

# Peer Review Plan for the Mourning Dove Integrated Population Model

## *About the document*

**Subject and Purpose:** The Fish and Wildlife Service along with partners has developed an integrated population model to inform annual regulatory decisions concerning harvest management for the species. The model structure draws upon published literature for similar species and the theory of equilibrium population dynamics as it relates to harvested species. To inform the underlying population model, the process integrates data from several national programs: the mourning dove banding program, the parts collection program, the Harvest Information Program, and the Breeding Bird Survey.

**Importance of Scientific Information:** The mourning dove is one of the most popular gamebird species in the U.S. with annual sport harvest exceeding 8 million birds. Because of its high economic and recreational value efforts have been underway to better monitor its populations in the U.S. to better inform annual regulatory decisions. Use of an integrated population model allows for a single inferential framework by using all data simultaneously to estimate variable in the underlying population models. These underlying population models explain annual population processes and model the effect of harvest on the populations. Model results will be published in annual status reports made available online by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Model results will also inform the existing national harvest management strategy for mourning doves.

## *About the Peer Review Process*

**Type of Review:** Independent Peer Review – The Service will solicit critical review of the model from independent scientific reviewers. Reviewers will submit individual written comments and the Service will supply responses to comments.

**Number of reviewers:** The Service will use 2–3 independent reviewers who are experts in developing integrated population models. Letters requesting participation will be sent to reviewers as soon as possible.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Potential reviewers must have demonstrated expertise in wildlife population modeling. Reviewer selection will also be based on one or more of the following area so expertise: developing integrated population models for wildlife populations, decision-support modeling, data collection and analysis to inform harvest management decisions, and mourning dove biology.

**Selection of Peer Reviewer:** Peer reviewers will be selected based on their subject matter expertise and as described by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Peer Review Guidelines. Selected peer reviewers must not have been involved in the development of the mourning dove integrated population model.

**Management of Peer Reviewer:** The peer review will be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Peer reviewers will be given 45 days to complete their reviews. The estimated start of the peer review process is March 2024. Peer review comments will be made available to the public on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website: <https://www.fws.gov/program/webless-migratory-game-bird>.

## *About Public Participation*

The public is invited to submit comments on this peer review plan by sending emails to Mark Seamans at [mark\\_seamans@fws.gov](mailto:mark_seamans@fws.gov) (please state “Mourning Dove IPM review” in the subject line). The deadline for filing comments is March 15 2024.

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