

**Peer Review Plan**  
for the  
Draft Revision of the Species Status Assessment Report  
for the Sharpnose Shiner and Smalleye Shiner

**About the Document**

Title: Species Status Assessment Report for the Sharpnose Shiner (*Notropis oxyrhynchus*) and Smalleye Shiner (*N. buccula*) (Draft Revision November, 2017)

Dissemination Date: November, 2017

**Purpose:** The Arlington, Texas Ecological Services Field Office's June 2014 Species Status Assessment (SSA) reported the results of a comprehensive status review for the sharpnose shiner and smalleye shiner and provided an evaluation of the biological status of these species and their overall viability. The SSA considered the species needs, causes and effects to their biological status, as well as the species current conditions. The June 2014 SSA is being revised to include new information on threats and current condition of the species, and forecast future viability of the species under multiple scenarios. This revision will be used in forthcoming recovery planning for these species.

**About the Peer Review Process**

**Type of Review:** Influential

**Date of Peer Review:** Peer review is expected to be completed by January, 2017.

**Reviewers:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will conduct external peer review of the revisions made to the June 2014 SSA. Independent scientific reviewers will have expertise in ichthyology and conservation biology, with an emphasis on native species in the southwestern United States.

Criteria for Reviewer Selection: Peer reviewers will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers should have knowledge in one or more of the following areas: ichthyology, fish ecology, conservation biology, and land management activities and their effects on riverine fishes.
- **Independence:** Reviewers should not be employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists should have sufficient independence from the Service and the Department of the Interior if the government supports their work.

- **Objectivity:** Reviewers should be recognized by their peers as being objective, open-minded, and thoughtful. Reviewers should be comfortable sharing their knowledge and identifying their knowledge gaps.
- **Advocacy:** Reviewers should not be 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:**

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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