**Date: 18 Dec, 2023**

**To: Stephanie Sardelis**

**From: Jeff Clements**

**Secondary Publications Editor**

**REFEREE’S REPORT (DFO, secondary publications)**

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We would be grateful if you could return the manuscript with your comments **by 26 January 2023**. If you cannot review the paper because of circumstances have changed, please let us know.

The following form was prepared to facilitate your review. Your comments on the accompanying report form will be sent to the author. If you wish to remain anonymous, please check the appropriate space on the form. Remarks may also be written directly on the manuscript. If you wish to make comments to the editor which the author will not see, please use a separate page.

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***Please return your review no later than: 26 January, 2023***

**Paper Title**: Proceedings of the Technical Expertise in Stock Assessment (TESA) national workshop on 'Best practices in age estimation', 31 January to 02 February 2023 in Moncton, New Brunswick

**Author(s)**: Daniel Ricard, Peter Comeau, Aaron Adamack, Jacob Burbank, Abby Daigle, Allan Debertin, Kim Emond, Tracey Loewen, Andrea Perreault, Gregory Puncher, Karen Robertson, Nicolas Rolland, Meredith Schofield, Andrew Smith, Francois-Etienne Sylvain and Stephen Wischniowski

**Report Series**: Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

*Please note that the contents of the manuscript remain confidential until published. The names of the reviewers are revealed to the author(s), unless you wish to be an anonymous reviewer. If so, please indicate below:*

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| *You can reveal my name as a reviewer to the author(s) :* | 🗹 *(by default)* |
| *I want to be considered as an anonymous reviewer :* |  |

***Aggregate assessment*** – How do you rate this paper in absolute terms?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Poor to fair | Good | Very good to excellent |
|  |  | ✓ |

***Is the subject of the manuscript;***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | Possibly | Yes | Comments |
| Within the scope of the report series targeted (see bellow)? |  |  | ✓ |  |

***Fisheries and Oceans report series***

Reports in these series communicate new scientific information, document scientific data, summarize existing knowledge, provide economic and commercial analyses, or offer technical recommendations. The primary function and the intended audience of a report determine the series in which it should be published.

**a) Technical and manuscript reports** contain scientific and technical information that contributes to existing knowledge but which is not appropriate for the primary literature. Technical reports are directed to national or international audiences while manuscript reports deal primarily with national or regional issues. Distribution of printed manuscript reports is generally to regional audiences.

**b) Data reports** provide a medium for filing and archiving data compilations where little or no analysis is included. Such compilations commonly will have been prepared in support of primary publications or other reports. Generally, data specifically required to substantiate analyses should appear with the analyses as tables or appendices in a technical or manuscript report. Raw data considered worth archiving but not specifically reported for substantiation should be published separately as a data report.

**c) Economic reports** contain analyses of trends, studies of government policies, marketing programs, support programs, trade, tariffs, etc., and are directed to national and international audiences.

**d) Contractor reports** are unedited final reports from scientific and technical projects contracted by the oceanographic sciences and hydrographic sectors of the Department. The contents of the reports are the responsibility of the contractor and do not necessarily reflect the official policies of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. If warranted, contractor reports may be rewritten for other departmental publications series or for publication outside the government.

**e) Industry reports** contain the results of research and development useful to industry and are directed primarily toward individuals in the primary and secondary sectors of the fishing and marine industries. Distribution of industry reports is to national and international audiences.

***Is the subject of the manuscript*** *(Please summarize, in one or two sentences, the main contribution and novelty, if any, of this paper/document)****;***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | Possibly | Yes | Comments |
| Is the paper a new, original and valuable contribution to fisheries theory, methodology, modelling, education, etc? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Is the paper a new, original, and valuable contribution to factual information about the aquatic resources of a particular region? | ✓ |  |  |  |
| If the reply to either of the above questions is positive, is the paper of sufficiently wide interest to merit publication in one of the report series? |  |  | ✓ |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | Possibly | Yes | Comments |
| Is the paper technically sound and free of errors of fact or logic? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Are the objectives clear? Is the material clearly presented? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Is the methodology appropriate? |  |  | ✓ | Workshop format |
| Are the assumptions and the analysis valid and adequately justified? |  |  | ✓ | Discussion and recommendations |
| Are the interpretations and conclusions sound and justified by the data? |  |  |  | No data is presented |
| Are the data of appropriate quality? |  |  |  | No data is presented |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | Possibly | Yes | Comments |
| Is the quality of the language satisfactory? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Does the title of this paper clearly and sufficiently reflect its contents? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Are the references adequate, up-to-date, and relevant? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Are the approach, results and conclusions intelligible from the abstract alone? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Are the key words informative, appropriate and complete? |  |  | ✓ |  |
| Are the illustrations of adequate quality, legible and understandable? |  |  |  | N/A |

*Could the paper be shortened without detriment to the material presented in it (e.g. by removal of poor, irrelevant, excessive, or redundant material)? Please indicate such material in the manuscript. Are all illustrations and/or tables necessary? If not, could some of them be removed? Alternatively, could the information in the paper be more clearly or concisely conveyed by the use of tables or figures?*

***N/A – it is a reasonable length and all information presented is relevant.***

***Overall evaluation*** – The paper should be:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Accepted as it stands, apart from editorial changes. | ✓ |
| Accepted after minor revision. |  |
| Subject to major revision. If revised paper is re-submitted, it needs to be reconsidered and re-reviewed. |  |
| Rejected outright. |  |

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**Specific comments:** *Please add any other specific comments you may have (if necessary), continuing on a separate sheet (sheets).* ***Note:*** *It is not necessary to return the paper itself unless you have inserted comments on it which have not been included in your reply. Referee reports sent as e-mail attachments are welcome.*

* **On line 202, a space is missing between “place.” and “In”.**
* **Under Recommendations, 1. Institutional, is (b) external to the Department? Would this also fall under the purview of the working group?**