

NOAA Fisheries' PECE Policy

(Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions)

- PECE policy adopted in 2003 to evaluate conservation efforts that have yet to be fully implemented or show effectiveness, when making listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act
- Policy identifies criteria NOAA Fisheries will use to determine whether conservation efforts contribute to making listing a species as threatened or endangered unnecessary
- Useful for States and other entities that want to develop formalized conservation efforts

PECE Policy Criteria

- Certainty of Implementation
 - Necessary resources available (funding, staff)
 - Necessary authority (jurisdiction, permitting)
 - Agreement formalized (regulatory and procedural mechanisms in place)
 - Schedule for completion and evaluation
 - (*if voluntary*) incentives to ensure necessary participation
 - Implementation schedule provided
 - Agreement of all parties to plan

PECE Policy Criteria

- **Certainty of Effectiveness**
 - Clear description of the factors for decline to be addressed and how they will be reduced
 - Establishes specific conservation objectives
 - Identifies necessary steps to reduce threats
 - Includes quantifiable performance measures for monitoring compliance and effectiveness
 - Employs principles of adaptive management
 - Conservation effort is certain to improve the species' status at the time of listing determination