

Assessment Oversight Panel (AOP) Guidelines

(Based on: Generic Operational Assessment Process White Paper, 2011, and NEFSC edits. v.10/29/2018)

The Assessment Oversight Panel (AOP) will meet with all of the lead stock assessors to review each stock's **proposed** operational assessment.

1. The Assessment Oversight Panel (AOP) will be composed, at a minimum, of a senior NEFSC assessment scientist, and the chairs of the Mid-Atlantic and New England SSCs, and will be advised by staff of the NERO, NEFMC, MAFMC, and ASMFC. Should an SSC Chair be a NEFSC scientist or not have the appropriate skills to technically review assessments, the SSC will appoint an alternative member scientist to the Assessment Oversight Panel.
2. The AOP meeting will be open to the public.
3. The purpose of the AOP's review is to finalize the Terms of Reference for each assessment and review the assessor's proposed approach for every assessment (**Plan A**). Each assessor is also expected to provide an alternative approach to the assessment (**Plan B**) should the baseline model fail.
4. The AOP review will focus on any proposed changes in the baseline model proposed by the lead assessor, recognizing that the proposed modeling approach should follow the baseline model as closely as possible. Other possible approaches to the assessment can be discussed, and proposals from other potential assessors can also be tabled. However, any approaches significantly different from the baseline model will be referred to be research track for study, development, and peer review.
5. The AOP is required to complete a written report which summarizes the AOP meeting and its main decisions about each assessment. The report should be completed within two weeks of the AOP meeting.
6. A "new" Management Track Process is being developed in 2018. The process allows for three levels of complexity and extent of changes in assessments. These are linked to three levels of peer review. The AOP should decide on level of peer review appropriate to each operational assessment.