

Subtidal and Intertidal Habitat Goals for Humboldt Bay and the Eel River Estuary

Advisory Team Meeting Notes

September 4, 2008, 1:30 to 4:30 pm, Eureka Sea Grant Office

- I. In Attendance:** Diane Ashton (NOAA Fisheries), Steve Cannata (DFG), Annie Eicher (California Sea Grant Extension), Vicki Frey (DFG), Kirsten Ramey (DFG), Susan Schlosser (California Sea Grant Extension), Adam Wagschal (Humboldt Bay Harbor District). Joining via teleconference: Joel Gerwein (Coastal Conservancy).

- II. Ecological Attributes and Indicators for 1. Tidal Marsh and 2. Riparian Scrub/Forest**
 - A. Drafts were handed out, discussed, and revised.
 - B. I revised our CAP spreadsheet containing all updates and posted it to collaborative tools as version 1: 09-04-08. I also posted a proposed revision, version 2: AE-09-09-08, adding two new attributes to the riparian worksheet based on literature review. Attached is a word document with my notes from that review and also three pdfs of relevant references.
 - C. For both the Tidal Marsh and the Riparian Forest and Riparian Scrub targets, we referred to a recently developed method for monitoring wetland condition called the California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM), <http://www.cramwetlands.org/>
 1. CRAM was developed as a standardized, cost-effective tool for assessing the health of wetlands and riparian habitats, using field indicators of hydrology, physical structure, biotic structure, and landscape context, ranked according to metrics developed to represent ecological functions.
 2. In 2007, CRAM teams assessed perennial saline estuarine wetlands throughout the state. Most of the North Coast sites were within our study area. The results of this study and ongoing CRAM monitoring could be useful in our viability assessments, if we adopt the CRAM indicators. (Modification of the indicators would invalidate use of the CRAM data in our assessment).
 3. The 09-04-08 version of our CAP worksheet includes a number of attributes/indicators that can be directly related to CRAM (these are flagged as such in the notes column of the spreadsheet)
 4. Additionally, we recognized other important attributes/indicators not included in CRAM; generally these are attributes that would require more intensive data collection than can be performed in a rapid field assessment or that need to be measured on a regional basis and not at individual sites.

- II. Ecological Attributes and Indicators for 1. Native Fish Assemblages, and 2. Shorebirds, Waterfowl, and Piscivorous Birds**
 - A. Draft Ecological Attributes and Indicators for these two targets were handed out at today's meeting, but we only had time for a brief review. The targets are included in the 09-04-08 CAP spreadsheet posted to collaborative tools. Please review and post any suggested revisions.

- IV. MEETING SCHEDULE:**
 - Thursday, September 18, 1:30-4:30, Sea Grant Office**
 - Thursday, October 2, 1:30-4:30, Sea Grant Office**
 - Thursday, October 16, 1:30-4:30, Sea Grant Office**