



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John Quinn, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 8, 2020  
**TO:** Review Panel for Peer Review of Atlantic Cod Stock Structure  
**FROM:** Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Terms of Reference for peer review of the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group's report.

#### Terms of Reference (TOR)

1. Determine whether the report, *An Interdisciplinary Review of Atlantic Cod (Gadus morhua) Stock Structure in the Western North Atlantic Ocean*, met the following objectives/terms of reference for the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group (May 14, 2018). Note that these include only the first three of the six objectives/terms of reference set for the Working Group.
  - 1) *Inventory and summarize all relevant peer-review information about stock structure of Atlantic cod in NAFO Divs. 5 and 6 and interactions with 4X. Evaluate the relative importance of the information with respect to developing a holistic understanding of Atlantic cod stock structure.*
  - 2) *Identify and evaluate any new or existing data or information about the stock structure of Atlantic cod in NAFO Divs. 5 and 6 and interactions with 4X, and subject to a peer-review by the working group. Integrate any additional information into the inventory developed in terms of reference TOR 1.*
  - 3) *Using a holistic approach, synthesize all available information (TOR 1 and 2) and develop sets of possible biological stock structures and consider scientific support for each alternative. In developing alternative stock structures, consider the temporal stability of stock structure and how the available information can inform the knowledge of stock structure over time.*
2. Determine whether the information presented in the report adequately supports the report's conclusions about Atlantic cod stock structure in the statistical areas considered.
3. Identify any major information gaps in the existing research with respect to cod stock structure. Develop an initial list of research recommendations to address these gaps.