

Research Track Working Group Questionnaire Instructions (v. 6/10/2019)

The Research Track is a formal scientific process used in the Northeast Region for detailed evaluation and analysis of fishery science research topics that are related to stock assessments and assessment models. Research Track Working Groups (WGs) carry out analyses that are then peer reviewed by an independent review panel. Approaches that are approved by the peer review panel are then typically implemented in stock assessments in a subsequent Management Track (A full description of this new process is located [here](#).) These stock assessments form the scientific basis for managing fish and invertebrate marine resources in US waters of the northwest Atlantic.

Upcoming Research Track WGs

Following guidelines developed by the Northeast Region Coordinating Committee (NRCC), the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) is currently seeking Research Track WG applicants for **Red hake** stocks, and possibly also including additional hake species.

Selection Process

Recently, the NRCC developed guidelines on WG formation in the SAW/SARC process (see below) and those same guidelines are currently being used to guide formation of Research Track WGs. As part of this selection process, all candidates for Working Groups, other than the WG Chair and Lead Stock Assessment Scientist, are required to fill out a questionnaire, on which the Overall Chair of the Process and the Research Track WG Chair will base their initial set of recommendations. A spot on the WG is available for the Council and/or Board staff representative with responsibility for the stock. This representative should still complete and submit the questionnaire. The list of all applicants, as well as these initial recommendations, will then be provided to a higher-level decision committee composed of Deputies from each of the five NRCC organizations: NMFS NEFSC, NMFS GARFO, MAFMC, NEFMC and ASMFC. This decision committee will make a final decision regarding approval of each candidate.

Selection Criteria

Criteria to be considered by the decision committee will include independence, expertise, and education of candidates, as well as Research Track WG size, composition and balance. Effective workgroups typically consist of 4-8 members with a broad range of skills and proficiency and should include individuals from several disciplines. Applicant qualifications should be directly relevant to the particular stock or topic under consideration.*

Timeline

Questionnaire available to public: June 10, 2019

Responses due back to NEFSC by: July 8, 2019

Short list selected for SAW WG by (target date): July 22, 2019

All questionnaires and short list delivered to NRCC Decision Committee (target date): July 29, 2019

NRCC decisions due to NEFSC (target date): August 12, 2019

Public Announcement of Decisions (target date): August 19, 2019

Questionnaire Instructions

Please complete the questionnaire, specifying a Research Track Working Group, and email to Michele Traver at michele.traver@noaa.gov no later than **July 8, 2019**. You may also mail the document to her c/o NEFSC, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543. Please note that the questionnaire is an Adobe PDF. If you would prefer to receive the document in Microsoft Word, or if you have any questions about the process, please contact Michele either by email or at: (508) 495-2195. Upon submission of your questionnaire, you will receive an email confirmation.

- [Application Questionnaire \(v.5/28/2019\)](#)
- [SAW Working Group Formation, Participation and Function Guidelines \(v. 7/10/2015\)](#)

*Please note that the number of participants on the Research Track WG is limited, and appropriate qualifications do not guarantee you a position as a decision-making member of the WG. Composition and balance of the WG will also be considered. Public participation in the WG meeting and discussion is still permitted. In addition, while the specific stock TORs are considered a draft until approved by the NRCC.

*Please also note that the NEFSC is unable to support travel for Working Group meetings.