NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration

Buck Sutter, Director
NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat Conservation
April 16, 2015
Outline

• Purpose
• Issue
• Presentation of Briefing
• NOAA Coordination and Views
• Desired Outcome
Purpose

• To respond to the SAB Report: Restoration of Coastal Habitats: An Evaluation of NOAA’s Current and Potential Role
Issue

Response to recommendations grouped by three themes:

1. Restoration for Fisheries and Non-Fisheries Objectives (recommendations 2 - 6)
2. Availability of monitoring and evaluation information to the public (recommendations 1 and 7)
3. Leveraging our capabilities to maximize our impact on the field of coastal restoration (recommendations 8 - 10)
Restoration for Fisheries & Non-Fisheries Objectives

- **SAB Report Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**
  - recognizing mandates beyond fisheries
  - ROI analysis
  - scaling of projects to objectives
  - restoration center(s) of excellence
  - measuring benefits beyond fisheries
Habitat Conservation: A Cross-NOAA Mission

• NOAA’s Objective—Healthy habitats that sustain resilient and thriving marine communities and resources

• We protect and restore habitat for:
  • Resilient coastal communities and economies
  • Sustainable and productive fisheries
  • Threatened and endangered species
  • Protected coastal and marine areas and habitats at risk
  • Coastal and ocean tourism, recreation, and access
Many Mandates Drive NOAA’s Investment in Habitat

- Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSRA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA)
- Coral Reef Conservation Act (CRCA)
- Oil Pollution Act (OPA)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act (MDRPRA)
- Estuary Restoration Act (ERA)
- Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA)
NOAA’s Strategy: The Habitat Blueprint

- A framework for integration
- Guiding Principles are the foundation
  - Prioritize resources and activities across NOAA
  - Make decisions in an ecosystem context
  - Foster and leverage partnerships
  - Improve delivery of habitat science
California’s Russian River watershed
NOAA’s First Habitat Focus Area
Objectives: Russian River Habitat Focus Area

- Rebuilding endangered Coho and threatened Chinook and steelhead stocks
- Improving frost, rainfall, and river forecasts
- Increasing community resiliency to flooding damage

www.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint.html
Russian River Habitat Focus Area

Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR)

National Weather Service (NWS)

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

National Ocean Service (NOS)

Program Planning and Integration (PPI)

Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

An informed society anticipating and responding to climate and its impacts

Weather Ready Nation

Society is prepared for and responds to weather-related events

Healthy Habitats and Fisheries

Marine fisheries, habitats, and biodiversity sustained within healthy and productive ecosystems

Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies

Coastal and Great Lakes communities that are environmentally and economically sustainable

Social Science and Strategy

Strategic planning, social and economic impacts, stakeholders and environmental policy
SAB Report Recommendations 1, 7

• tracking and availability of existing measures in Restoration Atlas

• making more data available to public
Leveraging our Capabilities to Maximize our Impact on Coastal Restoration

SAB Report Recommendations 8, 9, 10

• leveraging funds for multiple benefits
• formally recognizing restoration technical expertise to direct use of non-appropriated funds
• highlighting NOAA role with agency partners
• Leadership
  • established by NOAA Leadership (AS/CM)
  • co-chairs in NOS and NMFS
• Four Themes
  • Place-based and Collaborative Conservation
  • Habitat Policy
  • Habitat Science
  • Strategic Partnerships
• Ensure that NOAA is well positioned to address key challenges over the coming years.
Puget Sound: Coordinated Investment Strategy

- Support projects, programs, monitoring, and research that provide mutually supporting, multiple environmental benefits for Puget Sound.
- Increase coordination between interests.
- Better alignment and leverage of state and federal authorities, and better coordination among funders.
- Reduce project sponsors’ administrative burdens.
- Achieve benefits that are greater than the sum of the parts.
- Focus on measurable outcomes.
Northern expansion of urbanization

Community concerns about urbanization, loss of agricultural lifestyle, flooding

Local political planning processes

Ensure technical feasibility and optimal design

Tribal rights and interests

Create incentives and financing packages

Northern expansion of urbanization

Farms, Fish, and Floods Initiative

Get landowner permissions

Walk projects through permitting and regulatory processes

ESA populations that are viable enough to respond to improved habitat conditions

Technical feasibility and optimal design

Farms, Fish, and Floods Initiative

The Nature Conservancy

United States Environmental Protection Agency

US Army Corps of Engineers
Port Susan Fish, Farm, and Flood Management
NOAA Coordination & Views

• Coordination with:
  – *All Line Offices and PPI through NOAA Habitat Conservation Team*
Summary

- **Restoration for Fisheries & Non-Fisheries Objectives**
  - NOAA will continue to support restoration projects and monitoring efforts to demonstrate the role of restoration in achieving our goals for community, economic, and ecological resilience.
  - Place-based efforts like the Blueprint are helping us scale our projects to our objectives.
  - The current NOAA leadership and program structure provide the organizational support we need for our restoration programs.

- **Availability of Monitoring and Evaluation information**
  - NOAA will consider how monitoring information can be shared beyond the current practices.

- **Leveraging our Capabilities to Maximize our Impact on Coastal Restoration**
  - NOAA will continue to foster partnerships that help us achieve our goals.
Desired Outcome

• *Informational – Does not require an SAB response*
THANK YOU