

Peer Review Process and Selection Criteria

NMFS is seeking recommendations for peer reviewers for the Stock Structure, Extinction Risk Analysis, and Climate Change workshop/working group reports based on the peer reviewer criteria provided below.

If you have peer reviewer recommendations that meet the criteria, please contact Kim Damon-Randall (Kimberly.Damon-Randall@noaa.gov) by August 10, 2012.

Overview of the River Herring Workshops/Working Group Meetings, Including Peer Review Criteria

- **Stock Structure Workshop/Working Group**
 - Location: National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, MA.
 - Dates:
 - Stock Structure Workshop, June 22, 2012 (*open to the public*)
 - Stock Structure Working Group, June 20-21, 2012
 - Goal & Objective: The Stock Structure workshop reviewed available genetic, life history, and morphometric data sets on alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*), collectively referred to as river herring, in freshwater and marine habitats. The working group meeting reviewed the information presented at the workshop as well as what was presented in the petition. Working group participants provided their individual expert opinions related to the available information to be summarized in a report which will receive independent peer review. Upon completion, NMFS will utilize this information to assess whether there is evidence of significant population structuring for both species. This information is being collected as part of the ongoing review of the status of these species and ultimately, will be incorporated into the decision as to whether listing these species is warranted under the Endangered Species Act.
 - Peer Review Criteria: Reviewers shall have combined working knowledge and recent experience in one or all of the following: 1) fisheries population dynamics, expertise in stock assessment and life history of anadromous species; and/or 2) expertise in stock structure and genetics analysis.

- **Extinction Risk Analysis Workshop/Working Group**
 - Location: EPA, Boston, MA
 - Dates:
 - Extinction Risk Analysis Workshop July 10, 2012 (*open to the public*)
 - Extinction Risk Analysis Working Group, July 11-12, 2012
 - Goal & Objective: To discuss and analyze the extinction risk of alewife and blueback herring. An Extinction Risk Analysis (ERA) can be used to help summarize the status of a species. However, there are no standard methods used to estimate the risk of extinction for a species; instead, the method used is dependent on the data that are available for the species. The Extinction Risk Analysis Working Group reviewed the information presented and discussed at the workshop as well as other available data on river herring, determined models that could be used to develop an ERA, and will run varying model projections. The ERA group will use the available river herring data to develop projections using various models at varying timeframes to project the probabilities of the population falling below varying quasi-extinction thresholds. Working group participants provided their individual expert opinions on options for models and potential projection scenarios that might work to assess the extinction risk of these species; however, the group did not come to consensus. A summary report from their meeting will be prepared and independently peer reviewed.
 - Peer Review Criteria: Reviewers shall have combined working knowledge and recent experience in one or all of the following: 1) fisheries population dynamics, expertise in stock assessment and life history of anadromous species; and/or 2) expertise in extinction risk analysis and population modeling. It is desirable that the extinction risk analysis expertise be associated with applications in fisheries, particularly anadromous species.

- **Climate Change Workshop**
 - Location: NMFS Northeast Regional Office, Gloucester, MA
 - Dates: July 18 & 19, 2012 (*Open to the public*)
 - Goal & Objective: To discuss the potential impacts of climate change on alewife and blueback herring in U.S. Atlantic and Canada freshwater and marine habitats. Ongoing quantitative (e.g. modeling) and qualitative (e.g. vulnerability assessments) approaches to assessing impacts of climate change on river herring habitat and population dynamics will be discussed. Additionally, river herring research relevant to climate change assessments will be presented and research gaps for improving the assessment of climate impacts will be highlighted. Individual opinions will be gathered on impacts of climate change on river herring to help inform the status review and listing determination for the species. A summary report from their meeting will be prepared and independently peer reviewed.
 - Peer Review Criteria: Reviewers shall have combined working knowledge and recent experience in one or all of the following: 1) climate science; and/or 2) population dynamics and life history of anadromous species; and/or 3) assessing impacts of climate or environmental change on fish.