

# Peer Review Plan for the Roseate Tern Species Status Assessment Report

## **About the Document**

**Title:** Species Status Assessment Report for the Roseate Tern Northeastern North American Population (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*)

**Purpose:** The Species Status Assessment (SSA) report will inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's preparation of a recovery plan for the roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*). The information in the SSA report is likely to be influential scientific information.

## **About the Peer Review Process**

**Estimated Peer Review Timeline:** April 2026 – June 2026

**Type of Peer Review:** The Service will solicit comments on the draft report from independent scientific reviewers via individual letters. Peer reviewers will submit comments in written form.

**Anticipated Number of Reviewers:** The Service will request review from at least three individuals.

**Reviewer Selection Method:** In selecting peer reviewers, we will consider four key factors: expertise, balance, independence, and avoidance of conflict of interest. We are not seeking nominations for peer reviewers from the public.

**Necessary Expertise:** Peer reviewers will have expertise on the roseate tern or related taxa, the ecosystems in which the species lives, the threats to or management of the species or its habitat, or the analytical methods we used.

Peer reviewers will not be asked to provide recommendations on the listing determination or any other associated rulemaking under the Act. 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.

## **About public participation**

We anticipate making the draft recovery plan available to the public in 2027 at <https://www.fws.gov/program/recovery/recovery-plans>. At that time, we will also make the peer review comments on the draft SSA report publicly available at [<https://www.fws.gov/library/categories/peer-review-plans> or <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/>] and we will also provide an opportunity for public comment on the draft recovery plan.

This peer review plan is made available to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review. The public is invited to submit comments on this peer review plan by contacting the agency person listed below.

**Contact**

Sarah Furtak, Recovery Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Regional Office, at [sarah\\_furtak@fws.gov](mailto:sarah_furtak@fws.gov)

Also, for more information on the roseate tern see: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/B07O>