

BDCP Goals and Objectives Independent Science Advisors Process

Process Overview

- Establish a small group of independent science advisors to assist in finalizing biological goals and objectives for covered fish species.
- Establish a BDCP workgroup to interface with the advisors and address policy level issues.
- Engage a facilitator to manage the process.

Advisor's Charge

Produce a recommended set of BDCP biological goals and objectives for the 11 covered fish species that are measureable, and based on the best available science. Specific tasks summarized below and described in more detail in Attachment A.

1. Review existing background materials, including work to date on stressors, goals and objectives (including "global" goals), logic chain process, and proposed conservation measures.
2. Review other HCP/NCCPs and relevant regulatory guidance documents.
3. Engage with BDCP workgroup.
4. Solicit technical information as needed regarding covered fish species, including consulting with technical experts.
5. Prepare a draft set of BDCP goals and objectives for covered fish species, including information on spatial and temporal relevance and how they would be measured.
6. Present draft recommendations to BDCP workgroup.
7. Finalize recommendations and transmit to workgroup and Management Team.

Schedule

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| 1. <i>Develop draft approach and scope.</i> | <i>February 2011</i> |
| 2. <i>Review scope with stakeholders.</i> | <i>March 2011</i> |
| 3. <i>Finalize scope, list of science advisors, and G&O Workgroup.</i> | <i>March 30, 2011
Management Team Meeting</i> |
| 4. <i>Convene Science Advisors – interface with Workgroup</i> | <i>April 12, 2011</i> |
| 5. <i>Develop recommendations - Advisors</i> | <i>April 12 – May 30, 2011</i> |
| 6. <i>Workgroup meeting – midpoint check</i> | <i>April 26, 2011 (tentative)</i> |
| 7. <i>Circulate recommendations to Workgroup</i> | <i>May 30, 2011</i> |
| 8. <i>Present and discuss recommendations – Advisor/Workgroup meeting</i> | <i>June 10, 2011 (tentative)</i> |
| 9. <i>Workgroup meeting (as needed)</i> | <i>June 11, 2011(tentative)</i> |
| 10. <i>Submit final recommendations to Workgroup and Management Team</i> | <i>June 20, 2011</i> |

Science Advisors

1. Jim Anderson (Univ. of Washington)
2. Ron Kneib (Private Consultant)
3. Denise Reed (Univ. of New Orleans)
4. Kenny Rose (Louisiana State University)

G&O Workgroup Role and Charge

1. Serve as stakeholder interface for facilitator/advisors
2. Provide input to, and context for, science advisors
3. Receive recommendations from advisors
4. Provide forum for resolving policy issues related to G&Os
5. Transmit recommendations to Management Team

It is anticipated that the Workgroup members would participate in 2 meetings with the advisors; the kick-off meeting on April 12 (1-2 hours) and the presentation of recommendations on May 10 (2-4 hours). The Workgroup may schedule other meetings as needed to discuss policy issues as they arise and/or to discuss advisor recommendations and Management Team transmittal.

G&O Workgroup Members

1. John Cain
2. Carl Wilcox
3. Bill Harrell
4. Josh Israel
5. Cindy Kao
6. Jason Peltier
7. Jon Rosenfield
8. Maria Rae
9. Mike Hoover

ATTACHMENT A – Detailed Advisor’s Charge

Produce a recommended set of BDCP biological goals and objectives for the 11 covered fish species that are attainable, measurable, and based on the best available science. Rather than providing a “review” as has been done in previous independent panels, this group of advisors will roll up their sleeves and produce a set of recommended goals and objectives, including necessary background materials to support the recommendations. The advisors will focus specifically on technical issues. If policy issues arise during their work, they will document these issues and forward them to the G&O Workgroup. Specific tasks will include:

1. **Review existing background materials, including work to date on stressors, goals and objectives,** logic chain process, and proposed conservation measures. This background information will form the basis for the advisor’s work and deliberations.
2. **Review other HCP/NCCPs and relevant regulatory guidance documents.** The purpose of this review will be to provide adequate context to the effort and ensure that the product of the advisors is squarely focused on the needs of the Plan and it’s regulatory context.
3. **Engage with BDCP workgroup.** Engagement will include limited presentations to help ground the advisors coupled with interactive dialog regarding the G&O’s and their role in the overall planning process. Stakeholder engagement will occur at the beginning of the process and at the point that draft recommendations are available.
4. **Solicit technical information as needed regarding covered fish species, including consulting with technical experts.** All outreach to technical experts or stakeholder representatives will be coordinated by the facilitator and all conversations will be documented to ensure transparency and avoid bias.
5. **Prepare a draft set of BDCP goals and objectives for covered fish species, including information on spatial and temporal relevance and how they would be measured.** In those cases where there is sufficient scientific information, the advisors will identify and justify quantitative targets for specific objectives. In cases where this is limited data, and/or high degrees of uncertainty, the advisors will outline qualitative objectives and identify approaches for moving toward more quantitative targets over time. If the advisors identify clear policy issues, they will prepare a written description of the issue and forward those descriptions to the G&O Workgroup for their discussion.
6. **Present draft recommendations to BDCP workgroup.** Recommendations will be presented at a meeting with G&O workgroup members with an opportunity for open dialog and interaction to ensure the Workgroup members understand the draft G&Os and why the advisors have framed them the way they have. In addition to the G&O statements, the advisors will provide additional written materials that describe details regarding each objective including potential metrics, timeframes and spatial scale.

7. **Finalize recommendations and transmit to workgroup and Management Team.** Based on interactions with the Workgroup, the advisors will finalize their recommendations and transmit them to the Workgroup and Management Team.