Research assessments
 - Emphasis on climate change and EBFM

Seeking feedback as we make improvements

- **Proposed process improvements**
 - More frequent, streamlined assessments
 - Less frequent, intensive Benchmark/Research assessments
 - Emphasis on climate change and EBFM
- Do these improvements meet your needs?
- Do you have suggestions for other improvements?
- Input welcome now, and by email or phone after