

Hay's spring amphipod (*Stygobromus hayi*) Peer Review Plan

About the Document

By the end of fiscal year 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will complete a Biological Report revision to inform the Recovery Plan for the Hay's spring amphipod. The Hay's spring amphipod was listed as an endangered species on February 5, 1982 (47 FR 5425 5427) and was found to be exempt from recovery at that time. After new information became available, the Recovery Outline was developed, signed, and made publicly available in September 2020.

About the Peer Review Process

Estimated Peer Review Timeline: June 2021 to July 2021

Process:

- Per our 1994 Peer Review policy, we will choose three or more independent peer reviewers and invite comment letters from the peer reviewers.
- Peer reviewers will be requested to review the draft Biological Report revision for the Hay's spring amphipod that will support the Recovery Plan.
- Peer reviewers will not be asked to provide recommendations on the species' listing status, potential delisting criteria, or recovery actions. Peer reviewers will be asked to comment specifically on the quality of any information and analyses used or relied on in the document; identify oversights, omissions, and inconsistencies; provide advice on reasonableness of judgments made from the scientific evidence; ensure that scientific uncertainties are clearly identified and characterized, and that potential implications of uncertainties for the technical conclusions drawn are clear; and provide advice on the overall strengths and limitations of the scientific data used in the document.
- Peer reviewers will be asked to fill out a Conflict of Interest Form.

Peer reviewers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers will be experts in the ecology of the Hay's spring amphipod, the stressors affecting this species, or applicable fields.
- **Independence:** As a rule, reviewers will not be employed by the Service, unless the Service staff is a leading expert in the ecology or stressors of the species, or an applicable field, and has not been involved in the report. Academic and consulting scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service, as appropriate.

- **Objectivity:** Reviewers are expected to be objective, open-minded, and thoughtful.
- **Advocacy:** Reviewers will not be known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of this species.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Reviewers will not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

About Public Participation

- The Service will post a summary of the results of the peer review process.
- This peer review plan is made available on this website to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.
- A public comment period for the draft Recovery Plan will begin when the Notice of Availability publishes in the Federal Register. During this period of at least 30 days, the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input.
- The draft Recovery Plan will be made available to the public through the species' on-line profile page here: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?sPCODE=K004>

Contact: Abby Gelb, Northeast Atlantic Appalachian Region, Recovery Program, Division of Threatened and Endangered Species, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035; abby_gelb@fws.gov.