

NMFS enlisted the help of the Marine Mammal Commission (MMC) to coordinate scientific peer review of the June 2012, version of the humpback whale status review report. The MMC received comments from five reviewers and these reviews were provided, without attribution, to NMFS.

Peer Reviewers included:

1. Dr. Randall Reeves: Dr. Randall Reeves is a consultant based in Quebec, Canada. His main areas of interest and expertise are marine mammal biology and conservation. He has a Master's degree in public policy from Princeton and a doctorate in geography from McGill. Dr. Reeves is the Chair of the Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals for the Marine Mammal Commission.
2. Dr. Howard Rosenbaum: Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia, University, and Conservation Biologist, Marine Conservation and Conservation Genetics Programs, Wildlife Conservation Society. Expertise in conservation genetics, cetaceans, marine conservation, molecular ecology, and population genetics.
3. David W. Laist: David Laist is Senior Policy and Program Analyst on the staff of the Marine Mammal Commission. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, and a Master of Science degree in marine biology from Old Dominion University in, Norfolk, Virginia. At the Marine Mammal Commission he has worked on issues related to endangered species management, oil and gas development, marine debris, the International Whaling Commission, marine mammal management in Alaska, and marine mammal-fishery interactions.
4. Jan Straley: Associate Professor, Marine Biology, University of Alaska Southeast. Straley holds a bachelor of science degree in fisheries from the University of Washington and a master of science degree in biological oceanography from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has studied population dynamics, feeding ecology, human interactions and the social structure of large whales. Her research includes working with the fishing industry to minimize interactions between sperm and killer whales and Alaska longline fisheries. Straley also works with the National Park Service's humpback whale monitoring program at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, and studies humpback whale foraging ecology with NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau.
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We asked peer reviewers of status review reports to consider:

- Is the information presented accurate and current? (If they are aware of additional or more current relevant information, we would appreciate it if they would provide copies of all additionally suggested references.)
- Does the information presented sufficiently make the case for the designation of potential DPSs based on the agency policy described in the document?
- Are the extinction risk assessment approaches appropriate and sufficient?
- Does the threats assessment accurately and sufficiently summarize the threats facing the identified DPSs?
- Are the conclusions in the report clear and well justified?