



*11th Meeting of the
International Scientific Committee
for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean
San Francisco, California, USA
20-25 July 2011*

Framework – Peer Review of ISC Function¹

ISC

July 2011

¹Prepared for the Eleventh Meeting of the International Scientific committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC), 20-25 July 2011, San Francisco, CA, USA. Document should not be cited without permission of the authors.

FRAMEWORK—PEER REVIEW OF ISC FUNCTION

1. TT Assignment

Prepare a framework for ISC11 Plenary to review and approve that accomplishes “C9” of the ISC Rules and Procedures, i.e., “Every five years, or more frequently as may be decided, the Committee shall organize a team of three recognized peers with no Committee affiliation, to review the function of the committee and the subsidiary bodies and to offer recommendations for improvement.”

Prepare Terms of Reference (TOF) for the Peer Review Team in consultation with the ISC Chairman.

2. Functions of the ISC to be Reviewed (from Guidelines for the ISC)

1. Regularly assess and analyze fishery and other relevant information concerning the species covered;
2. Prepare a report on its findings or conclusions on the status of such species such as trends in population abundance of such species, developments in fisheries, and conservation needs;
3. Strive to adopt reports and findings by consensus of all Members and Non-voting Members; however, it is not necessary for consensus be achieved on all matters, and reports and findings may reflect options and differing views when a consensus has not been achieved;
4. Formulate proposals for conduct of and, to the extent possible, coordinate international and national programs of research addressing such species; and
5. Consider any other matters, as appropriate, at the request of one of the members.”

3. Peer Review Team and Review Process

The Peer Review Team will consist of three recognized peers, one of whom will be designated chairperson by the ISC Chairman and be responsible for organizing the work of the Team. The Team is charged to review the functions of the ISC with respect to effectiveness in achieving the mission/objectives of the ISC and to offer recommendations for improvements. Findings and recommendations of the Team are to be provided to the ISC.

The Team will conduct its work largely through email and correspondence. Interviews should be conducted by phone and conference calls. Each Peer Review Team member will attend and observe at least one Working Group workshop, preferable different workshops leading up to a stock assessment. All Peer Review Team members should observe a Plenary session.

The ISC Chairman will be responsible for overseeing the work of the Team and may appoint a person or ad hoc committee to serve this purpose for keeping abreast of progress.

4. Reviewers and Sponsors

ISC Members shall sponsor reviewers. Three Members – to be determined — will agree to serve as sponsors. Each sponsor will identify two candidates with appropriate qualifications, consult with the ISC Chairman and vice-Chairman in the selection of one candidate for the review team and secure the services of that candidate. Each sponsor will be responsible for cost and support required for the selected candidate to serve as a reviewer. The ISC Chairman will designate one member on the review team to serve as the chairperson.

Qualifications of candidates include: must be recognized peer with no previous or current ISC affiliation; may be from non-ISC member countries; and should have some knowledge or experience with international scientific body responsible for providing advice for fishery management or resource conservation;

5. Schedule

July 2011	Framework reviewed and approved, and sponsors identified by ISC11 Plenary.
September 2011	Sponsors consult with ISC Chairman and vice-Chairman on selection of reviewers. TT develops TOR in consultation with the ISC Chairman.
October 2011	ISC Chairman announces formation of the Peer Review Team and its Terms of Reference.
November 2011	Peer Review Team work plan is developed and provided to ISC Chairman
March 2012	Peer Review Team chairperson and ISC Chairman review progress.
June 2012	First Draft of Peer Review Team's report available for review and in advance of discussion at ISC12 Plenary.
July 2012	First Draft reviewed by ISC12 with Peer Review Team present. Peer Review Team observes Plenary session.
August 2012	Second Draft of Peer Review Team's report available for review and comment by ISC.
September 2012	Final report available for ISC action.