

**Humboldt Bay Ecosystem Program
Advisory Team Meeting – Dec. 19, 2008
HSU, Natural Resources 203**

Attendance: Jeff Anderson, Diane Ashton, Joél Benegar, Craig Benson, Paula Golightly, Darren Mierau, Pete Nelson, Becky Price-Hall, Susan Schlosser, Adam Wagschal, Jessica Eden, Cat Kuhlman, Paul Moss, Aaron Hohl

Media Guidelines: John Driscoll, Times Standard, has been invited to the Strategic Planning Workshop; Mark Wheatley has talked to him regarding guidelines for reporting of meeting content. John will report on the plenary session and the ending summary but discussion during breakout sessions. It was suggested that written media guidelines be available at the working for any other media personnel that attend.

Project Geographical Scope: Susan will present the Advisory Team proposal at the beginning of the workshop as a starting place for all the participants. The boundaries should consider the resources available and stay within a practical framework for the 10-year strategic plan. The Steering Committee discussed focusing on the primary boundary including some influences from outside the area that affect the bay.

Discussion:

- Should include primary, secondary and tertiary zones, consider all aspects and issues affecting the area in the next 10 years
- Humboldt Bay zones are unique approach to EBM program and all
- Climate change affecting ocean conditions are important to consider
- Harbor District Management Plan covers the bay issues; the HBEP plan needs to include all influences outside the primary zone
- Need to consider influences from the Eel River
- Including all issues in the plan is too expansive; so the targets identified need to be broad in scope to encompass more than one issue; insure there is enough coordination and cooperation to deal with multiple jurisdictions and interests
- All factors are connected, select key components that affect ecosystem as a whole; focus on direct influences to the bay; all issues can be mentioned in the plan but those identified as core/critical should be completely developed with threats and strategies
- Ecosystem based objective includes the entire area not just the bay
- Funding sources are interested in climate change and sea level rise as it affects the entire area; if HBEP can link its efforts to the larger scale plans, we have a better opportunity to influence management

Project Team Discussion:

Identify targets – broad issues (conservation, natural resource management targets) important to ecosystem; identify direct threats, then viability. “Open Measures for Conservation” article on website describing entire process (<http://groups.ucanr.org/HumboldtBayEBM/> , go to documents tab on menu)

Presentation of Advisory Team proposal on moving forward with program and levels of involvement from participants– what are we asking them to do.

- Internal participants – those who are involved in all aspects of developing the plan
- External participants – those not directly involved in the planning but review documents and have input into process

Becky Price-Hall described several examples of how the implementation process worked with levels of involvement; we will have groups during the workshop establishing the process and developing the plan after the workshop with input from different participants. So we need to know what their role is and how they fit into the process.

Started with science-based group to establish the EBM program, need to involve more stakeholders

Discussion:

- Suggestion of having three groups (greatest to least responsibility, level of participation)
 - Existing Advisory Team – science based
 - Primary stakeholder group - implementation people, funding organizations, review document
 - Secondary stakeholders – interested individuals who will comment on sections of the program
- Need inclusive means to involve stakeholders; identify broader targets and six developed projects can be strategies within these targets as appropriate strategy; took an ecosystem approach and used policies and recommendations from Harbor District Management Plan and HBWAC Plan which involved public input to develop HBEP concept projects; need to reach out to economic and business community for input in EBM; identify key times to update stakeholders, have workshop participants share information with broader range of stakeholders; most participants have attended an EBM presentation so they have heard about the program
- Backcasting approach – set specific goals and strategies to achieve them, then have participants see where their expertise fits into the process; involve specific individuals or groups that are most affected by goals;
- Provide management and regulatory agencies with tools to make conscious decisions that influence the ecosystem as a whole; provide conceptual models and monitoring to see outcome of predictions then they are better informed to make good decisions
- Outreach to community as a goal; bring people into process, strategy to address target; setting targets will give people an idea where their involvement lies in the process
- Issues have been identified, need governance to accomplish goals and strategy built into the process with people who have the authority to implement management decisions
- Timing of the process is crucial; agencies focused on these issues now and expecting field offices to implement these programs so the development of the Humboldt Bay EBM is needed for something to happen; develop specific action plans with who will complete tasks and how to get them done; Jane Lubchenko, EBM expert, has been appointed as head of NOAA which will help highlight these programs
- Questionnaire asking participants about their level of involvement, willingness to review different aspects of the plan and listing opportunities for public input; follow up with results and input

Targets: broad umbrella to include issues

Each break-out group will go through the complete process of developing threats, contributing factors and strategies for one or two targets so they are familiar with the entire procedure. This is more time consuming so limits the number of targets that will be completed

Discussion regarding identifying processes as targets:

The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation define a target as: A limited suite of species, communities, and ecological systems that are chosen to represent and encompass the full array of biodiversity found in a project area. They are the basis for setting goals, carrying out conservation actions, and measuring conservation effectiveness. In theory - and hopefully in practice - conservation of the focal targets will ensure the conservation of all native biodiversity within functional landscapes.

Follow the framework so processes are incorporated into the plan

HBEP Targets:

1. Watershed
2. Bay Estuary
3. Near shore
4. Offshore
5. Iconic species (salmon, crab, steelhead, indicator/focal species)
6. Working lands/working waters (economic perspective)

Human factor included as Ecosystem Services – functions of ecosystem that people rely on, need to survive; conservation links to community