

**Humboldt Bay Ecosystem-Based Management Program
Advisory Team Meeting – September 21, 2007**

August Meeting Notes: The secondary zone boundary described as watersheds that directly connect to Humboldt Bay and includes the Eel River. This is corrected in the most recent boundary description. In the discussion on the boundary, the statement “Eel River may enter Humboldt Bay directly during 100 year flood events” was deleted from the Aug. 10 notes. Susan Schlosser stated that the geospatial subcommittee had revised the boundary definition since the Aug meeting. The minutes were approved with revised boundary text.

Definition and Boundary: Susan Schlosser suggested the Advisory Team come to consensus on the revised definition and boundary as working documents that can be changed as needed.

Definition Discussion:

...Program considers multiple external influences, cumulative impacts, change... revise to: The Humboldt Bay Ecosystem-based Management Program considers multiple external influences, cumulative effects, ecosystem dynamics, trends and variability at multiple scales. This acknowledges our understanding of ecosystem processes and human interactions is inherently linked and incomplete.

Rating: Very satisfied

Moderately satisfied	15
Satisfied	4
Slightly dissatisfied	3
Dissatisfied	

Boundary Discussion:

Revised since August meeting – primary, secondary, tertiary zones described in handout with maps of watersheds, littoral zone with state waters (30 fm line) and Humboldt Bay watershed. Don't know distinct boundary of ecosystem, can change as additional information becomes available.

Tertiary zone should be the same as the secondary zone on the ocean side – nested grid

Primary zone includes original tidal zone around the bay – Aldaron Laird stated that the atlas is complete and copies are available from the Harbor District or Mark Wheatley.

Scale: primary zone – 1's of km; secondary – 10's of km; tertiary – 100's of km

Discussion regarding Eel River in the tertiary instead of secondary – based on management considerations, areas that could have direct management effects and actions; clarify position regarding primary and secondary zones as direct management control and tertiary as areas of influence to the other zones, movement of organisms into and out of the bay

Rating: Very satisfied

Moderately satisfied	8
Satisfied	11
Slightly dissatisfied	2
Dissatisfied	

Public Comment: *What information was used to establish the definition and boundary, was it animal behavior or physical processes?* The littoral cell is a physical phenomenon but the movement of animals is a critical component of understanding how the process is going to work.

Review Agenda:

Core Team decided to divide Advisory Team meetings into two components

 Governance/Framework development – the top down approach

 Proposal development – bottom up process of subcommittees modeling proposal development

Mark Wheatley presentation on framework

Becky Price-Hall review of Proposal Components

Governance/Framework – Mark Wheatley

Ultimate goal of EBM Program is proposal development, one of which could be governance – structure and implementation of EBM program

From EBM definition - recognize the constraints of resource policies and governance structure

Challenges of implementing EBM:

Sustainability: Who is the arbiter?

Goals: Setting and Sticking

Sound Science: Will we ever have the data?

Complexity: Daunting connectivities

Dynamic: A changing challenge

Context and Scale: Defining the stage

Humans: The managed and the managers

Adaptability: Living within our limitations

HBMP Policy CAE-1: Base management decisions on maintaining the Humboldt Bay ecosystem, including the bay, the watershed and nearby ocean Since the Humboldt Bay Management Plan was designed around EBM principles, it is the core to build on for the EBM Program

Develop “Principles of Participation” – include the following information for each participant (Advisory Team and additional identified entities)

mission statement

major role/responsibilities

legal mandate/authority

local priorities/project activities

designate authorized representative to sign (POP) for each organization

Approach – Develop a larger Humboldt Bay governance/framework proposal to go along with Adaptive Management interface with EBM effort - start with interim local ground-up approach and merge with existing top-down effort to establish Humboldt Bay Program.

Form governance/framework subcommittee to develop local EBM management framework

Adapt to emerging local, state, federal or international EBM related initiatives

Discussion:

How should Harbor District Strategic Plan be incorporated into EBM Program with specific development policies? Include plans from all cooperating organizations as part of entire EBM program

The Humboldt Bay Management Plan has governance to oversee the implementation – Harbor District. What is the role of the EBM governance? The HBMP is a subset of the larger EBM program – the Management Plan is the core.

Harbor District is intends to create an Advisory Committee to implement the Management Plan. What role does this EBM program have relative to the Harbor District plan. The EBM program will assist the District to carry out the implementation of the Management Plan. We need some entity to carry forward the EBM Program beyond this project and first proposals.

Need to include other organizations not represented on Advisory Team. Additional expertise will be involved in the issue specific proposals. This will be partially addressed at the two EBM Public meetings where we will take public input on this issue and the proposals.

No individual agency can oversee the EBM program – need to develop governance strategy to account for all plans and overlapping jurisdiction and redundancy to integrate this into entire program.

What is the role of the EBM Advisory Team? Initiate EBM in the Humboldt Bay Ecosystem. Implementation of Program depends on cooperating organizations and their role in the EBM process.

Public Comment: none

Governance/Framework Subcommittee will parallel proposal development – explore all issues in the EBM area and incorporate this information into broad, adaptive, inclusive framework to include all policies, strategies of cooperating organizations as well as additional entities. This subcommittee can continue beyond the existing contract to carry process forward

Aldaron Laird
Lisa Shikaney
Julie Neander
Mark Wheatley
Vicki Frey
Becky Price Hall
Mike Wilson

EBM Project Proposals: Susan Schlosser reviewed the Advisory Team accomplishments to date including the brainstorming issues. Core Team decided on three initial proposal categories: water quality– basic backbone information needed to understand interactions, identify data gaps; biological resources – gaps in processes and links between the watershed, Humboldt Bay and ocean; socioeconomic – trends and effects on communities. Develop series of integrated proposals that fit together in EBM framework by forming subcommittees for each category that will meet for next three meeting to develop the proposals. A summary of each proposal will be posted on Collaborative Tools.

Discussion: Conceptual model is over-arching directive for the proposals so this needs to be developed before proposals. Use conceptual model of nearshore and bay processes as template for specific proposals. Conduct a rapid literature review to generate introductory guidelines for proposals. The conceptual model is a visual tool to simplify complex relationships; this isn't an ecosystem simulation model.

Subcommittee to develop conceptual model from literature search by next Advisory Team meeting so everyone is working with consistent guidelines

EBM Proposal Elements: Becky Price-Hall described the components each proposal would have to follow (handout). Each subcommittee should concentrate on the specific needs of the proposal and how it fits into the EBM framework. These proposal components are a starting point and can be revised.

Proposal Working Groups: Categories should be abiotic (physical), biotic (biological), cultural (socioeconomic) and conceptual model

Discussion: *Are projects filling the data gaps or managing and changing an issue?* Any project can include all aspects and components – abiotic, biotic and cultural; research, outreach or policy analysis. The proposal needs to follow an EBM approach. These choices will be determined by each subcommittee. There are basic, fundamental data gaps that need to be addressed with initial proposals.

Conceptual Model: Eric Bjorkstedt, Frank Shaugnessy, Jeff Anderson, Pete Nelson, Susan Schlosser, Sharon Kramer, Diane Ashton

Water quality and Physical Processes: Greg Crawford, Mike Furniss, Vanessa Metz, Jeff Anderson, Diane Ashton

Biological resources: John Mello, Andrea Pickart, Julie Neander, Sharon Kramer, Pete Nelson, Susan Schlosser, Frank Shaugnessy, Scott Quackenbush

Cultural and Socio-economic: Steve Hackett, Mark Wheatley, Mike Wilson, Jen Rice, Jon Mooney, Becky Price-Hall, Lisa Shikany, Aldaron Laird

Future Meeting Dates: October 19, November 16, December 14