

Protected Species Roundtable (lunchtime discussion)
NMFS Socioeconomics Meetings 2006
Tuesday April 18, 2006 12:00 – 1:45

This discussion is open to anyone attending the Workshop who is interested in these issues.

Attendees: (Persons who have indicated a potential interest in attending) Kathryn Bisack, Heidi Gjertsen, Stephen Holiman, Denise Johnson, Dan Lew, Gisele Magnusson, Michelle McGregor, Karma Norman, Mark Plummer, Lew Queirolo, Stephen Stohs, Kristy Wallmo.

Location: We will be in the smaller of the meeting rooms NMFS has reserved at the hotel.

Lunch: You will need to purchase your own lunch. The fastest option will be the Intermezzo Café located right next to the main conference room in the hotel. They have soups, salads, and sandwiches ready to select and go. Bring your lunches back to the small conference room by about 15 minutes after the morning session lets out, and we'll eat while we talk.

Discussion: As a Roundtable, this discussion will be an informal dialogue with room for real interchanges between people working on these issues. Be ready to briefly introduce yourself and what you are working on, but please do not prepare any formal presentations. We do not have a lot of time, so we will probably not get to discuss everything. The goal is to get an idea of what others are doing, understand some of our national commonalities, and talk generally about some big picture issues.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Introduction of each person, what species he/she is working on or has recently worked on and what stage the action or research is in.
2. Economics as an ESA Listing Criteria – See DeMaster et al. (attached – Kathryn will summarize)
 - 2.1. Members of a NMFS working group have been developing a \$\$ value component (or some sort of expected loss function component) in the ESA listing criteria models. What do you think? Does economics belong in the listing process?
 - See “Scientific Societies ‘Statement of the Endangered Species Act (Feb 27, 2006) for an opinion (attached – Kathryn will summarize).
 - Status: Post-Doc just arrived at SWFSC to work with Barb Taylor to do simulations recommended in this document. \$\$ value component stuff to be included later in the process. So in a nutshell, we may have an opportunity to contribute.

3. Can economics assist the ESA Funding process?
 - 3.1. What are the potential criteria that could be considered when allocating funds to protect ESA species? Examples: Society's value, Probability of extinction/Survival rates, Cost of recovery, Time to recovery or timeline (100 years, 200 years), others?
4. The ESA as it stands also forces single species management. What can we do as economists and other social scientists at this time to assist in moving the thinking to multi-species management? Will it cost less?
5. The Marine Mammal Commission recently conducted a cost effectiveness review of the Right Whale Recovery Program. What are the implications for our work?
6. In any case, as a group, should we develop a position paper for NMFS on any of these ESA topics?
7. Current Stated Preference Surveys under development (Steller Sea Lions, Right Whales, Multi-Protected Species)
 - 7.1.1. How is the good measured?
 - 7.1.2. How will the value of the good be used? For example, can you link proposed regulations to the value of the good measured? What if you can't make the link?
 - 7.1.3. Are there concerns that these values may not be used properly? What can we do to avoid this from happening besides documenting our studies well?
8. What kind of economic and social research is needed to support better protected resource analysis and action?
 - 8.1. How is the research we are currently conducting being used?
 - 8.2. What additions would be most effective? Same types of research for more species, or different types of research for the same species, or something else.
 - 8.3. How is non-economic social science research for protected species progressing?
9. What do you see as the key problem areas within the NMFS organizational structures that increase the challenges for working on protected resource issues?
 - 9.1. Examples: Funding structures, FTE assignments, Differences between MSA requirements and ESA/MMPA, Science Center goals vs. Regions' needs.
 - 9.2. Which of these are we stuck with, and which can we address?
10. Technical Issues
What about fisheries management and the risk of taking protected species? What are the best models to use?
11. Other issues as raised by the group.