

Annex 2: Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Peer Review

Review of the Alaska-wide Sablefish Assessment

CIE reviewers are contracted to complete their independent peer review based on the ToRs. Therefore, the CIE-NOAA Fisheries review and approval process is based on whether the CIE independent reports addressed each of the ToRs.

- 1)** Review the disseminated documents and analyses, then provide feedback on whether the fleets-as-areas (FAA) assessment provides a suitable basis for operational management advice, particularly in comparison to the current single region panmictic assessment.
 - a) Provide recommendations on the most appropriate parametrization of fleet structure (number of fleets per fishery/survey, as a proxy for regions) in the FAA model.
- 2)** Highlight potential strengths and weaknesses of the FAA assessment, including model assumptions, estimates, fits to data (survey indices and age compositions along with fishery catch-at-age data), model diagnostics, and major sources of uncertainty.
 - a) Indicate whether the model provides the best scientific information available for estimating current stock status, projecting future abundance, and determining Overfishing Levels (OFLs) and Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs).
- 3)** Provide research recommendations for improving the existing research-oriented sablefish spatial (i.e., 3 and 5 region) assessment models, especially in the context of potential future usage in a management context.

Reviewers must provide details for the basis of their responses to the review ToRs.