

Dear Reviewer:

Thank you for agreeing to provide a peer review of the Draft Biological Report for Proposed Critical Habitat for yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish and bocaccio of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin.

Directives for your review:

- Please review the enclosed draft biological report. Specific requests are to verify that appropriate supporting literature is accurately used, and that the document provides a logical rationale for proposed critical habitat, following the five steps outlined in the introduction/background.
- If you believe that justification is lacking or specific information was applied incorrectly in reaching specific conclusions, please specify.

Requirements for the review:

- The President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a Peer Review Bulletin (December 2004) that requires online posting of this peer review as it has been determined to be "influential." To ensure that we have a transparent process for public disclosure, names and affiliations of each peer reviewer, as well as the reviewer's comments, are posted online. We are required to identify peer reviewers by name and affiliation, but NMFS has the ability to post a compilation of reviewer comments.
- The Peer Review Bulletin further requires that non-Federal peer reviewers complete a "Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure" form – we have sent this form to you separately by email, and request that it be returned with your review. Please note that you are required to submit a CV with the signed form. Peer reviewers who are federal employees do not need to sign the conflict of interest form; rather they must comply with applicable federal ethics requirements such as those at:
www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_07/5cfr2635_07.html.

Logistics:

- Please feel free to submit electronic comments (e.g., word document).
- We have sent to you paper maps depicting draft proposed critical habitat for yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish and bocaccio. These draft maps do not need to be returned.