North Pacific Fisheries Commission

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PROPOSAL FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW OF NPFC STOCK ASSESSMENT

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These Terms of Reference (TORs) are intended to define the role of the independent peer review panel contracted to review the stock assessment of priority species in the North Pacific Fisheries Commission. It is intended that advice provided by the review panel will be taken into account in future stock assessments in order to improve the assessment process. It is envisioned that the review panel will provide a detailed peer review report as well as a summary of the peer review report to be included in the detailed report of the stock assessment, for presentation to the Scientific Committee.

The role of the independent peer review panel is to:

1) Evaluate the adequacy, appropriateness, and application of data used in the assessment.

2) Evaluate the adequacy, appropriateness, and application of methods used to assess the stock and if appropriate recommend alternative approaches to be accomplished in the future.

3) Evaluate the methods used to estimate stock status (e.g., MSY, F_{MSY}, B_{MSY}, or their proxies).

4) Evaluate the adequacy, appropriateness, and application of the methods used to conduct projection.

5) Evaluate the adequacy, appropriateness, and application of methods used to characterize the uncertainty in estimated parameters. Comment on whether the implications of uncertainty in technical conclusions are clearly stated.

6) Comment on whether the stock assessment results are clearly and accurately presented in the detailed report of the stock assessment.

7) Comment on potential improvements on the stock assessment process (transparency, objectivity, documentation, uncertainty characterization, etc.) as applied to the reviewed assessments.

8) Consider the research recommendations provided by the assessment team and suggest any additional recommendations or prioritizations warranted, with a focus on research and monitoring

needs that improve the reliability of future assessments, particularly in relation to climate change.

9) If necessary, request for updates of assessments or projections or for additional analysis or information to be considered or included. Formulate only clear, explicit, and practical requests, and list them individually in the review report, along with their rationale and the response.

10) Prepare a Peer Review Report which should specifically address each TOR.