

Dear _____,

Thank you so much for agreeing to participate as a peer reviewer for the draft biological status review report of the Oregon Coast and Southern Oregon / Northern California Coastal Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Units. I really appreciate your help with this important effort.

Please note that this is a scientific status review intended to inform a potential listing decision under the Endangered Species Act, but the report itself is not a decision document and does not make any recommendations for or against listing.

Background information on why we are conducting this review at this time can be found in the introduction section of the report, and is also available on the NOAA website:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/90-day-finding-petitions-list-oregon-coast-chinook-salmon-and-southern-oregon-and-northern>.

The attached report is provided for scientific peer review only, and must not be distributed or used for any other purpose.

Peer review is subject to requirements regarding public disclosure, conflict of interest, and restrictions on pre-dissemination of confidential information. To ensure that we have a transparent process for public disclosure, peer reviewer comments as well as the names and affiliations of each peer reviewer will eventually become public information.

NOAA's Policy of Conflicts of Interest for Peer Review of influential scientific information requires that peer reviewers complete a "Confidential Conflict of Interest Disclosure" form. This form is attached and may be returned to me with your review, or at any time prior to receiving your review. Further information on the NOAA Conflict of Interest Policy at <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/information-technology/policy-oversight/information-quality/noaa-conflict-of-interest-policy-for-non-government-peer-reviewers-of-influential-scientific>. If you believe you may have a conflict of interest, please contact me prior to initiating the review.

In your review, I ask that you evaluate the adequacy, appropriateness and application of data and information used in the Status Review document, focusing on the following questions:

- 1) Does the Status Review utilize the best scientific and commercial information available related to the question at hand? Are there significant and relevant studies or data that were omitted?
- 2) Are the scientific methods appropriate, and the conclusions well supported? Do they follow logically from the results?
- 3) Do you have any other comments, concerns or feedback about the scientific merit of the report or its conclusions?

Given the deadlines associated with the listing process, I am hoping that you can complete your review within 3-4 weeks. However, I recognize that this is a lengthy report, and also fully appreciate that you have many other commitments for your time, so if you need more time, please let me know.

Please return your review to me via email. In addition to addressing the questions above, please feel free to comment directly on the document if this is helpful.

I really appreciate your time and effort in completing this review. If you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Thanks so much,

Michael Ford
Senior Scientist
Conservation Biology Division
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Seattle, Washington
206 354 0658