



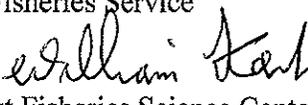
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

March 10, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM:

  
for John Bullard  
Administrator, Greater Atlantic Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service

Bill Karp, Ph.D.   
Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
National Marine Fisheries Service

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee Pursuant to Section 302(g)(1)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Section 302(g)(1)(E) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) provides that "The Secretary [of Commerce] and each Council may establish a peer review process for that Council for scientific information used to advise the Council about the conservation and management of the fishery." (16 U.S.C. § 1852(g)(1)(E)). The MSA National Standard 2 (NS2) Guidelines provide guidance on the "best scientific information available" standard, including guidance on standards for establishing a peer review process per MSA section 302(g)(1)(E). The NS2 Guidelines also state that the Secretary will announce the establishment of a peer review process under MSA section 302(g)(1)(E) in the Federal Register, along with a brief description of the process. This memorandum summarizes the decision by the Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to establish the Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee (SAW/SARC) pursuant to MSA section 302(g)(1)(E).

The SAW/SARC is a regional scientific peer review process that has been jointly established pursuant to MSA section 302(g)(1)(E) by the NMFS, NEFMC, and MAFMC, and used to provide the best scientific information available for fishery conservation and management recommendations. The NMFS, NEFMC, and MAFMC have worked together to establish the SAW/SARC guidelines and ensure the SAW/SARC is in compliance with the NS2 Guidelines.

NEFMC conveyed agreement with the description of the peer review process in a letter from Executive Director Thomas Nies, dated 31 July 2014, to NEFSC Science Director Dr. William Karp. MAFMC conveyed agreement with the description of the peer review process in an email from Executive Director Dr. Christopher Moore, dated 28 July 2014, to NEFSC Science Director Dr. William Karp and Deputy Director Dr. Russell Brown.

