

# Peer Review Plan for the Northern Pintail Integrated Population Model

## *About the document*

**Subject and Purpose:** the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in consultation with the Flyway Councils, have collaborated on the development of an integrated population model to support the revised decision framework for pintail adaptive harvest management. The Flyway Councils and USFWS undertook the revision process due to several concerns about the existing strategy.

**Importance of Scientific Information:** A full evaluation of pintail population and harvest dynamics was undertaken to serve as a basis for a revised pintail population model with updated data and modern estimation methods. Output from the new pintail population model will inform the revised pintail adaptive harvest management decision framework that serves our partners from all 4 Flyways. Once adopted by the Service this new strategy will be used setting annual harvest regulations for northern pintails.

## *About the Peer Review Process*

**Type of Review:** Independent Peer Review – Our USGS colleagues will solicit peer review of the model from independent scientific reviewers through the formal USGS peer review process. Reviewers will submit individual written comments and the Service will supply responses to comments.

**Number of reviewers:** The USGS Peer Review will include 2 independent reviewers who are knowledgeable of integrated population models.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Potential reviewers will have demonstrated expertise in wildlife population modeling. Reviewer selection will also be based on one or more of the following areas of expertise: developing integrated population models for wildlife populations, decision-support modeling, data collection and analysis to inform harvest management decisions, and waterfowl biology.

**Selection of Peer Reviewer:** Peer reviewers will be selected based on their subject matter expertise and USGS peer review guidelines.

**Management of Peer Reviewer:** The peer review will be managed through the USGS peer review process. Peer reviewers will be given 21 days to complete their reviews. The estimated start of the peer review is March 2024.

**About Public Participation** The public is invited to submit comments on this peer review plan by sending emails to [scott\\_boomer@fws.gov](mailto:scott_boomer@fws.gov) (please state “pintail IPM review” in the subject line). The deadline for filing comments is March 15 2024.

**Contact:**