Mitigation Issues and Policy

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Susan-Marie Stedman
NOAA Fisheries
Office of Habitat Conservation
Why a NOAA Policy on Mitigation?

Mitigation is an important part of NOAA programs

Mitigation is evolving quickly

Growing private sector investment

New situations for staff

Only major agency without mitigation policy
### Existing NOAA Guidance on Mitigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidance</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interagency Guidance on Mitigation Banking</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2000, now obsolete</td>
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<td>and ILF</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Expanding to entire west coast</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Coast Region Conservation Banking</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Broad, with emphasis on ESA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRDA Banking Guidance</td>
<td></td>
<td>In response to Pres Memo, recently completed</td>
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[www.habitat.noaa.gov](http://www.habitat.noaa.gov)
Policy Development Rules

Goal: A Mitigation Policy for Coastal Resources (broadly defined)

Don’t Re-invent the Wheel

Stakeholder Involvement
Mitigation Policy Game Plan

Overarching Policy

- Universal issues
- Coastal issues

Followed by Guidance, as needed

- Program-specific Guidance
- Regional Guidance

Tool Development
Mitigation Policy Timeline

Sept 2016 – June 2017
• Develop Internal Issue Paper
• Stakeholder Input/Scoping

Feb 2017 – Dec 2017
• NOAA Internal Workshop on Mitigation
• Create draft Mitigation Policy
• Stakeholder Input on Issues and Approaches

Dec 2017 – May 2018
• Draft Mitigation Policy circulated for public comment
• Final NOAA Mitigation Policy
Mitigation Major Issues - Universal

Mitigation goals (net gain, no net loss)
- Focus on our authorities

Sequencing/Hierarchy
- Differing approaches by program area

High value/Hard to replace
- Emphasize avoidance

Invasive Species
- Removal as restoration
Mitigation Major Issues - Coastal

Landscape/seascape approach
- What works best for coastal areas?

Out of kind compensation
- Shallow water unvegetated, corals, seagrass

Out of coastal area compensation
- High ecological value vs high sociological value

Preservation
- Special emphasis in coastal/urban areas?
Your Thoughts?
NRDA Banking Guidance

Presidential Memo *Mitigating Impacts on Natural Resources From Development and Encouraging Related Private Investment* (November 3, 2015) charged NOAA with developing guidance on NRDA restoration banking

- Guidance to NOAA’s NRDA practitioners
- In the right situations, restoration banks can be a great solution to address natural resource injuries
- Our guidance focuses on ensuring we are protecting the public interests, NOAA’s trustee interests, and minimizing risks to success where possible