

<b><i>NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE PROCEDURE 02-110-25</i></b> Effective on: July 1, 1994	
To be reviewed on: October 1, 2023	
Protected Resources Management Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	
Policy for Peer Review in Endangered Species Act Activities	
<b>NOTICE:</b> This publication is available at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/index.html">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/index.html</a>	
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<b>Type of Issuance:</b> Renewal, August 2018	
<b><i>SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:</i></b> <p>This policy was previously classified as ‘MOAs/MOUs/Cooperative Agreements/inter-Agency Cooperative’ (PDS number 02-301-08). The is a joint policy with FWS regarding the Endangered Species Act, so the policy has been renewed under the policy directive that establishes the framework for NMFS ESA implementation (02-110).</p>	
Signed _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Donna Wieting Director, Office of Protected Resources</div> <div>Date</div> </div>	

## I. Introduction

This is NMFS’ policy on how to clarify the role of peer review in activities undertaken by NMFS under authority of the ESA. This policy is intended to complement and not circumvent or supersede the current public review processes in the listing and recovery programs.

## II. Objective

Independent peer review will be solicited on listing recommendations and draft recovery plans to ensure the best biological and commercial information is being used in the decision making process, as well as to ensure that reviews by recognized experts are incorporated into the review process of rulemakings and recovery plans developed in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

### III. Guidance

The July 1, 1994 Federal Register Notice *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Notice of Interagency Cooperative Policy for Peer Review in Endangered Species Act Activities*, published by Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/1994/07/01/94-16021/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-notice-of-interagency-cooperative-policy-for-peer>), is NMFS' official policy. That Notice should be cited when referencing this policy.