

MEETING NOTES

CRCIP AMT Meeting

January 11, 2006

The CRCIP Adaptive Management Team held its quarterly meeting from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm on January 11. The following AMT members and technical support personnel participated:

Laura Hicks, COE	Dale Blanton, DLCD	
Kim Larson, COE	Cinde Donoghue, WDOE	Agnes Lut, ODEQ
Marci Cook, COE	Dianne Perry, Sponsor Ports	Robert Anderson, NMFS
Mike Ott, COE	Steve Bartell, E2 Inc.	Mark Siipola, COE
Blaine Ebberts, COE		

Project Status Update

Construction projects are being developed for FY06. These contracts are intended as full and open competition. Details for individual contracts will be available from the Corps Project web site as they are awarded. Phase I focuses on CRM 3 to CRM 21 and CRM 95 to RM 104. Phase I constitutes about 25% of the entire Project and is proposed to be finished in mid-February. The Corps is developing bid documents for CRM 21 to CRM 35 and hopes to award a contract by May 2006.

The monitoring of depth, temperature, and salinity continues for the three MA-1 CORIE stations. These data should be available on a monthly basis in support of the Project AEM plan.

The sturgeon studies are finishing up with analyses of habitat preferences and potential impacts of dredging operations on habitat utilization by these fish. The pre-project fish stranding report is available for review. Additional studies of potential impacts of dredge disposal on Dungeness crab are being funded and the proposed plan for this study is available for review.

MA-1 Normalized Salinity Plots

Per request of the AMT at the October meeting, E2 examined the possibility of producing normalized salinity plots to complement the normalized temperature plots produced previously. The challenge proved to be in identifying a reference station analogous to the 'woody' station used in developing the temperature plots. E2 developed salinity plots for the three MA-1 stations and several candidate reference stations. After examining the results of these plots, the AMT agreed that the Desdemona station appeared to provide the best relationship between values of median daily salinity. The AMT concluded that

these kinds of normalized salinity plots should become part of the adaptive management process and used in the same way as the normalized temperature plots.

Discussion of 15% criterion for MA-2

The intent of the original proposal for an MA-2 decision criterion was to include some estimate of uncertainty in making comparisons between projected dredge volumes and actual volumes dredged. The AMT recognizes that these volumes can only be measured or estimated within some degree of accuracy and precision. It was initially proposed that a project-specific actual dredge volume would have to exceed the projected value by 15% in order to trigger adaptive management in relation to MA-2. It has proved difficult to determine the original source or relevance of the 15% proposed exceedance value. Therefore, following discussion, the AMT reached consensus to abandon the 15% decision criterion and simply compare projected dredging volumes to actual volumes.

MA-2 Dredging Volumes Spreadsheet

The summary spreadsheet for analysis of predicted versus actual dredging volumes was modified by the Corps to include bar-by-bar summaries as requested by the AMT. The spreadsheet will become part of the AEM Plan implementation process.

MA-3 Cross-line Surveys

The AMT agreed that the ‘envelope’ calculations for side slope adjustments would serve as initial decision criteria for MA-3. The AMT requested that the O’Brien-Michalsen’ plots be incorporated as part of the AEM Plan implementation. Concerns were expressed regarding the locations of the cross-line surveys to be performed during MA-3. The AMT requested that the locations be identified and included in the AEM Plan, Appendix D.

Discussion of MA-4

No discussion of MA-4

Revised AEM Plan and Appendices

The AMT reviewed the most recent draft of the AEM Plan and supporting appendices. The Plan and appendices were revised according to written comments provided prior to the meeting. E2 provided a detailed summary of the written comments and how the comments were addressed in revising the Plan and appendices. Additional review comments were provided during the course of meeting. The major modifications offered during the meeting included (1) modification of the table that identifies the most recent listed species of concern to add those addressed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, (2) adding the Washington Ecology language regarding adaptive management to complement that of Oregon DEQ (i.e., Appendix C), and (3) incorporation of new language that describes sediment management per the

request of Washington Ecology. Washington Ecology will collaborate with E2 to draft the necessary changes for comments 2 and 3.

These recommended modifications to the AEM Plan and appendices will be made by E2 and the revised report and appendices will be presented to the AMT in advance of the April 12 quarterly meeting.