

## **Roanoke Logperch (*Percina rex*) Species Status Assessment Peer Review Plan**

### **About the Document**

We have announced a Five Year Status Review (5YR) for Roanoke Logperch (*Percina rex*) to be completed by August 2022. The Species Status Assessment (SSA) report will inform the 5YR. The Service listed the Roanoke Logperch as an endangered species in 1989 (54 FR 34464). The Service conducts a 5YR of listed species to assess if the species should be delisted, downlisted from endangered to threatened, or uplisted from threatened to endangered (i.e., a listing recommendation). If the Roanoke Logperch no longer warrants listing as endangered, the Service will propose the species for either downlisting or delisting. If the Roanoke Logperch remains warranted for listing, the Service will also reassess and possibly revise the recovery plan for the species originally completed in 1992.

### **About the Peer Review Process**

**Estimated Peer Review Timeline: October 2021 to November 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 Species Status Assessment Report for the Roanoke Logperch that supports our classification determination.
- Peer reviewers will not be asked to provide recommendations on the classification determination. 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 Roanoke Logperch, 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 or proposed rule compilation. 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**

- Our 5-year review document and revised recovery plan, if applicable, will be made available to the public through the species' on-line profile page here:

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1134>

- A proposed downlisting or delisting rule, if applicable, will be made available to the public through the eRulemaking website, news releases, direct mailings, and posting on Service websites (with solicitations for public comment if we prepare a proposed rule to reclassify the species). If appropriate, the Service will implement an outreach plan to provide ample opportunity for public involvement in the review process. If appropriate, the Service will publish a final classification rule following consideration of all comments received from the public and peer reviewers.
- The Service will post a notice on its website of the final decision, which will include 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.

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