

Peer Review Plan for the Species Status Assessment for the San Francisco Bay/Delta Distinct Population Segment of the Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*)

About the Document

Titles:

Species Status Assessment for the San Francisco Bay/Delta Distinct Population Segment of the Longfin Smelt

Description of Documents:

The Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the San Francisco Bay/Delta Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Longfin Smelt is intended to be an in-depth review of the species' biology and ecology. The document identifies the species' needs, the threats impacting those needs, and a discussion of the current and future viability of the species.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Individual requests sent to individuals or groups

Number of reviewers: The peer review process will include written requests for peer review from six peer reviewers.

Selection of Peer Reviewers: The Service selects peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter.

Reviewer expertise: Expertise sought for the review includes familiarity with the life history, threats, and habitat requirements of the longfin smelt, and its relationship to estuarine ecology of the San Francisco Bay/Delta.

Estimated start date of peer review: January 2020.

About Public Participation

Opportunities for the Public: The public had an opportunity to provide information regarding the San Francisco Bay/Delta Distinct Population Segment of the Longfin Smelt following the publication of the 12-month finding in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 19756; April 2, 2012). Should we determine that listing the DPS is warranted, a proposed rule will be published in the **Federal Register** and will initiate another opportunity for the public to provide comments and information through the standard rule-making process (e.g., via www.regulations.gov).

The Service also intends to submit the SSA for review and comment to: (1) Federal agencies; (2) State agencies; and (3) to relevant stakeholders.

Contact: *Ernest Chen or Arnold Roessler*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region, ernest_chen@fws.gov, (916) 930-2654 or arnold_roessler@fws.gov, (916) 414-6613.