



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

MEMORANDUM FOR: Peer Reviewer

FROM: Adam Brame
Fishery Biologist

SUBJECT: Peer Review of the *Halophila johnsonii* population genetics report

DATE: 15 June 2015

Enclosed please find the seagrass report titled *Population genetics of Halophila johnsonii* Eiseman. Thank you for volunteering your time to review this document. Peer review is an important process to science and its application in our administration of the Endangered Species Act. We appreciate your dedication to both the process and the species.

General directives:

1. Please provide comments on the scientific information and data contained within the biological assessment.
2. If you believe that justification is lacking or specific information was applied incorrectly in reaching specific conclusions, please specify.
3. We are particularly interested in your review of the methods of genetic analysis used in the report.
4. Because this document will become available through an upcoming Federal Register Notice and because the authors intend to publish this information in the scientific literature, please keep the contents of the report confidential. I will be sure to let you know via email on how to obtain copies of the final version once the Federal Register Notice has published.

A few items regarding your peer review:

1. The Office of Management and Budget published a Peer Review Bulletin (December 2004) that requires online posting of this peer review as it has been determined to be "influential." This peer review bulletin is intended to enhance the quality and credibility of the federal government's scientific information. To ensure that we have a transparent process for public disclosure, names and affiliations of each peer reviewer is posted online as well as comments. While we must identify peer reviewers by name and affiliation, NMFS has the ability to post a compilation of reviewer comments. Therefore, I will not associate individual comments with reviewer name; rather I will compile the unabridged comments and organize by a reviewer number. Previously submitted peer reviews are available at:

<http://www.cio.noaa.gov/itmanagement/prplans/PRsummaries.html>



2. The Peer Review Bulletin further requires that non-Federal peer reviewers complete a *Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure* form – I attach the form and request that you return it 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.

3. Notably, if NOAA Fisheries receives a FOIA request, anonymity of peer reviewers or comments cannot be guaranteed.

Regarding logistics:

1. I have submitted this information to you electronically and recommend using the “track changes” feature of Microsoft Word and/or comment bubbles when reviewing the report.
2. If you prefer to work on a hard copy, please feel free to print the report, mark directly on it, scan the document, and return it to me via email.
3. Please make sure that you return a signed conflict of interest form with the peer review and attach a CV.
4. Please return the report with your comments by July 16, 2015.
5. Please feel free to call (727-209-5958) or email me at (Adam.Brame@noaa.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Attachments:

1. *Population genetics of Halophila johnsonii Eiseman*
2. *Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure*