

Terms of Reference for the Peer Review

2026 Stock Assessment Update for the American Samoa Bottomfish Management Unit Species Complex

Peer Review under the Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review Framework

For questions 1-5 and their subcomponents, reviewers shall provide a "yes" or "no" answer. If they answer "no", they must explain if a specific change was justifiable, and if not, which alternative set of existing information/results should be used to inform fishery management and why. Each panel member will provide a report based on their answers to these questions, and the Chair will provide a report summarizing the answers to these questions across the review panel.

1. Are input data sources and filtering methods well documented and the same as those used in the 2023 benchmark assessment?
2. Is the CPUE standardization methodology the same as those used in the 2023 benchmark stock assessment?
3. Are the assessment model and methodology the same as those used in the 2023 benchmark stock assessment?
4. Are the methods used to project future population state the same as those used in the 2023 benchmark stock assessment?
5. Do results include estimated stock status in relation to the estimated biological reference points, and other results required to address management goals stated in the relevant FEP or other documents provided to the review panel?
6. For consideration in future benchmark assessments, suggest and prioritize recommendations for improvements and research. For each recommendation, prioritize into three categories (high, medium, low), dependent on the importance to the interpretation of this and future assessment results.
7. Draft a report (individual reports from each of the panel members and an additional Summary Report from Chair) addressing the above TOR questions.