

Meeting Highlights, Decisions and Tasks
LTMS Science Group Meeting 9/3/09
DRAFT

Future Meeting Dates

October 15, 9:30-12:00

November 12, 9:30-12:00

Attendees

Renee Ananda – Port of Oakland (phone)

Carolynn Box – BCDC

Bill Brostoff – USACE

Jim Browning – USFWS (phone)

Rob Burton – H.T. Harvey & Associates

Jessica Burton Evans – USACE

Katie Chamberlin – Anchor QEA, L.P.

Mark D’Avignon – USACE

Scott Demers – H.T. Harvey & Associates

Meredith Elliott – PBRO Conservation Science

Leora Feeney – GGAS/FAWR

Brenda Goeden – BCDC

Jessica Hamburger – BCDC

Laura Hobreck – NOAA Fisheries (phone)

George Isaac – CDFG (phone)

Ellen Johnck – Bay Planning Coalition

Dominic MacCormack – USACE

Alexandra Miller – Bay Planning Coalition

Debra O’Leary – USACE

Scott Terrill – H.T. Harvey & Associates

Sandi Vissman – USFWS (phone)

David Woodbury – NMFS

Announcements

Bill B. introduced Anchor QEA as the new San Francisco Bay LTMS facilitator. Katie Chamberlin of Anchor QEA will be the primary point of contact for the LTMS facilitation contract.

Fish Tracking Study

The draft salmon tracking data analysis is now available and Pete LaCivita will soon be contacting those involved to discuss next steps on this effort. Dr. Pete Klimley from University of California Davis will be submitting a draft report on the salmon tracking study soon. Ellen J. noted that she and Christine Boudreau have not yet finished their reviews of the Year 2 salmon tracking report and requested until September 17, 2009, to submit comments.

Herring Study

As reported in the June meeting’s highlights, the contractor completing the herring study has asked for a one year extension due to trouble obtaining resources needed to carry out the study. Ellen J. is working on revising a draft letter intended to function as the LTMS’s formal presentation of the herring study’s findings to CDFG for their response. For upcoming studies, such as that of the least tern, such agency interaction could produce meaningful results for either modifying or justifying existing work windows.

Other Work Products

Bill B. noted that the fish behavior study will be available for review soon by the LTMS group.

Water Quality Committee

Jessie B. noted that the SFEI documents have been very well written and that she will be in contact with Joe Dillon.

Presentation on Least Tern Study Plan

Rob Burton, senior ecologist with H.T. Harvey & Associates, gave a presentation on the least tern study plan.

Procedures for Identifying New Study Priorities

The group discussed the two herring studies, one focused on genetics and the other on population modeling, which were proposed to the Management Committee. Bill B. noted that both studies could provide information that would be useful for either modifying or justifying existing work windows. In particular, the genetics study, which could resolve the question of whether one single or two separate herring populations exist in the Bay Area, could provide CDFG with more information specific to existing work windows. While some group members thought the issue was closed, there remains sufficient money in the LTMS budget to fund these studies; therefore, the USACE is trying to see whether the Management Committee might reconsider the studies. Group members had mixed opinions in terms of support for the studies; some commented that they seemed too unrelated to dredging. In the end, the group determined that Bill would relay to the Long Term group that all but NMFS and BCDC in the Science group were in support of having the two herring studies completed. Other possible ideas for utilizing the remaining LTMS budget were also discussed.