RSA Program Review

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NEFMC

NEFMC RSA Program Review

- Three RSA programs in New England (Scallops, Monkfish and Herring).

- Generally viewed as successful, but Council wants to review each program to identify potential improvements.

- Council identified as a work priority in 2017, but work has not started until more recently.

- Executive Committee decided an internal review process would work best for the size and scope of this project.

- Developed review guidance, or terms of reference in February 2018.

RSA Review Panel

- Six person panel identified: 2 staff from NEFMC, 2 from NEFMC, and 2 from GARFO.

  Dr. Michael Sissenwine, Chair (NEFMC)

  Ms. Deirdre Boelke (NEFMC)

  Mr. Ryan Silva (GARFO)

  Ms. Susan Olsen (GARFO)

  Ms. Cheryl Corbett (NEFSC)

  Dr. Dan Hennan (NEFSC)

- Panel will work via webinar and in-person meetings.
- Panel will prepare a written report that covers all the terms of reference.
- Panel will solicit input from each specie Committee, as well as additional interested stakeholders.

RSA Program Review Timeline

- Timeline of major milestones is still uncertain.

Milestones	Tentative Target Dates
Develop work plan and outline	Mar-Apr 2018
Seek input from Committees	May-June 2018
Seek additional input	Summer 2018
Draft report	Summer/Fall 2018
Final report	December 2018

- Input will *not* be available for FY2019 announcements for funding, but could inform current program operations.
- Brief progress reports at June and Sept Council meetings and "final" report presented in December 2018.

RSA Terms of Reference (about 25!)

1. **Program Administration**

    What are the roles, what is the review and selection process, conflict of interest issues, is there financial accountability, what improvements could be made?

2. **Program Structure**

    What projects are getting funded, awards as grants, is funding sufficient, how are these programs supported administratively, are there ways to increase participation and value of RSA fishing?

3. **Results**

    How are completed projects evaluated, are most used in management, are the projects cost effective?

RSA Review Draft Outline

Chapter	Details
I	**Findings and Recommendations**
II	**Introduction** *What is RSA, history of programs, role of RSA, purpose of review*
III	**Description of RSA Programs** *Details about RSA by FMP, how priorities are set, roles and responsibilities, valuing and monetizing RSA currency, funding vehicles (pros and cons), project selection, RSA results, etc.*
IV	**Getting the most out of RSA in the future** *Role of RSA, type of RSA activities, maximizing the value, planning, optimizing efforts, assuring integrity and value, etc.*

Committee/AP Input Today

1. Review the terms of reference and draft outline.
2. Provide input on any section in the draft outline.
3. General input about RSA programs overall, have you had any direct experience – positive/negative?.
4. Identify potential findings or recommendations for improvement.
5. Any major omissions not covered in the RSA program review draft outline?

Committee/AP input (cont.)

- **Example discussion topics**

  In practice, how is RSA used for scientific advice and management in this FMP?

  Has it been beneficial – is it fulfilling its stated objective and meeting priorities listed?

  What are the risks?

  How reliable is the program in generating funds?

  Is compensation adequate?

  Can the priority setting process be improved?

  Any input on project review and selection process?

  Any concerns about conflict of interest?

  Can and should the pool of applicants be expanded – if so, how?

  Should the overall structure be modified at all?

What's next?

- Review panel seeking input from various Committees and APs.
- Review panel may also reach out to other interested parties and principle investigators from past RSA projects.
- Review panel will update Council at June and Sept Council meeting (time permitting)
- Review panel is starting to draft report.
- "Final" report presented in December 2018 (target date)