Charge to Peer Reviewers for Johnson’s Seagrass Peer Review Plan- ID426

Description:

The manuscript from Frontiers in Marine Science provides rationale that the seagrass species previously thought to be the unique taxon *Halophila johnsonii* is actually a clone of the broadly distributed Indo-Pacific species *H. ovalis*. Research published in this paper was funded by NMFS-SERO and results will likely lead to a change in the Endangered Species Act listing status of *H. johnsonii*.

Charge statement to Peer Reviewers:

1) Are the genetic methods (laboratory and statistical) used in this research appropriate and sufficient?

2) Does the research provided in this paper constitute the best available scientific (in this case, genetic) information on Johnson sea grass?

3) From a genetics perspective (i.e., without additional information on taxonomy), do the data support that *H. johnsonii* is synonymous with *H. ovalis* (i.e., a population of, rather than a separate species from, *H. ovalis*)