



December 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FROM: Mark H. Zabarsky
Assistant Inspector General for Acquisition
and Special Program Audits

SUBJECT: Review of NOAA Fisheries Stock Assessment Enterprise

We are initiating a review regarding NOAA's fish stock assessment program. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (Fisheries) is responsible for fishery conservation and management. As part of this responsibility, Fisheries conducts fish stock assessments to (1) estimate the size (abundance) of a fish stock and (2) examine whether a stock is overfished and provide support for management measures, such as limits on how many fish can be caught annually.

For this review, our objective is to identify (1) the specific models and methodologies used to conduct fish stock assessments and (2) the most recent dates of the studies on which each model and methodology was based.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss our work in more detail. If you have any questions regarding this effort please contact me at (202) 482-3884 or David Sheppard, Seattle Regional Inspector General for Audit, at (206) 220-7970.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this review.

cc: Eileen Sobeck, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA
Ned Cyr, Ph.D., Director, Office of Science and Technology, NOAA
Mack A. Cato, Audit Liaison, NOAA