



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, WA 98112-2097

May 27, 2014

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to invite you to attend the program review of the stock assessment processes and modeling approaches we use to develop, peer-review, and report on the status of fishery stocks in the region as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The review meeting will take place in Seattle, Washington on June 10-13, 2014. Similar reviews are being carried out at each of the NMFS regional science centers and at our headquarters Office of Science and Technology this year as part of a multi-year process to evaluate many aspects of our science enterprise.

A team of national and international experts will conduct the upcoming peer review. The reviewers will consider both the assessment process and modeling approaches. Reviewers will provide advice to the Center on the direction and quality of these program elements. Opportunities for input by members of the public will be provided each day. Information on the meeting and how to participate, background documents, a list of panelists, the agenda, and presentations prepared for the review will be available on the Center's website at: http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/news/events/program_reviews/index.cfm

Reviewers' reports and the Center's responses will also be made available at this website. I expect this review will highlight some of our strengths but also identify areas where improvement is needed, and help us to chart a course to advance our stock assessments. I consider peer reviews to be necessary steps in evaluating our science and in the process of change as we adapt to new challenges and new ideas.

I hope that you can find time to join us for all or part of this review, whether in person in Seattle, or by visiting our program review website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John E. Stein".

John E. Stein, Ph.D.
Science and Research Director

