QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE ATLANTIC COD STOCK STRUCTURE WORKING GROUP (ACSSWG)

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Today's date:

Selection Criterion #1: Independence (Members of the ACSSWG cannot peer review their own work, and in that sense must have independence.)

> **Question #1(a).** Are you a member of another group that is likely to review or use the products of the ACSSWG (e.g., NRCC, TMGC)?

> **Question #1(b).** If you answered "yes" to #1(a), please provide additional details here regarding a.) the name of the other group, b.) your role in that group, and c.) types of recommendations that group will make related to the conclusions of the ACSSWG.

Selection Criterion #2: Expertise and Education (Members of the ACSSWG must have technical expertise and knowledge required to make meaningful contributions to a stock structure evaluation, specifically to the ACSSWG's Terms of Reference – see Attachment A.)

Question #2. Describe your areas of expertise, training, and background that relate to the terms of reference under consideration by the WG.

*Please note that the number of participants on the WG is limited and appropriate qualifications do not guarantee you a position as a decision-making member of the WG. Composition and balance of the WG will also be considered. Public participation in the WG meeting and discussion is still permitted.

Attachment A. Draft Terms of Reference for the ACSSWG.

1. Inventory and summarize all information presented at the 2012 GMRI Workshop on Stock Structure of Atlantic Cod. Evaluate the relative importance of the information with respect to developing a holistic understanding of Atlantic cod stock structure.

2. Identify and evaluate any new or existing data, including the effects of environmental conditions, on the stock structure of Atlantic cod in NAFO Divs. 4X, 5 and 6 not considered at the GMRI Workshop. Integrate any additional information into the inventory developed in TOR 1.

3. Using a holistic approach, synthesize all available information (TOR 1 and 2) and develop set of possible biological stock structures and consider scientific support for each alternative. In developing alternative stock structures, consider the temporal stability of stock structure and how the available information can inform the knowledge of stock structure over time.

4. Evaluate the historical and contemporary fisheries-dependent and -independent data collection programs and evaluate current modeling techniques relative to the alternatives developed in ToR3. Summarize the practical limitations for each alternative.

5. Broadly consider potential management actions to meet management objectives including but not limited to maintaining status quo, altering stock boundaries, spatial and temporal restrictions, and stock composition analyses

6. Identify any major information gaps in the existing research with respect to cod stock structure. Develop a prioritized list of research recommendations to address these gaps. Comment on the feasibility and time horizon (e.g., short-term, long-term) of the proposed research recommendations.

7. Identify any major data collection and modeling gaps that limit the use of stock structure alternatives.