

Scope of the FIN Review – The review of the Fisheries Information Networks (FINs) is being conducted as part of the NMFS Science – Center Review process. This is the component of the program of the Office of Science and Technology (ST) that is being reviewed this cycle. The review is not designed to be a comprehensive review of the entirety of the five FIN programs, nor is it intended to be five “mini-reviews” of the programs. We recognize that the FINs have many other partners (in particular, state partners) however the scope has been limited to make the reviews manageable. Thus, the review should focus on the relationship between the FINs and NMFS and how the FINs are meeting national and regional data needs from the federal perspective. Differences in approach, common themes and issues, and opportunities for lessons learned and collaborative solutions should be emphasized.

Materials – Reviewers will be provided with written materials before the review. There will be a limited amount of “must read” material provided by the programs. Additionally, there may be more extensive documentation provided for background information. Finally, all presentations will be provided to the reviewers in advance. Presenters will be asked to conclude presentations with a summary of “successes, challenges, and next steps”. Prior to the review, a teleconference between ST leadership and the review panel will be held to discuss and clarify the charge to reviewers, the scope of the review, background documents provided, and the expected products of the review.

Products – Each Reviewer will produce a succinct report summarizing their observations and recommendations for the three subject areas below. These reports will be provided to ST and the FIN representatives at the close of the review. The Panel Chair will summarize the reports of the reviewers in a report submitted to the ST Director within one week of the close of the review. So that we can improve the review process, each reviewer will be asked to complete a short questionnaire to provide feedback on the review process.

These **three subject areas** should be addressed in the review.

1. Data/information dissemination: How well is the FIN program meeting regional and national needs for dissemination of commercial fisheries data? Are there particular impediments and how are these being addressed?
2. Data/information management: Is the information management component of the FIN appropriate and working well? This question would include elements of:
 - a. Availability and adequacy of resources for information management
 - b. Technology and data systems
 - c. Data quality processes
 - d. Standardization and integration of data/statistics from multiple sources
 - e. Data access policies. What data are provided and how are they provided?
 - f. Timeliness. How soon are data/statistics made available to customers?
 - g. Documentation of information assets
3. Review and improvement process: Does the FIN have its own review process? If so, is there a mechanism used to follow up on the implementation of recommendation? Is there a plan for periodically evaluating performance to determine any needs for improvement or changes in direction? What are recommendations for program improvements and priorities?