

Subject:National Response to Science Center Program Reviews

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Good Afternoon!

Today NOAA Fisheries released a National Response to the external Program Reviews that occurred at each of our Fisheries Science Centers and the Office of Science and Technology during 2013. In response to these program reviews, we will take action in 4 major areas to improve our science: comprehensive data management and informatics systems; statistical survey and sampling design; strategic planning; and staffing shortfalls. Actions are focused on national cross-cutting themes identified at a majority of Science Centers but additional improvements are being made to address issues specific to each Center.

The 2013 program reviews focused on the data used for fishery stock assessments.

This year's reviews will focus on the fishery stock assessment process. The current schedule for those reviews is as follows:

- o Alaska Fisheries Science Center: March 24-28 (Seattle)
- o Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center: May 19-23 (Honolulu)
- o Northeast Fisheries Science Center: May 19-23 (Woods Hole)
- o Northwest Fisheries Science Center: June 9-13 (Seattle)
- o Southeast Fisheries Science Center July 8-11 (Miami)
- o Southwest Fisheries Science Center: July 28 - 31 (La Jolla)
- o Office of Science and Technology: Sept TBD (Silver Spring)

Peer reviews of our stock assessment programs are essential for ensuring we deliver the best available science and earn the public's trust in our science and management. Stakeholder input adds value to this process. These Reviews are open to the public and we encourage you to participate and provide input through.

Richard

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