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Dr. Jennifer Nielsen
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Dear Jennifer,

I am writing this letter to give my full support to the nomination of Dr. David Fournier for the William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award.

I started to learn Dr. Fournier's work in early 1990s when I was a PhD student of Dr. Juri Paloheimo in fisheries population dynamics and statistics at the University of Toronto. His landmark paper, Fournier and Archibald (1982) "A general theory for analyzing catch at age data.", is the foundation of modern stock assessment theory and practice. The theory proposed in Fournier and Archibald (1982) provides a rigorous statistical approach to integrating multiple data sources into a single stock assessment model.

I first met Dave in 1995 when he was teaching a week long course about ADMB in the New South Wales Fisheries Department in which I was a stock assessment scientist. Since then, over my tenure as a professor at the Memorial University of Newfoundland and University of Maine, my students and I have been using the ADMB to implement stock assessment framework we have developed for the American lobster fishery (with landing values over $300 million), Gulf of Maine sea urchin fishery and other fisheries. Almost all stock assessment modelers with whom I have worked (e.g., Dr. Paul Breen of NIWA, New Zealand; Dr. Larry Jacobson, NEFSC, Woods Holes; Dr. Minoru Kanaiwa, Tokyo University of Agriculture; and Dr. Chilu Sun, National Taiwan University etc.) use ADMB as their programming tool. It is clear to me that Dr. Fournier's work has significant impacts on fisheries stock assessment worldwide, leading to better quantification of fisheries population dynamics. On a more personal level, I believe Dr. Fournier's work has significant impacts on my academic life and career development.

I give my strongest support to the nomination of Dr. David Fournier for the William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award.

Respectfully submitted,
Yong Chen
Professor for Fisheries Population Dynamics