Questions regarding the Weakfish Stock Assessment,
for the
Data Poor Working Group Review (12/08)

Abundance indices
- Does strong correlation of recreational indices using various effort estimates justify use of simpler method?
- Please provide input on criteria for selecting and eliminating "final" tuning indices.

Analytical methods
- Should terminal year estimates be presented for management if catch at age modeling is known to produce a retrospective pattern? At what level of retrospective change would terminal year estimate be considered unreliable?
- Discuss merits and drawbacks of using re-scaled relative F and other methods to estimate F, biomass, and abundance in recent years (i.e. to eliminate retrospective pattern).

Non-equilibrium
- Analyses explored discrepancies between surveys, landings, and anecdotal info indicated factors other than F might be driving the population. Provide insight on analyses that allow judgment of the likelihood that equilibrium or non-equilibrium assumptions are being met?
- Is there sufficient evidence to support the conclusion of increasing natural mortality? Please provide suggestions for methods to evaluate the assumption of constant M.
- Please provide input on incorporating ecosystem (e.g. predation) losses into an age-structured model.

General
- Suggestions to strengthen assessment (research, analyses, methods).