



# LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

## **Meeting Highlights, Decisions and Tasks** **LTMS Science Group Meeting 12/10/09**

### **Future Meeting Dates**

January 14, 9:30-12:00

February 18, 9:30-12:00

### **Attendees**

Renee Ananda – Port of Oakland

Jessie Burton-Evans – USACE

Carolynn Box – BCDC

Bill Brostoff – USACE

Katie Chamberlin – Anchor QEA, L.P.

Ben Greenfield – SFEI (phone)

Tom Keegan – E-Corps

Jen Pettis – Anchor QEA, L.P.

### **Announcements**

Bill reminded the meeting participants of the methylmercury symposium scheduled for January 28, 2009. The symposium will occur at the Oakland Marriott and is an all day event.

### **Fish Tracking Study**

Bill informed the meeting participants that USACE has selected UC Davis as the contractor for the study that will focus on salmon, steelhead, and green sturgeon tracking. UC Davis researchers will also help build a database of all the Vemco-compatible tags tracked on the west coast (not just within the San Francisco Bay). The purpose of this database is to give NMFS a better understanding of which waters the fish traverse. A stakeholder kickoff meeting on the fish tracking study will be held on January 5, 2010, at the USACE. The intent of the meeting is to confirm where monitors are going to be placed and lay out the final study plan for fiscal year 2010. Bill reported that the USACE expects to receive a revised draft of the 2006-2008 fish tracking report soon. The USACE is currently internally reviewing the draft 2009 study report and plans to submit comments to UC Davis in early 2010.

### **Herring Study**

Bill noted that the study contractor is searching for the appropriate material to carry out the study this year. Beth asked about the status of the LTMS letter on the previous herring study to CDFG and Katie responded that Brenda and Brian are now editing it.

### **Water Quality**

Jessie will contact NMFS regarding the status of their review of the water quality report.

### **Least Tern**

Bill noted that the least tern study contractor has requested a one month extension. The USACE will receive a draft in mid-February, which will hopefully be released to the Science Work Group or at least the Least Tern subcommittee shortly thereafter. The study contractor is committed to making a presentation at the 2010 Science Symposium.

## **Recap on Green Sturgeon and Longfin Smelt Symposia**

The meetings were videotaped and a link to the videotape will be posted to the LTMS website.

## **Updates to the LTMS Environmental Windows Work Group Draft Work Plan**

The meeting participants discussed the updates to the LTMS Environmental Windows Work Group Draft Work Plan that were proposed at the last Long Term Solutions meeting.

## **Funding Recommendations for 2010**

Bill informed the meeting participants that the Science Work Group needs to begin to make recommendations for funding next year to the Long Term Solutions Group. Ideas documented in the past for funding are included in the framework document, which was put together in 2004 through a series of interviews with agencies involved in the LTMS (although Beth noted that the Water Board was not interviewed as part of the effort). Bill passed out a table showing the various study recommendations (specific to species impacted and dredging effects) that were originally included in the 2004 framework document.

Ideally, by February, the Science Work Group will have its funding recommendations complete.

A list of the current funding recommendations for 2010 is as follows:

- LTMS Science Symposium
- Additional green sturgeon studies (tagging, tracking, and other studies)
- Next steps in salmonid tracking (after 2009 report is reviewed)
- ERDC study on fish behavior during dredging operations
- Herring studies (approached as a risk analysis)
- Suspended sediments/water quality
- Follow up on the least tern study
- Longfin smelt studies
- Surveys in shallower areas of the Bay that are not already trawled by CDFG to document the presence of green sturgeon and longfin smelt (Jessie to draft text on this recommendation in preparation for the next Science Work Group meeting.)
- Update the framework document
- Add fish tracking monitors

## **Action Items**

- Pete to ensure that the data Tom Keegan has recently compiled is included in the 2010 study.
- Jessie will contact NMFS regarding the status of their review of the water quality report.
- Katie will obtain the most recent version of the flowchart from Brenda.
- Jessie to draft text on the recommendation to fund surveys in shallow waters in preparation for the next Science Work Group meeting.