

Peer Review of
Evaluation of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Mid-Atlantic Stocks

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) entered into a contractual agreement with the University of Maryland (UMD) to conduct a management strategy evaluation to evaluate various ABC control rule approaches that were being contemplated by the MAFMC for its managed species to come into compliance with the 2007 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Council has established the peer review procedure described below to obtain an independent peer review of the MSE Final Report submitted by UMD to the Council in August 2011.

Dr. Douglas Vaughan (MAFMC SSC member) will serve as the Chair of the Review Panel. The Review Panel members are Dr. Jim Berkson (Univ. of Florida/SAFMC SSC), Dr. Chris Legault (NEFSC/NEFMC SSC Chair), and Dr. Andre Punt (Univ. of Washington/PFMC SSC). The final report submitted to the MAFMC entitled *Evaluation of Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Mid-Atlantic Stocks* will be sent to the Review Panel along with Terms of Reference (TOR) provided by the MAFMC SSC Chair (developed in consultation with the Council Chair and Executive Director). Review Panel members will provide a critical review of the manuscript that addresses the TOR provided. Reviewers will be given 20 working days to review the manuscript and address each TOR and provide written comments to the Review Panel Chair. No attribution for specific comments will be made to individual reviewers (i.e., reviewers remain anonymous). At the discretion of the Review Panel Chair, a webinar may be necessary in order to resolve any disagreement among the three reviewers. It will be the responsibility of the Chair to determine if consensus has been reached with respect to each TOR.

Review panel members that are eligible (including the Chair) will be compensated for five (5) days (at the prevailing MAFMC SSC compensation rate) to review the manuscript and develop written comments addressing the TOR (if no webinar is necessary). A sixth day of compensation will be awarded in the event that a webinar is deemed necessary by the Review Panel Chair. The findings of the panel will be summarized by the Review Panel Chair in a written report transmitted to the SSC Chair upon completion of the review.