



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**National Marine Fisheries Service**  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
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Seattle, Washington 98115-6349

Dear friends and colleagues,

High quality science is fundamental to NOAA Fisheries as a science-based agency. To maximize the transparency and effectiveness of its science and its value to the nation, we are conducting yearly peer reviews of scientific activities at each of our six Science Centers. This year, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center is conducting a review of its programs in economics and human dimensions science. We would like to invite you to attend and participate in this review, which is taking place at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle from July 17-21, 2017.

The objective of this review is to examine and evaluate our science programs that are directed to provide information for the conservation and management of species protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and Magnuson-Stevens Act. During 2017, all six of NOAA Fisheries' Science Centers will conduct similar reviews.

The reviews will include presentations by NOAA Fisheries scientists. Reviewers will then provide technical input on the direction and quality of the data collection and assessment programs as well as the resulting scientific information both for species with substantial amounts of data and those where the data and information is limited.

The experts reviewing the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's economics and human dimensions science program are respected members of the scientific community. They include both internal NOAA scientists and external experts. This program review is open to the public and information on the agenda, background documents, presentations, and how to participate will be posted on the [Alaska Fisheries Science Center website](#) prior to the start of the meeting. After the review is complete, reviewers' reports and the AFSC's response also will be available on this webpage.

We look forward to a productive review of this important part of the Center's work.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. DeMaster, Ph.D.  
Science and Research Director

