

PROTECTED SPECIES PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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Planning
Performance Measurement 33-102
Program Performance Reporting 33-102-02

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORTING BUSINESS RULES FOR PSP

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

Procedural Directive 33-102-02 Program Performance Reporting establishes the requirement to report on and periodically update data on (among other things) PPBES Program business rules. This document 33-102-02-03 reports Program business rules for the Protected Species Program.

Signed _____

Helen Golde Date: March 13, 2013

Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources

1. **Introduction:** This procedural directive describes the business rules and reporting procedures for the performance measures for the Protected Species Program. Specifically, it establishes the procedures for the creation, review, approval, reporting, and timing of changes to performance measure targets and actuals.
2. **Performance Measures:** This procedural directive will detail the business rules and reporting procedures for the following performance measures:
 - Number of Protected Species with stable or increasing population levels (GPRA).
 - Number and percent of ongoing or completed recovery actions (*New GPRA Measure Added FY2012*).
 - Corporate Measure: Percentage of ESA Section 7 Formal Consultations completed within the 135 day statutory time frame.
 - Corporate Measure: Annual percent reduction in the backlog of ESA Section 7 consultations Not completed in the 135 day statutory time frame.
3. **Business Rules and Procedures:** The following procedures will be followed for each performance measure identified.

3.1 Number of Protected Species designated as threatened or endangered under the ESA, or depleted under the MMPA with stable or increasing population levels.

a. *List the definitions of all terms in the measure*

1. Protected species are defined as all marine mammal stocks (except walruses, polar bears, and manatees) and those domestic non-marine mammal species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act that are under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service or under joint jurisdiction with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service¹.
2. Depleted: Defined by the MMPA as “any case in which—
 - the Secretary, after consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals established under MMPA title II, determines that a species or population stock is below its optimum sustainable population;
 - a State, to which authority for the conservation and management of a species or population stock is transferred under section 109, determines that such species or stock is below its optimum sustainable population; or
 - a species or population stock is listed as an endangered species or a threatened species under the ESA.”
3. Threatened: Defined under the ESA as “any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.”
4. Endangered: Defined under the ESA as “any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.”

b. *Insert criteria to determine progress in meeting the performance target (e.g., the criteria for identifying when an unknown stock becomes known or what criteria or level of recovery an endangered species must demonstrate to be considered stable or increasing; this should include criteria for the reverse, i.e., when a known stock becomes unknown or a stable or increasing species is no longer considered stable or increasing).* Recovery of threatened, endangered, or depleted protected species is very slow and may take decades. While it is highly unlikely to “recover or de-list” a species in a five to ten year time frame, progress can be made to stabilize or increase the species. For some, it is trying to stop a steep decline (right whales, “western” Steller sea lions); for others it is trying to increase their numbers/abundance as they continue on a positive trajectory (Kemp’s ridley turtles). NOAA’s protected species management efforts are focused on halting declines and conserving species while still allowing human activities that are compatible with conservation goals to continue. Specifically, a species is considered “Stable” if its population size shows no decrease over the period of time between assessments, and is considered “Increasing” when the population shows measurably higher numbers from assessment to assessment.

c. *Describe the specific counting methodology, algorithm, or other formula used to generate the numbers (e.g., How a restoration project counts “acres” restored. Describe how the Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI) number is generated.).* For Mammal species the following two step formula is used:

¹ Species managed jointly with USFWS are all ESA-listed marine turtles and Atlantic salmon.

- Three (or more) annual abundance estimates spaced out over a 10 year period of known, high precision (CV \leq 30%),
- and
- A statistical analysis of these data (usually a regression) which indicates that there is either no trend (slope = 0) or the trend is positive (slope significantly greater than zero).

Salmon population status and trends are calculated using methods outlined in Good, T.P., R.S. Waples, and P. Adams (editors)². This consists of calculating recent abundance (1990-present), abundance trends, and median population growth rates. These calculations are used in a Viable Salmon Population (VSP) analysis to determine both status and risks to the population. Sea turtles may be assessed using deterministic age-based models³, or other acceptable models which take into account their unique life history.⁴ Other fish species, invertebrates, and plants are assessed using the most recent population trend data.

d. Identify the reporting source (i.e., identification of data source and process to generate the performance data). Data are reported by the Regional Administrators. The reporting is done in response to an annual request from the PSP Program Manager. The previous year's listing of population status is supplied to the Regions to be updated based on (but not exclusively limited to) 1) completed formal stock assessments; 2) unusual mortality or disease events; 3) changes to fishing regulations resulting in changes in fisheries and protected species injury or mortality; 4) newly completed scientific studies describing reproductive success, failure, changes in prey or foraging, or other studies documenting new information on population sustainability parameters; 5) newly completed or revised recovery plans for the species; 6) documented recovery actions that have contributed to a change in population trends (completed habitat restorations, successful reintroductions of injured animals).

e. Describe the methodology and process for setting the targets and the level of detail behind the targets (e.g. how are species selected and whether the target corresponds exactly to a specific list of species). This measure tracks progress at achieving partial recovery of domestic endangered, threatened or depleted protected species/stocks under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and those under joint jurisdiction with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, from a baseline of 78 protected species/stocks established as of October 1, 2012.

Species updates are carried out at the beginning of each fiscal year for species listed during the year prior to the year just ending. Thus, on October 1, 2012 (beginning of FY 2013), species listed through September 30, 2011 (the end of FY 2011) were added. This "re-

² Good, T.P., R.S. Waples, and P. Adams (editors). 2005. Updated status of federally listed ESUs of West Coast salmon and steelhead. U.S. Dept. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-NWFSC-66, 598 p.

³ Turtle Expert Working Group. 2000. Assessment Update for the Kemp's Ridley and Loggerhead Sea Turtle Populations in the Western North Atlantic. U.S. Dep. Commer. NOAA Tech. Mem. NMFS-SEFSC-444, 115 pp.

⁴ National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center. 2001. Stock assessments of loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles and an assessment of the impact of the pelagic longline fishery on the loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles of the Western North Atlantic. U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFSSEFSC- 455, 343 pp.

baselining” procedure accounts for the delay that can occur between listing and completion of conservation activities adequate to inform GPRA performance. New species will be added on October 1 of each year following this procedure. Species targets are selected each year from this list based on population trend data, published stock assessments and status reviews, and other data collected by regional offices and science centers.

f. List the criteria for identification of the PPA's and capabilities that support the measure (i.e. the rationale for deciding which PPA funding levels influence the level of performance). There are currently 20 PPAs that are directly linked to ESA work and recovery of species. These PPAs are either designated for ESA work, or for species such as Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon, Sea turtles, and Other Species which would not be managed under the MMPA. Other PPAs exist which are tied to Marine Mammal conservation, and thus may partially contribute to listed species recovery. The decision of which PPAs may support this GPRA measure is thus a series of dichotomous questions: is this a line for Marine Mammals, or ESA? Is it a Marine Mammal line that is also designated for ESA (As is the case with right whale funding)?

g. Describe how the measure is affected by changes in funding levels and how targets corresponding to different funding scenarios are determined. Annual targets are set based on both previous fiscal year’s execution and current fiscal appropriation. This can cause targets to shift downward instead of remaining steady in a declining budget scenario. Out year targets are developed based on these two criteria, as well as the length of time since a species last status review or stock assessment, the long-term population trend, and the fiscal status of the agency.

h. List additional contingencies that could potentially impact the result in unanticipated ways (e.g. changing definitions or baselines, inconclusive or rejected stock assessments, or court decisions). Contingencies affecting this measure could include: Federal court decisions or stock assessments for a species more than 5 years out of date but not redone due to lack of resources,

i. Detail the approval structure (i.e., identification of those below the program manager level who will sign off on the measure’s data). The Regional Administrator approves the results for the Region prior to transmission to the Program Manager.

j. Describe the timing of when data updates are available and the periodicity of available reporting mechanisms (e.g., if data are only available upon publication of an annual report, name the report, its usual publication date, and describe why it is the only available source.) Timing of publication of such periodic reports should be made to coincide, wherever possible, with NOAA annual performance reporting cycles (i.e. end of the quarter or fiscal year). The Data call for the measure is conducted in October of each calendar year, along with a data call for performance measure updates under the Office of Science and Technology measure “Percentage of Living Marine Resources with adequate population assessments and forecasts.” The data call pertains to reporting of performance for the just completed Fiscal Year. This allows Regions and Science Centers to take both the just completed fiscal year into account, with some estimation of what their Execution Year funding will be, so they can determine which species and what work products they may be able to complete for a given performance target.

3.2 Percentage of ESA Section 7 Formal Consultations completed within the Fiscal Year (Overall Completion Rate).

a. Definitions:

- **Formal Consultation:** A consultation on project or action impacts between another federal agency and NMFS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act which has been formally requested by the action agency through a letter and submission of a Biological Assessment.
- **Section 7:** The Section of the Endangered Species Act that directs federal agencies to consult with NMFS on the impact their actions may have on listed species; the Section also describes the process of consultation and how NMFS will respond to a request for consultation.
- **On Time:** completion of a formal Section 7 consultation is considered On Time if it occurs within the 135 day time frame mandated by the ESA, or when extended to a date set by mutual agreement of the action agency and NMFS.
- **PCTS:** Permit Consultation Tracking System. This is the NMFS database which tracks submission and completion dates (along with project specific data) for all formal and informal consultation requests to NMFS nationally.

b. Criteria:

This measure describes all formal Section 7 consultations completed in a given fiscal year.

c. Calculation:

This measure provides the percentage of consultations completed (on-time or late) within a fiscal year. This percentage is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Consultations Completed On-Time} + \text{Consultations Completed Late}^5}{\text{Consultations Completed On-Time} + \text{Consultations Completed Late} + \text{Backlog}^6}$$

d. Data source:

Data for this measure are retrieved from the NMFS Protected Resources Permit Consultation Tracking System (PCTS) which is a national database that collects data on all ESA permitting and consultation activities for NMFS.

e. Target methodology:

Targets are set based on trend analysis for all historic data available, augmented by changes in funding in a given fiscal year.

f. What funding influences the measure?

There are some 20 PPAs that are directly linked to ESA work. These PPAs are either designated for ESA work, or for species such as Atlantic salmon, Sea turtles, and Other Species which would not be managed under the MMPA. Other PPAs exist which are tied to Marine Mammal conservation, and thus may partially contribute to listed species recovery. The decision of which PPAs may support this measure is a series of dichotomous questions: is this a line for Marine Mammals, or ESA? Is it a Marine Mammal line that is also designated for ESA (As is the case with e.g., right whale funding)?

g. Influence of funding on performance:

⁵ Formal consultations completed beyond statutory (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and regulatory (50 CFR 402) timeframes with no agreement between the action and consulting agencies to extend the completion date.

⁶ Ongoing but uncompleted formal consultations and requests for formal consultation which have been accepted by NMFS, but not yet initiated.

Funding influences the measure two ways. First, funding levels directly impact how many formal and informal consultations NMFS can complete in a given fiscal year. If funding remains level, and internal costs increase, fewer consultations may be completed as NMFS loses consultation capacity. Conversely, increases in funding at other federal agencies may drive the rate of initiation of Formal consultations up, resulting in too few NMFS biologists to handle a given work load.

h. Contingencies:

Contingencies affecting this measure include the number and completeness of Section 7 consultations submitted by federal agencies. The 135 day time limit does not start until the request is considered complete – i.e. NMFS biologists have enough project or action information to make an informed judgment as to impact. If consultations are not completed within the 135 day time frame, they are added to the Backlog. Consultations in this backlog are addressed as soon as possible.

i. Approval structure:

PSP Program staff collect the annual and quarterly performance data, and develop a report to NOAA and the Department of Commerce. This report is reviewed and approved jointly by the PSP Program Manager, the Office of Protected Resources Director, the Office of Management, and Budget and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

j. Reporting requirements:

Information will be compiled quarterly and annually at the end of each fiscal year, as part of the annual reporting of PSP's GPRA measure performance. The reported Actuals will be computed based on data entered in PCTS. Regions will be required to input and QA/QC their data one month prior to PSP development of the performance report.

3.3 Percentage of ESA Section 7 Formal Consultations completed within the 135 days (On time Completion Rate).

a. Definitions:

- **ESA Section 7(a)(2):** Directs that Federal agencies must consult with NMFS, under section on activities that may affect a listed or on habitat critical to their survival. The Section also describes the process of consultation and how NMFS will respond to a request for consultation.
- **Formal Consultation:** Results in a document of NMFS' opinion as to whether the proposed Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Where appropriate, biological opinions provide an exemption for the "take" of listed species while specifying the extent of take allowed, the Reasonable and Prudent Measures necessary to minimize impacts from the Federal action, and the Terms and Conditions with which the action agency must comply.
- **On Time:** completion of a formal Section 7 consultation is considered "On Time" if it occurs within the 135 day time frame mandated by the ESA, or when extended to a date set by mutual agreement of the action agency and NMFS.
- **PCTS:** Permit Consultation Tracking System. This is the NMFS database which tracks submission and completion dates (along with project specific data) for all formal and informal consultation requests to NMFS nationally.

b. Criteria:

Formal consultations are considered “On Time” if they meet the definition, above. Otherwise they are considered late if completed after 135 days. Consultations are part of a Consultation Backlog if: 1) the accepted applications have not yet been begun; or, 2) ongoing consultations are not yet completed.

c. Calculation:

This measure provides the percentage of consultations completed on-time within a fiscal year. This percentage is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Consultations Completed On-Time}}{\text{Consultations Completed On-Time} + \text{Consultations Completed Late} + \text{Backlog}}$$

d. Data source:

Data for this measure are retrieved from the NMFS Protected Resources Permit Consultation Tracking System (PCTS) which is a national database that collects data on all ESA permitting and consultation activities for NMFS.

e. Target methodology:

Targets are set based on trend analysis for all historic data available, augmented by increases in funding in a given fiscal year.

f. What funding influences the measure?

There are currently 20 PPAs that are directly linked to ESA work. These PPAs are either designated for ESA work, or for species such as Atlantic salmon, Sea turtles, and Other Species which would not be managed under the MMPA. Other PPAs exist which are tied to Marine Mammal conservation, and thus may partially contribute to listed species recovery.

g. Influence of funding on performance:

Funding influences the measure two ways. First, funding levels directly impact how many consultations NMFS can complete in a given fiscal year. If funding remains level, and internal costs increase, fewer consultations may be completed as NMFS loses consultation capacity. Conversely, increases in funding at other federal agencies may drive the rate of initiation of formal consultations up, resulting in too few NMFS biologists to handle a given work load. That mismatch will thus increase the Backlog.

h. Contingencies:

Contingencies affecting this measure include the number and completeness of Section 7 consultation requests submitted by federal agencies. The 135 day time limit does not start until the request is considered complete – i.e. NMFS biologists have enough project or action information to make an informed judgment as to impact. If consultations are not completed within the 135 day time frame, they are added to Consultation Backlog.

i. Approval structure:

PSP Program staff collect the annual and quarterly performance data, and develop a report to NOAA and the Department of Commerce. This report is reviewed and approved jointly by the PSP Program Manager, the Office of Protected Resources Director, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

j. Reporting requirements:

Information will be compiled quarterly and annually at the end of each fiscal year, as part of

the annual reporting of PSP's GPRA measure performance. The reported Actuals will be computed based on data entered in PCTS. Regions will be required to input and QA/QC their data one month prior to PSP development of the performance report.

3.4 Annual percent reduction in the backlog of ESA Section 7 consultations not completed in 135 days or an extension mutually agreed to by the action agency and NMFS.

a. Definitions:

- **Formal Consultation:** A consultation on project or action impacts between another federal agency and NMFS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act which has been formally requested by the action agency through a letter and submission of a Biological Assessment.
- **Section 7:** The Section of the Endangered Species Act that directs federal agencies to consult with NMFS on the impact their actions may have on listed species; the Section also describes the process of consultation and how NMFS will respond to a request for consultation.
- **On Time:** completion of a formal Section 7 consultation is considered On Time if it occurs within the 135 day time frame mandated by the ESA, or when extended to a date set by mutual agreement of the action agency and NMFS.
- **PCTS:** Permit Consultation Tracking System. This is the NMFS database which tracks submission and completion dates (along with project specific data) for all formal and informal consultation requests to NMFS nationally.
- **Backlog:** The annual total of all formal consultations not completed within the 135 day statutory timeframe or by the extended period mutually agreed to by the action agency and NMFS.

b. Criteria:

Formal consultations are part of the backlog when they remain incomplete after 135 days or beyond an extension agreed to by the action agency and NMFS.

c. Calculation:

This measure provides the percentage of the consultation backlog completed within a fiscal year. This percentage is calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Consultations Completed Late}}{\text{Consultations Completed Late} + \text{Backlog}}$$

d. Data source:

Data for this measure are retrieved from the NMFS Protected Resources Permit Consultation Tracking System (PCTS) which is a national database containing data on all ESA permitting and consultation activities for NMFS.

e. Target methodology:

Targets are set based on trend analysis for all historic data available, augmented by increases in funding in a given fiscal year.

f. What funding influences the measure?

There are currently 20 PPAs that are directly linked to ESA work. These PPAs are either designated for ESA work, or for species such as Atlantic salmon, Sea turtles, and Other

Species which would not be managed under the MMPA. Other PPAs exist which are tied to Marine Mammal conservation, and thus may partially contribute to listed species recovery.

g. Influence of funding on performance:

Funding influences the measure two ways. First, funding levels directly impact how many formal and informal consultations NMFS can complete in a given fiscal year. If funding remains level, and internal costs increase, fewer consultations may be completed as NMFS will lose consultation capacity. Conversely, increases in funding at other federal agencies may drive the rate of initiation of Formal consultations up, resulting in too few NMFS biologists to handle a given work load. That mismatch will thus increase the Backlog.

h. Contingencies:

Contingencies affecting this measure include the number and completeness of Section 7 consultation requests submitted by federal agencies. The 135 day time limit does not start until the request is considered complete – i.e. NMFS biologists have enough project or action information to make an informed judgment as to impact. If consultations are not completed within the 135 day time frame, they are added to a Consultation Backlog.

i. Approval structure:

PSP Program staff collect the annual and quarterly performance data, and develop a report to NOAA and the Department of Commerce. The report is reviewed and approved jointly by the PSP Program Manager, the Office of Protected Resources Director, the Office of Management, and Budget and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

j. Reporting requirements:

Information will be compiled quarterly and annually at the end of each fiscal year, as part of the annual reporting of PSP's GPRA measure performance. The reported Actuals will be computed based on data entered in PCTS. Regions will be required to input and QA/QC their data one month prior to PSP development of the performance report.

3.5 Number and percent of ongoing or completed recovery actions.

a. Definitions - From the Recovery Online Activity Reporting (ROAR) System that will be used to track Recovery Action progress:

- Discontinued – Action has had some work done, but is not ongoing, out-of-date or unsuccessful. Still considered necessary for recovery, but there are no current plans to resume work. [Requires estimated initiation date field to be filled in.] *In denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*
- Complete – Action has been successfully completed. No work remains to be done. [Requires estimated initiation date and estimated completion date fields to be filled in.] *In both numerator and denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*
- Not Started – No planning or implementation work has been done. No plans in place to begin work. Still considered necessary for recovery. [No estimated initiation date and estimated completion date fields required.] *In denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*

- **Obsolete** – This action is not necessary to recovery, according to current understanding of species’ status. [No estimated initiation date and estimated completion date fields required.] *Neither in numerator nor denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*
- **Ongoing Current** – Action duration is “ongoing” or “continuous” (i.e., actions without specified end-points that are conducted continuously or periodically throughout the recovery process, like surveys). Action is considered necessary for recovery and is currently being implemented. Further work needed to bring action to “Complete” status. [Requires estimated initiation date field to be filled in.] *In numerator and denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*
- **Ongoing Not Current** – Action duration is “ongoing” or “continuous” (i.e., actions without specified end-points that are conducted continuously or periodically throughout the recovery process, like surveys). Action is still considered necessary for recovery, but is behind schedule (not current). [Requires estimated initiation date field to be filled in.] *In denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*
- **Partially Complete** – Action duration has a discrete end-point (i.e., 3 years). Action has been partially completed (relative to work needed when recovery plan was released). Further work needed to bring action to “Complete” status. [Requires estimated initiation date field to be filled in.] *In denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*
- **Planned** – Initial planning of action is complete or in progress, but no implementation has yet been done (relative to work needed when recovery plan was released). [No estimated initiation date and estimated completion date fields required.] *In denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*
- **Unknown** – Status of action planning or implementation not known. [No estimated initiation date and estimated completion date fields required.] *In denominator for percent of actions ongoing or completed.*

b. Criteria to determine progress in meeting the performance target:

A recovery action will be considered ongoing or complete when actions in ROAR are categorized as “Ongoing Current”, “Partially Complete”, or “Complete” (see ROAR definitions). These are actions that are being implemented or for which no work remains to be done.

c. Describe the specific counting methodology, algorithm, or other formula used to generate the numbers:

Numbers will be generated from the ROAR database or Salmon Tracking System. A recovery action will be considered ongoing or complete when actions in ROAR are categorized as “Ongoing Current” “Partially Complete”, or “Complete.” Recovery staff will update action status in ROAR or the Salmon Tracking System every quarter based on their communications with project managers. An action will be counted as ongoing once work has been initiated on that action (contract has been let, document is actively being prepared, etc.) and an action will be counted as complete once no work remains to be done on that action. All actions in the database except those categorized as “Obsolete” will be counted toward the total number of actions (to calculate percent ongoing or completed).

d. Identify the reporting source (i.e., identification of data source and process to generate the performance data):

PR Headquarters uploads Recovery Actions from Recovery Plan Implementation Schedules into ROAR and Northwest Region staff uploads Recovery Actions from Pacific salmon Recovery Plan Implementation Schedules into the Salmon Tracking System. Status information is then entered into ROAR quarterly by regional staff. Recovery staff are responsible for tracking Recovery Actions so will be relied upon to provide the most current information. Many recovery actions are implemented by non-NOAA agencies (other Federal agencies, state agencies, local groups), so recovery staff will get the information from project managers, state resource managers, researchers, participating stakeholders, etc. Once regional staff confirm that ROAR has been updated, Headquarters staff will run reports for “Completed”, “Partially Complete”, and “Ongoing” actions. The reporting is done in response to quarterly performance reports requested by the NMFS Office of Management and Budget. The Protected Resources Program Manager is responsible for submitting the information to the NMFS Office of Management and Budget.

e. Describe the methodology and process for setting the targets and the level of detail behind the targets:

The Protected Resources Program Manager will provide instructions to the ARAs to develop out year targets by considering the previous year Actuals, a set of budget assumptions, and any projects that non-NMFS groups may plan to initiate. Although each region may have their own process for setting targets, targets should be specific to projects, i.e., not a formula, when at all possible. For level budget assumptions, regions would likely assume ongoing actions would continue (unless higher priority actions have arisen), and the initiation of new actions would be considered, taking into account funding freed up by completed actions, although completion of several small actions may be replaced by one big action or vice versa. For projected changes in budget, the actuals would provide the baseline for targets for the coming years and, depending on the projected increase or decrease in funding and the priorities of both ongoing and future actions needed, realistic targets would be projected from that starting point. Projects planned by non-NMFS entities will be considered if possible. The Regional recovery staff will then enter the information into ROAR or the Salmon Tracking System so that the HQ Recovery Coordinator can analyze and provide the final targets to the Program Manager. ARAs will be allowed to revise targets when updated budget information is available. Targets and Actuals will represent values that account for all the recovery actions, not just recovery actions for which NMFS is responsible.

Because of the continual increase in listings under the ESA, finalization of revised recovery plans, and finalization of new recovery plans, the total number of actions will increase each year. New plans will be added at the beginning of each fiscal year for recovery plans finalized the previous fiscal year. Thus, on October 1, 2013, actions in recovery plans finalized in FY 2013 will be added to the measure.

f. What funding influences the measure?

The budget lines supporting this GPRA measure are Protected Species Research and Management Programs; Species Recovery Grants; Marine Mammals; Marine Turtles; Other Protected Species; Atlantic Salmon; Pacific Salmon; and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. Every year the NMFS Office of Protected Resources develops a table that outlines the PPAs contributing to Endangered Species Act (ESA) activities and these PPAs were identified.

g. Describe how the measure is affected by changes in funding levels and how targets corresponding to different funding scenarios are determined:

Funds are needed to implement recovery actions, so an increase in funding level can subsequently increase targets, and vice-versa, although many recovery actions will be funded by other entities other than NOAA (other Federal agencies, state agencies, local organizations). Recovery Actions can cover a wide range of activities—from preparing a management plan to long-term monitoring to upgrading waste water treatment plans. This means that not all actions are equal in size, scope, complexity, cost, etc. which results in a high standard of deviation in cost per action. Also, small changes in funding may not result in an immediate obvious downturn or uptick in implementation in recovery actions. Decreases may be absorbed through salary lapses and other means, may continue for a year through grant monies that weren't used the previous year, or other scenarios. However, ongoing decreases will result in fewer actions being started even as other actions are completed, and will ultimately be reflected in a static or slower growing number of actions ongoing or completed. Every year the HQ Office of Protected Resources will send a memo to the Regional Administrators providing fiscal guidance for out-year targets.

h. List additional contingencies that could potentially impact the result in unanticipated ways (e.g. changing definitions or baselines, inconclusive or rejected stock assessments, or court decisions):

Contingencies affecting the measure could include court decisions (i.e., Columbia River BiOp) and new recovery plans coming online that could add thousands of new recovery actions affecting the total number of recovery actions ongoing or complete. This would suddenly make the percentage of ongoing or completed actions drop even while the number of actions “Ongoing” or “Complete” continues to increase. Likewise, an action could be discontinued, thus affecting the number of actions “Ongoing” or “Complete”, or determined to be obsolete, thus affecting the total number of actions, but these numbers would probably be so small in relation to the total number of actions that they would not result in significant changes (although they would affect reality) unless there was a huge budget cut and many actions were discontinued.

i. Detail the approval structure (i.e., identification of those below the program manager level who will sign off on the measure's data.):

The “actual” data will be updated quarterly by the NMFS Regional recovery staff in response to a “datacall” from the Protected Species Program Manager. After the NMFS HQ Recovery Coordinator performs data quality checks, he/she will provide the final results to the Program Manager. An opportunity to update targets will occur at the beginning of the fiscal year, as well as when new funding information becomes available throughout the budget preparation process. The Program Manager will incorporate the results in the quarterly reporting mechanisms, and then provide annual targets and actuals to the NMFS Office of Management and Budget.

j. Reporting requirements:

Information will be compiled quarterly and annually at the end of each fiscal year, as part of the annual reporting of PSP's GPRA measure performance. The reported Actuals will be computed based on data entered into ROAR. Data will be available two weeks after the end of a quarter.