

Kenk's Amphipod Listing Determination and Peer Review

About the Document

On September 30, 2016, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a proposed rule to list the Kenk's amphipod (*Stygobromus kenkior*) as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended.

About the Peer Review Process

Peer Review Timeline: October 2016 to November 2016

Process:

- Per our 1994 Peer Review policy, we chose three independent peer reviewers and invited comment letters from them.
- Peer reviewers were requested to review the proposed rule, published in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 2016, to list the Kenk's amphipod as endangered.
- Peer reviewers were not asked to provide recommendations on the listing determination or designation of critical habitat. Peer reviewers were asked: to comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used or relied on in the document; to identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; to provide advice on reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence; to ensure that scientific uncertainties were clearly identified and characterized, and that potential implications of uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn were clear; and to provide advice on the overall strengths and limitations of the scientific data used in the document.
- Peer reviewers were asked to fill out a Conflict of Interest Form.

Peer reviewers were selected based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers were experts in Kenk's amphipod biology, habitat, or stressors to the species or its habitat, or in applicable fields.
- **Independence:** The reviewers were not employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists were sufficiently independent from the Service, as appropriate.
- **Objectivity:** Reviewers were expected to be objective, open-minded, and thoughtful.
- **Advocacy:** Reviewers were not known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of this species.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Reviewers did not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

About Public Participation

- The Service invited public review and comment on the proposed rule to list the Kenk's amphipod as an endangered species (September 30, 2016 to November 29, 2016).
- The Service will post a notice on its website of the final decision, which will include a summary of the comments provided by the peer reviewers and the public.

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