

*Working Draft*

**The Concept of Routine and Non-routine Changes to Conservation Measures Made Through the BDCP Adaptive Management Program**

Adaptive management programs are based on the idea that the effectiveness of conservation measures can be enhanced over time through an iterative process of monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting. The BDCP is categorizing potential changes to conservation measures made through the adaptive management program as “routine” and “non-routine.” These terms are not found in the statute or regulations for NCCPs or HCPs, but were developed for the BDCP in an effort to streamline coordination processes when the adaptive management change is minor, and to recognize the need for a formal coordination process when the adaptive management change is more than minor.

**What is Routine? What is Non-routine?**

The definition of a minor or routine adaptive management response defies precise measurement and is influenced by context. It is recognized that the environmental baseline and the status of covered species at the outset of the BDCP are such that few adaptive management responses will be considered to be routine by all Plan Participants. This could change during the life of the Plan, however, as conservation measures are implemented over time. Adaptive management responses that are likely to be considered routine at the outset of the Plan include small adjustments to techniques used for restoring habitat and for removing invasive species.

All adaptive management responses that are not categorized as routine at the beginning of the Plan will be considered non-routine. Adaptive management responses expected to be categorized as non-routine at the outset of the Plan include any change in the water operating criteria, discontinuation of a conservation measure, expansion of a conservation measure, and the addition of a new conservation measure.

**Process for Deciding Upon the Routine and Non-routine Categorization**

Prior to Plan completion, it will be necessary for the Plan Participants to agree upon the adaptive management responses, or categories of responses, that should be labeled routine. If an adaptive management response is not labeled as routine, it will be considered to be non-routine. Recognizing that there may be gray areas, the Plan Participants should develop a streamlined process for the Implementing Entity to follow during Plan implementation to confirm with the Implementation Council and Fishery Agencies that a particular response is considered routine.

**Process for Adjusting the Routine and Non-routine Categorization Over Time**

It is expected that as the Implementing Entity implements the Conservation Strategy over time and coordinates with the Implementation Council and Wildlife Agencies, the confidence level in the adaptive management process will increase and the Plan

Participants may be willing to label more adaptive management responses as routine. A process should therefore be established at the outset of the Plan for annually reviewing the categorization of routine and non-routine responses.

### **Implementing Routine Adaptive Management Responses**

The concept behind the routine adaptive management response category is that the Implementing Entity should be able to undertake minor adjustments to conservation measures on its own, without the need for extensive coordination with the Implementation Council or the Wildlife Agencies, thereby allowing the Implementing Entity to implement the Conservation Strategy more efficiently. Any routine adaptive management responses made during the year would be reported in the annual report, providing an opportunity for the Fishery Agencies to review and provide input regarding those responses.

### **Implementing Non-routine Adaptive Management Responses**

Prior to Plan completion, the Plan Participants must establish a non-routine adaptive management decision process for the Implementing Entity to follow when it seeks to implement a non-routine adaptive management response. It is expected that this process will establish the procedures for the Implementing Entity to follow in coordinating with the Implementation Council and the Fishery Agencies, before any non-routine adaptive management response can be initiated.

Both routine and non-routine changes to the Plan would be subject to the parameters and sideboards established for adaptive management, including total funding caps established to implement the BDCP Conservation Strategy.