

Instructions for the Peer Reviewers

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

The Peer Review is to determine whether the completed operational assessment is technically sufficient to (a) evaluate stock status and (b) provide scientific advice; (c) successfully address the assessment Terms of Reference. The Peer Review may determine that application of the baseline model in the operational assessment (“Plan A”) has not worked; if so, the alternative approach to the assessment (“Plan B”) will be implemented, and the stock will be referred to the research track.

For each stock assessment, the reviewer report should address whether each stock assessment TOR was completed successfully. The report should make clear whether the original modeling approach (i.e., Plan A) was accepted, or whether Plan B was recommended. The report should identify major sources of uncertainty in the stock assessment and include qualitative descriptions of stock status based on simple indicators/metrics. The report can also make recommendations for improving the assessment in the future.