

Terms of Reference for the Peer Review

Independent peer review for Japanese Fish Stock Assessment will be conducted by external experts based on the Stock Assessment Reports provided by Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (hereafter, FRA). External experts review the appropriateness of the assessment as mainly for points A to G below and provide recommendation and suggestions for future improvements. The FRA either reflects the recommendations to future stock assessment process or provides valid explanation if the suggested proposal is not applicable.

Points of review

- A) Determine whether the data used for stock assessment are adequate to understand the stock dynamics of the target species and represent the best scientific information available.
- B) Discuss whether the biological parameters used for stock assessment are appropriate.
- C) Discuss whether the basic biological information such as distribution, migration pattern, and population are appropriate.
- D) Evaluate whether the stock assessment methodology is based on the most appropriate available study and performed analytically.
- E) Evaluate whether the data are treated statistically correctly.
- F) Evaluate whether the stock assessment result obtained from the input data and methodology used is appropriate.
- G) Evaluate the validity of methodology and result used for the future projection.

Review process

At first, the FRA will provide external experts with Stock Assessment Reports and supplemental materials as the subject under the review. After receiving pre-questions from external experts and confirming them by holding specific meeting, the external experts shall prepare and provide a final review report. In response to this, FRA will consider future responses and make a written document. These results shall be made public through the FRA web site.