



organizational and infrastructural issues and its policies. But there has been little assessment of the performance of the conservation and management measures (CMMs) agreed by the specific RFMO/A and how these measures do/don't give effect to the objective of the treaty.

Performance reviews of RFMO/As are critically important to strengthening these institutions through robust and independent review of their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the constituent conventions. Further, such reviews provide importance outside perspectives regarding whether or not modifications to the conventions may be needed to ensure the RFMO/A is meeting best practices for modern fisheries governance, including through giving effect to provisions of UNFSA. Finally, independent evaluation, and the serious consideration and implementation of the review's recommendations, builds confidence by civil society and the market in RFMO/As as effective management bodies for shared fishery resources.

ISSF has been pleased that recommendations from performance reviews have been actioned by individual RFMOs. In fact, it is our experience that conservation measures based on recommendations from performance reviews are viewed quite positively among the RFMO/A membership.

2. Process and structure of performance review of RFMO/As, including related to independent evaluation, participation, transparency, accountability and periodicity

ISSF has participated in both committee-based performance reviews and independent performance reviews. For committee-based performance reviews the participation remains restricted to a mix of members, accredited observers, independent scientific expertise, members of other RFMO/As, the RFMO under review and the Secretariat. Independent panels, in our experience, are composed of a small number of individuals completely independent of the RFMO/A. Our comments here compare the two structures that we have participated in.

Overall, we have found that both structures provide opportunity for rigorous discussion and strong recommendations, but the following aspects should be considered going forward to further strengthen and enhance the process and structure of performance ~~review~~ ^{structure} of



Participation: it is essential that the performance review panel, whether independent or committee-based, be composed of experts in their field that are impartial. All participants should be acting as experts not as representatives of their government or organisation or in their official role if part of the Secretariat. It is also essential that all stakeholder groups are represented on the panel.

Transparency: all documents prepared in association with the performance review, for example



4. Lessons learned and best practices from past performance reviews of RFMO/As

As highlighted above, the biggest hurdle to strengthening the RFMO/As is overcoming political inertia that is inherent in all international bodies. One avenue ISSF considers will support moving this issue forward is requiring

