

Peer Review Plan

Draft Amendments to the Loach Minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) and Spikedace (*Meda fulgida*) Recovery Plans

About the Documents

Title: Loach Minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) Recovery Plan, Draft Amendment 1
Spikedace (*Meda fulgida*) Recovery Plan, Draft Amendment 1

Estimated Dissemination Date for Peer Review:
June 2019

Purpose:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified best available information that indicates the need to amend recovery criteria for the loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) and spikedace (*Meda fulgida*). In these proposed modifications, we synthesize the adequacy of the existing recovery criteria, show amended recovery criteria, and provide the rationale supporting the proposed recovery plan modifications. Once finalized, the modifications will be addendums that supplement the recovery plans, superseding only the affected recovery criteria from the previous recovery plan versions.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review:
Influential

Timeline for Peer Review:
June – July 2019

Reviewers:

The Service will solicit reviews from at least three independent scientific reviewers with expertise in loach minnow and spikedace ecology. Reviewers will be selected based upon the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers will be experts in ecology of spikedace and/or loach minnow ecology, genetics, and conservation and should have knowledge in one or more of the following areas: biology, ecology, demography, management, and conservation of native fish species.
- **Independence:** Reviewers are not employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Academic and consulting scientists have sufficient independence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Department of the Interior if the government supports their work.

- Objectivity: Reviewers are recognized by their peers as being objective, open-minded, and thoughtful. The reviewers should be comfortable sharing their knowledge and identifying their knowledge gaps.
- Advocacy: Reviewers are not known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of this species under the Endangered Species Act.
- Conflict of Interest: Reviewers should not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

About Public Participation

A 30-day public comment period for the draft amendments will begin when the Notice of Availability publishes in the Federal Register. During this period, the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input to the draft recovery plan amendments. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also implement outreach plans to provide ample opportunity for public involvement in the review process, and the draft amendments will be posted on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service websites with solicitations for public comment.

The draft recovery plan amendments will be available at:

Loach Minnow:

[Environmental Conservation Online System - Loach Minnow](#)
[Arizona Ecological Services Office - Loach Minnow](#)

Spikedace:

[Environmental Conservation Online System - Spikedace](#)
[Arizona Ecological Services Office - Spikedace](#)

These peer review plans are 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.

Contact

For more information, contact Jeff Humphrey, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Office at 602/242-0210.