

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Roles and Responsibilities

Overview

In 2001, several parties executed a memorandum entitled, *Memorandum of Understanding to Support Implementation of the National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion and the Santa Ynez River Technical Advisory Committee Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan*, (Memorandum). Those entities are: Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District Number 1 (ID No.1), Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB), Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), City of Lompoc, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Santa Barbara County Water Agency, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Through the Memorandum, the parties established an Adaptive Management Committee (AMC) to support implementation of the September 11, 2000, Biological Opinion (Operation and Maintenance of the Cachuma Project on the Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara County, California) herein referred to as the Opinion, and the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan, dated October 2, 2000, herein referred to as the Plan.

The AMC is intended to function by providing day-to-day oversight of the implementation of the Opinion and the Plan. The Memorandum charges the AMC with the responsibility of reviewing all monitoring and studies of the fishery, fishery habitat, and hydrology of the river and tributaries below Bradbury Dam; to develop information to refine management actions that will benefit the fishery resources; and to provide scientific information for implementation of fish conservation and protection measures. The Plan and Opinion further stipulate the roles and responsibilities the AMC is charged with in the Memorandum (e.g. Section 5.7 of the Plan)

A summary of the various roles of the AMC (in italics) and the specific responsibilities assigned to the AMC to implement these roles is provided in the attached table (Table 1). Leeway is granted to the AMC to determine how it will fill its roles and achieve its responsibilities within the boundaries of oversight by the Consensus Committee and NMFS as provided for in the Memorandum. Oversight by the Consensus Committee is typically necessary when allocation of resources (e.g. water resources or funding) would be affected and therefore broader policy must be considered in the decision. Oversight by NMFS is required, as established in the terms and conditions of the Opinion, when the proposed modification "could reasonably be expected to affect steelhead" (Opinion, Term and Condition implementing Reasonable and Prudent Measure No. 10). The various agencies involved in these committees and the relationship between these committees are noted in the attached figure (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Communication Pathways for Implementation of the Plan and Opinion.

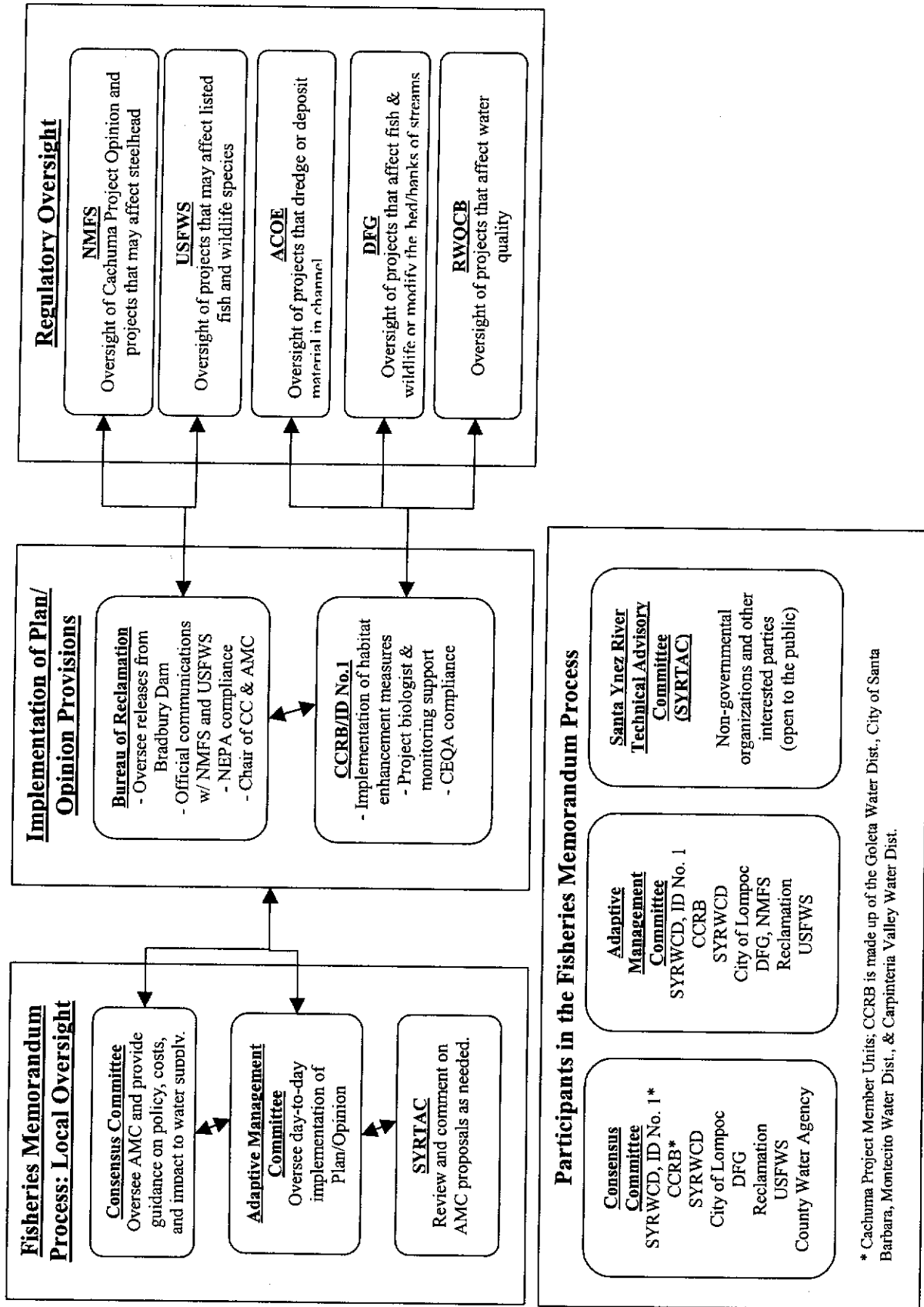


Table 1. Summary of Roles and Responsibilities of the Adaptive Management Committee

Role (<i>in italic</i>) or Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Frequency	Priority	Reasoning for Priority	Citation (source & page)	Oversight*
<i>Complete additional tasks required by the Terms and Conditions in the Opinion</i>						
Design strategy to refine the fish passage supplementation releases	As soon as possible.**	One time.	High	Required by NMFS (T&C #3)	Plan 5-15; Opinion 73	NMFS
Develop plan to monitor bed and banks of lower Santa Ynez River	As soon as possible.**	One time.	High	Required by NMFS (T&C #11, part 3)	Plan 5-25; Opinion 80	CC, NMFS
Design study to monitor next 3 years of WR 89-18 releases for steelhead movement	Summer 2002 (first WR 89-18 release)	One time.	High	Required by NMFS (T&C #6)	Plan 3-26, 5-15; Opinion 74	NMFS
Design study to verify passage and rearing flow releases	As soon as possible.**	One time.	High	Required by NMFS (T&C #15)	Plan 5-15; Opinion 82	CC, NMFS
<i>Provide guidance on maintaining residual pool depth in the Alisal & Refugio reaches</i>						
Provide guidance on development of monitoring plan to determine need for pool maintenance	As soon as possible	Until identified tributary passage projects are completed.	High	Must initiate monitoring plan to know when action needed.	Plan 3-12	NMFS
Recommend method for maintenance of pool depth	Prior to next spill year	Until successful method is found or maintenance is no longer required.	High	Must be prepared to implement action upon need.	Plan 3-12; Opinion 75	CC; NMFS
<i>Manage Releases into Hilton Creek</i>						
Review Hilton Creek data and revise minimum flow, if appropriate	When monitoring data is available (eta 2002)	One time (unless conditions change)	Medium	Base minimum flow on additional data	Opinion 73	CC, NMFS
Adaptively manage releases into Hilton Creek	Implemented.	On-going	High	Releases into Hilton Creek have already begun	BA 3-36; Plan 3-20	NMFS
<i>Monitoring Plan Oversight</i>						
Review annual monitoring plan	Implemented.	Annually.	High	Monitoring program in progress	Plan 5-4	
Modify monitoring plan	As needed.	As needed.	Low	Situation has not changed substantially	Plan 3-27	CC, NMFS

Role (in <i>italic</i>) or Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Frequency	Priority	Reasoning for Priority	Citation (source & page)	Oversight*
<i>Guidance on enhancement projects</i>						
Provide scientific and engineering expertise on project development	Near term.	On-going.	Medium	Projects are being implemented.	Plan 3-36	
Explore new restoration opportunities and recommend additional projects	Post surcharge.	On-going.	Low	Identified projects are in progress now.	Plan 5-14	CC
Develop enhancement activities on conservation easements, if necessary	Near term.	On-going.	Low	Cons. easements have not yet been purchased.	Plan 3-34	CC, NMFS
<i>Manage Fish Passage Account (FPA) and Adaptive Management Account (AMA)</i>						
Adaptively manage releases from AMA	Post surcharge	When water is available in AMA	Low	Not needed until after surcharge.	BA 3-31; Plan 3-16	NMFS
Adaptively manage releases from FPA	Post surcharge	When water is available in FPA	Low	Not needed until after surcharge.	BA 3-28, Plan 3-13	NMFS
Refine passage supplementation protocol as needed based on monitoring information.	Post surcharge	As needed	Low	Not needed until after data collected from existing release program.	BA 3-24; Plan 3-13	NMFS
<i>Oversee monitoring and implementation of fish rescue operations</i>						
Review data provided by the Project Biologist suggesting that a fish rescue may be needed.	During drought conditions.	As needed.	Low	Do not expect drought conditions soon.	Plan 3-24	
Coordinate implementation of fish rescue operation.	During drought conditions.	As needed.	Low	Do not expect drought conditions soon.	Plan 3-24	NMFS
<i>Long Term Plan and Opinion Evaluation</i>						
Periodically review monitoring data	Implemented.	As needed, at least annually	Medium	Project Biologist regularly review data and provides the AMC with important information	Plan 3-27	
Evaluate success of Plan actions (criteria outlined in Sections 5.2 to 5.5 of the Plan)	Implemented.	Annually.	Medium	Actions continue to be implemented	Plan 3-51, 5-12	
Periodically review information on providing passage above Bradbury Dam	As needed.	As needed.	Low	No new information yet	Plan 5-11	

Role (in <i>italic</i>) or Responsibility	Implementation Timeframe	Frequency	Priority	Reasoning for Priority	Citation (source & page)	Oversight*
<i>Long Term Plan and Opinion Evaluation (continued)</i>						
Monitor genetics research on sterile trout strains for potential stocking into Lake Cachuma	Implemented.	On-going	Low	New genetics information not yet available.	Plan 3-43	
Recommend changes to project implementation based on monitoring results, science, technology and other factors	As needed based on information.	As needed.	Medium	Program just beginning; do not yet expect changes	Plan 3-50, 5-12	CC, NMFS