



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Agenda Item B.1
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive Open Comment 1
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May 28, 2013

Dr. Don McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 87220-1384

Dear Dr. McIsaac,

High quality science is fundamental to NOAA's mission. To maximize the transparency and effectiveness of its science as well as its value to NOAA and the nation, NMFS will conduct annual panel peer reviews of scientific activities at each of its six Science Centers. The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) review will take place at the SWFSC La Jolla laboratory from July 29 - August 2. We extend an invitation to you and members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to attend and observe.

This year all NMFS Science Centers will be reviewed on Data collection supporting the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). The objective is to review and evaluate each Center's current scientific fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data as they relate to supporting fishery stock assessments conducted pursuant to the MSA, including: NOAA ship-based survey data, cooperative research survey data, logbook and observer data, commercial and recreational landings data, and data management and quality control. Reviewers will provide advice on the direction and quality of these data collection and management programs.

The SWFSC review in July will focus on West Coast coastal pelagic species and North Pacific highly migratory species. Our groundfish species will be reviewed in conjunction with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center review in September, and our salmon species during a later year's review.

I look forward to a productive review of this important part of the Center's portfolio. The review will be conducted as a public meeting. If you would like to attend or have questions, please contact me or Sarah Shoffler (sarah.shoffler@noaa.gov) for more details.

Sincerely,

Cisco Werner, Ph.D.
Director, SWFSC

