

Charge to Peer Reviewers

Thank you for agreeing to provide peer review of the evaluation of critical habitat contained in the draft biological and economic reports for the proposed rule to designate critical habitat for the Main Hawaiian Island (MHI) Insular False Killer Whale Distinct Population Segment (DPS). We appreciate your willingness to help with this important effort to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the scientific information upon which the critical habitat designation and economic analysis are based.

Critical Habitat Designation for the MHI Insular False Killer Whale DPS

Peer Review of the Draft Biological Report for the Proposed Rule:

We request that you review the evaluation of critical habitat (specifically, see sections titled “Background” through “Unoccupied Areas”) and provide comments on the following topics:

1. The quality, thoroughness, and relevance of the scientific information considered; particularly whether there is any relevant information available that was not considered.
2. Whether scientific uncertainties are adequately identified and characterized.
3. Whether the document provides a well-reasoned rationale for the proposed critical habitat based on the best scientific information available.

Peer Review of the Draft Economic Report for the Proposed Rule:

We request that you review the information considered in the draft economic report and provide comments on the following topics:

1. The accuracy, quality, and thoroughness of the information considered, particularly if any additional information exist that was not considered.
2. Whether uncertainties in the information are reasonably identified and characterized.

Review Logistics:

1. Please summarize your comments in a letter that provides a brief overview, followed by more detailed responses to the specific review questions identified above.
2. If you are not a federal employee, please complete the enclosed confidential “Conflict of Interest Disclosure” form (Enclosure 2), and return it with your review – please note that this form requires inclusion of a CV.
3. Your participation in this peer review is important to the critical habitat designation process and we appreciate your time and effort in this review.

Prepared by:
Protected Resources Division
NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Regional Office
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