



07 June 2018

Peer Reviewer Shortlist Consultation for the US N Atlantic albacore & yellowfin tuna fishery

The MSC's Peer Review College has compiled a shortlist of potential peer reviewers to undertake the peer review for the [US N Atlantic albacore & yellowfin tuna fishery](#) which is currently being assessed as a scope extension in the [US N Atlantic swordfish fishery](#) by the Conformity Assessment Body MRAG Americas, Inc. One peer reviewer will be selected in this case from the following list:

- Joel Rice
- Joseph Powers
- Kevin Stokes

A summary of the candidates' experience and qualifications is included on the following pages. Further details of their experience are available on request by email to the [Peer Review College](#).

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on any potential conflicts of interest of the shortlisted reviewers with the fishery to the Peer Review College by email, telephone or post at the number and address below.

The Pilot Phase for the College has now been completed, and the College has been approved by the Oversight Committee and MSC Board to proceed into full implementation from 1st September 2017. For further details on the pilot and background to the Peer Review College, please visit the MSC's [Program Improvements website](#).

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The deadline for responses to the consultation is **17:00 GMT, 10 days from the publication date of this announcement on the MSC's website.**

Joel Rice

Joel Rice has worked in the area of fisheries assessment, ecosystem modeling, and natural resource management for over 10 years and has direct experience conducting stock assessments in the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans. Over the last six years Mr. Rice has authored nine stock assessments, with experience that spans data poor stock assessments (Rice and Harley 2012; Rice and Harley 2012b; Rice 2013; Rice and Sharma 2015) well as with complex stock assessments using state of the art assessment tools such as Stock Synthesis 3 and MFCL (Rice and Sharma 2015, Rice et al. 2014b). Mr. Rice has significant expertise in development and analysis of data for stock assessments (Rice and Harley 2013b; Rice 2012, 2012), as well as in the use and development of harvest control rules, MSE and reference points in the development of stock assessments leading to management recommendations (Rice and Harley 2013; Rice et al 2014; Rice and Harley 2012; Rice and Harley 2012b). Mr. Rice has made communication of complex assessments to a diverse group of stakeholders a priority and has experience communicating the assessment results along with the associated uncertainty to audiences large and small.

Joseph Powers

Dr Powers has been involved in fisheries issues for more than 40 years, conducting stock assessments, coordinating international stock assessment research, communicating scientific advice to fishery management councils and commissions and also serving as the senior marine fisheries manager in the southeast US. His background includes: professor of marine resource assessment at Louisiana State University; Senior Stock Assessment Scientist of the US's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) southeast region, Laboratory Director of a NMFS facility; lead US scientist for Atlantic tuna, swordfish and billfish species for the International Commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); Chair of the Scientific Committee of ICCAT; Chair of the Stock Assessment Committee for Southern Bluefin Tuna; Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and he has worked on numerous Marine Stewardship Council assessments of tunas, swordfish, hake and other fisheries resources in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Kevin Stokes

Dr Stokes is a fisheries science, management, and policy consultant with extensive international experience. He has worked at senior management levels in public and private sectors as a scientist, manager, and advisor. Before going to New Zealand, he was responsible for all finfish monitoring, assessment and advice in England and Wales, serving as chair of the EC STECF and as UK representative on the ICES ACFM. He served on multiple UK research councils, led the UK scientific delegation to and served as UK Alternate Commissioner to the IWC. Dr Stokes also worked as Chief Scientist for the New Zealand Seafood Industry Council for 9 years, responsible for science policy and process and advice on all fisheries matters. He has worked on a wide range of fisheries and environmental issues and has provided advice nationally and internationally at senior government and non-government levels. Since 2008, he has worked as a consultant on fisheries, governance and other issues. He has worked across the globe providing technical reviews, programme review and design, certification assessment, governance review and design, Ecological Risk Assessment design, and sustainability advice.

In 2007 Dr Stokes participated in the MSC Quality and Consistency project, reviewing advice on development of the new P1 CR, and as part of the group that led development of the P2 and P3 CR. He has undertaken numerous MSC pre-assessments as well as acting as an assessor, auditor, and peer reviewer for certification assessments ranging from prawns to tunas.