

## **Objective**

This review is convened to evaluate the current NEFSC scientific programs that provide information and analysis for the conservation and management of marine mammals, endangered or threatened wildlife, and species of concern under NMFS jurisdiction. The review will also focus on the extent to which these efforts provide what is needed to manage these populations. Science programs addressed in this review include those directed at marine mammal, sea turtles and fish, that occur in the Northeast region and fall under provisions of the Endangered Species Act or Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Reviewers will evaluate the programs and provide advice on the direction of research to address conservation and management needs in the region.

## **Terms of Reference**

1. Do current and planned protected species scientific activities fulfill mandates and requirements under the ESA and MMPA, and meet the needs of the regulatory partners?
2. Are there opportunities to be pursued in conducting protected species science, including shared and collaborative approaches with partners?
3. Are the protected species scientific objectives adequate, and are we using the best suite of techniques and approaches to meet those objectives?
4. Are the protected species studies being conducted properly (survey design, statistical rigor, standardization, integrity, peer review, transparency, confidentiality, etc.)?
5. How are advances in protected species science and methodological approaches being communicated and applied in the NEFSC?