

Subcommittee Name

Risk & Uncertainty Subcommittee

Membership

Taber Allison
Winifred Perkins
Patrick Traylor

Status of Subcommittee Work

The Committee charged the subcommittee with two separate tasks: to examine other natural resources and environmental regulatory programs for elements that may be useful in the context of wind turbine recommendations; and to examine approaches to regulation in the context of uncertainty. The subcommittee has met three times, and has narrowed the scope of its work to the following: to evaluate, develop language, and report back to the full Committee on the issues of precaution, uncertainty, and risk management in the context of the Committee's recommendation(s) to the Secretary, including the examination of other natural resources and environmental regulatory programs' approaches to regulation in the context of uncertainty.

Materials for Review

Gregory, R., et al. "Deconstructing Adaptive Management: Criteria for Applications to Environmental Management." Ecological Applications 16.6 (2006): 2411–2425. **Abstract.** The concept of adaptive management has, for many ecologists, become a foundation of effective environmental management for initiatives characterized by high levels of ecological uncertainty. Yet problems associated with its application are legendary, and many of the initiatives promoted as examples of adaptive management appear to lack essential characteristics of the approach. In this paper we propose explicit criteria for helping managers and decision makers to determine the appropriateness of either passive or active adaptive management strategies as a response to ecological uncertainty in environmental management.

Identify Next Steps

1. We recommend the Committee confirm, amend, or abrogate the subcommittee's scope of work, especially in reference to the work of other subcommittees.
2. We recommend the Committee confirm or expand the membership of the subcommittee.
3. We recommend the Committee instruct the subcommittee with respect to the timing of the subcommittee's work product.