Northeast Region Coordinating Council

Stock Assessment Peer Reviewer Solicitation

Fall 2026 NRCC Meeting

Providence, RI

Why needed?

- Ensure a full peer Management Track review panel is available
  - Current “ideal” panel
    - Chair (typically MAFMFC for June and NEFMC for Sept)
    - 3 peer review panelists – one from ASMFC, NEFMC, and MAFMC (current ASC/SSC members)
- Avoid last-minute scrambles to fill panel
- Ensure appropriate expertise/experience on panel for stocks/models being reviewed

Solicitation Approach

- NRCC support for expanding candidate pool for Management Track reviews
  - Science Center, other SSC's, academia
- NEFMC developed a call for submissions
  - Outlined responsibilities, expectations, qualifications
- Announcement went out in mid-August by all NRCC partners



New England Fishery Management Council

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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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).

Solicitation Review Process - Current

- Solicitation folder in the NRCC Google Drive
  - Applicant info – letter, CV, references
  - Tracking spreadsheet – complete application, correspondence, Deputy review, and notes (e.g., candidate availability)
- Deputy review materials and approve/disapprove applicants via correspondence unless disagreement
- To date, received and approved 5 applicants to be added to applicant pool
  - 3 from different Science Centers (1 AFSC, 2 SEFSC)
  - 2 from academia



Review Process - Future

- Timing/frequency of deputy review/approval – balance deputy time/pestering and responsive to applicants
- Process if disagreement by deputies
- Timeline/deadlines to identify peer review panel
  - Deputies to solicit members from SSC/ASC
  - If needed, identify potential candidate(s) from pool and how/who selects
  - Availability of pool candidate and, if needed, identify another candidate
- Refine spreadsheet – searchable/sortable for any specific review needs
- Future solicitation announcements by NRCC partners?

Questions?

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