

<b>HABITAT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT</b> <b>33-102-02-04</b> OCTOBER 30, 2008	
Planning Performance Measurement 33-102 Program Performance Reporting 33-102-02	
<b>PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORTING BUSINESS RULES FOR HAB</b>	
<b>NOTICE:</b> This publication is available at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives/</a> .	
<b>OPR: F/HC (P.Montanio)</b> <b>Type of Issuance:</b> Initial	<b>Certified by: F/HC (P.Montanio)</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:</b> Procedural Directive <u>33-102-02 Program Performance Reporting</u> establishes the requirement to report on and periodically update data on (among other things) PPBES Program business rules. This document 33-102-02-04 reports Program business rules for the Habitat Program.	
Signed _____/s/ Pat Montanio_____	
Pat Montanio Habitat Program Manager	Date: October 15, 2008

## 1. Introduction

This procedural directive supplemental describes the business rules and reporting procedures for two corporate performance measures for the Habitat Matrix Program—habitat acres restored (GPRA) and stream miles made accessible.

NOAA's Habitat Program, in collaboration with the other Ecosystem Goal Team programs, protects and restores habitats that support NOAA trust resources and are essential to the long-term health and sustainability of coastal and marine ecosystems. NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program supports effective management and sound science to protect, sustain and restore coral reef and deep coral ecosystems, and complements Habitat Program goals in those ecosystems. NOAA is a trustee for natural resources associated with coastal, marine, and Great Lakes habitats, including rivers and estuaries. Resources include: commercial and recreational fishery resources; diadromous species; marine mammals; endangered and threatened marine species and their habitats; marshes, mangroves, seagrass beds, tropical and subtropical coral reefs, deep sea coral communities, intertidal mudflats, and other coastal habitats; and resources associated with National Marine Sanctuaries and National Estuarine Research Reserves.

The Habitat Program applies current, effective science and technology to ensure that ecosystem productivity, function, and services are protected and restored utilizing a variety of strategies and

measures authorized by dozens of legislative and executive mandates. The Habitat Program promotes sound stewardship by engaging partners (i.e. federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, and the public) to leverage additional capabilities that ensure long-term habitat stewardship and sustainability.

Of the ten core programs in the Habitat Program, six provide data for the performance measures “number of habitat acres restored” (GPRA measure) and “stream miles made accessible for ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources” (Corporate measure).

The programs are:

- a. Community-based Restoration Program (CRP - housed in NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation (OHC))
- b. Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act Program (CWPPRA – administered through OHC with involvement from Fisheries staff from the Southeast Region)
- c. Damage Assessment, Restoration, and Remediation Program (DARRP – comprised of staff in OHC, NOS’ Office of Response and Restoration/Assessment and Restoration Division, and Office of the General Counsel)
- d. Marine Debris Program (NOS)
- e. OHC Chesapeake Bay Office, and
- f. Hydropower Program (administered through OHC’s Habitat Protection Division with involvement from Fisheries staff from all the Regional Offices).

2. Performance Measures Business rules and reporting procedures are detailed in section 3 of this supplemental for the following performance measures:

- 3.1 Number of habitat acres restored.
- 3.2 Number of stream miles made accessible for ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

3. Business Rules and Procedures The following procedures will be followed for each performance measure identified.

### **3.1 Number of habitat acres restored**

#### **3.1.1 Definitions.**

*Habitat* – Those areas that occur within the coastal zone, within watersheds influencing diadromous fisheries habitat, or within an ecosystem that has a significant linkage value for NOAA trust resources. Habitat types are broken out in the tracking database, as: beach, coral reef, dune, forested wetland, freshwater marsh, hard bottom, in-stream, kelp, mangrove, maritime forest, oyster reef/shell bottom, pond, riparian zone (non-wetland), rocky shoreline, salt marsh, shrub swamp (non-mangrove), soft bottom/ mud, soft bottom/sand, submerged aquatic vegetation, upland, and water column. Each project defines an area in acres over which a functional change in specific habitat types is anticipated to occur (due to project activities); if the project includes more than one habitat type, an area is defined for each habitat type.

*Restored* – The Program uses four categories of restoration activities that add up to a cumulative “acres restored” total. The four categories are created, re-established, rehabilitated, and enhanced, and are adopted from the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) wetland habitats guidance; the CEQ categories are supported by the Federal Geographic Data Committee Wetlands Subcommittee. Descriptions of the categories are provided in the Users Guide for the Restoration Center Database (RCDB).

#### **3.1.2 Criteria to determine progress in meeting the performance target.**

The number of habitat acres restored is entered on a project by project basis throughout the year by program staff in NMFS and NOS; the Habitat Program reports quarterly cumulative totals to NOAA.

Project acreage accomplishments are included in the acres restored measure when restoration activities are complete. Restoration is considered complete when all construction activity (grading, planting, etc.) associated with the project is completed. If a project has phased accomplishments, they may be reported when a phase of the restoration has been fully completed within a defined area. As previously stated, restored acres are those that have been created, reestablished, rehabilitated, or enhanced.

#### **3.1.3 Specific counting methodology, algorithm, or other formula used to generate the numbers.**

The number of acres restored for each project is determined spatially using the best available means and scientific data. For the Community-based Restoration Program (CRP), numbers for acres restored are provided through grantee progress reports for individual projects. Where feasible, NOAA staff perform site visits to verify the accuracy of reported values. For other programs (e.g. DARRP, CWPPRA), acreage determinations are made directly by NOAA staff or by cooperating trustees or agencies when significant project milestones are met.

#### **3.1.4 Reporting source.**

The Restoration Center Database (RCDB) is the database of record. The RCDB is maintained by the NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center with data entry input from OHC staff and NOS staff from programs that are members of the Habitat Matrix Program. The records are maintained as individual projects, and include data on status, environmental compliance, budget/funding, timing, location, partners, contacts, and volunteer/public involvement, as well as the performance

measure data described within this document.

### **3.1.5 Methodology and process for setting the targets and the level of detail behind the targets.**

Given the nature and scope of the type of restoration activities in which the Habitat Program engages, it is difficult to determine a strict dollar appropriated per acre restored value that would allow for consistently reliable and scaleable target setting. A rolling average of past accomplishments is used to determine the target.

### **3.1.6 Criteria for identification of the PPAs and capabilities that support the measures.**

The majority of funds that support this performance measure derive from the lines in the Conference Reports for annual appropriations for the NOAA Fisheries budget under the heading “Habitat Conservation and Management” and, specifically, “Fisheries Habitat Restoration.” Over the years, other directed appropriations under “Habitat Conservation and Restoration,” such as the directed appropriations for oyster restoration and for Bronx River are also included as contributors to the acres restored measure. There are two other major sources of program funding, the CWPPRA and DARRP programs that are not through appropriations to the NOAA budget. For DARRP, funds from natural resource damage assessment settlements are utilized to accomplish restoration. In addition, DARRP restoration is dependent on base funds used to support case settlements in the lines “Response and Restoration Base” under the NOS line “Response and Restoration.” Additionally, for CWPPRA, funds are transferred from the Army Corps of Engineers for large-scale restoration projects in Louisiana that are managed by Fisheries staff.

### **3.1.7 How the measure is affected by changes in funding levels and how targets corresponding to different funding scenarios are determined.**

Since the number of acres restored generally correlates with funding, an increase in funding for programs that contribute to this measure will likely result in an increase in the target number of number of acres restored, and decreases in funding will result in lower targets. However, the time lag between appropriations and the completion of restoration activities means there is a lag effect in the relationship between funding and acres restored. For example, projects funded through FY 2003 appropriations may not result in completion until FY 2006 or later; so a change in funding levels may not affect the yearly acres restored for several years. The Program does not generally engage in determining various targets based on different funding scenarios; instead, revisions to targets are considered if changes in funding lead to a significant increase or decrease in potential acreage accomplishments. In FY07, there was an increase in the target due to funding for Great Lakes Initiative and possible contribution to acreage through the Open Rivers Initiative. The DARRP program has also been impacted by base funding cuts in the line “Response and Restoration Base” under the NOS line “Response and Restoration”, which funds a portion of the NOAA staff participation in the entire process from injury determination and case settlement to restoration action. This reduction has decreased the programmatic output of acreages attributable to the DARRP. (The DARRP process starts with NOAA’s involvement in the remediation, injury determination, and case settlement aspects, which lead to restoration activities, so without funding for the initial DARRP activities, there will be no DARRP restoration.)

### **3.1.8 Additional contingencies that could potentially impact the result in unanticipated ways.**

Certain Habitat Program initiatives may decrease the potential for large acreage projects given the higher relative costs of restoring in urban/suburban versus rural areas, thereby reducing the overall output of the Program. Additionally, unforeseen factors that can have unanticipated effects, such as weather issues, permitting delays, and/or public concerns, may delay projects.

### **3.1.9 Approval structure.**

Project data is entered by regional staff. Headquarters staff use project data to compile spreadsheets of cumulative acres restored; the spreadsheets include other project details such as project name, state, and program. As part of the QA/QC process, the spreadsheets are reviewed by program leads before final totals are submitted to the Habitat Matrix Program Coordinator. In addition, at the end of the fiscal year, at least one verification meeting is held with regional team leads and headquarters program leads to review and confirm the data.

### **3.1.10 Timing of when updates are available and the periodicity of available reporting mechanisms.**

This performance measure, number of acres restored, is tracked and reported on quarterly by the Habitat Program.

### **3.2 Number of stream miles made accessible for ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources**

#### **3.2.1 Definitions.**

*Stream miles* – Following project activities, the linear extent of rivers and streams that are now accessible for diadromous and migratory fish passage.

*Accessible* – Fish passage is now possible across hydrological barriers such as dams, water control structures, culverts, impoundments, etc.

*Diadromous fish* – *Species that use both marine and freshwater habitats during their life cycle. Species can be **anadromous**, living primarily at sea but migrating up rivers to spawn, or **catadromous**, living primarily in lakes, ponds and rivers but migrating out to sea to spawn.*

#### **3.2.2 Criteria to determine progress in meeting the performance target.**

The number of stream miles made accessible for ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources is entered on a project by project basis throughout the year; the Habitat Program reports quarterly cumulative totals to NOAA.

#### **3.2.3 Specific counting methodology, algorithm, or other formula used to generate the numbers.**

This performance measure tracks stream miles made accessible (through implemented projects, prescriptions, or consultations) for diadromous and migratory fish passage across hydrological barriers such as dams, water control structures, culverts, impoundments, etc. These stream and river miles are counted when fish access is physically restored by barrier removal or installation/improvement of fish passage structures such as fish ladders. Newly opened miles include those upstream of the barrier and extend to the next upstream barrier, or, in the absence of additional upstream barriers, to the limit of the species' historical range. Miles counted include the mainstem of the waterway, and where appropriate, tributary miles. This measure includes stream miles opened as a result of Community-based Restoration Program projects, mandatory fish passage prescriptions or settlements issued by regional NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation staff through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) review process, the Essential Fish Habitat consultation process, or the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP).

#### **3.2.4 Reporting source.**

The Restoration Center Database (RCDB) is the official database of record for this measure.

#### **3.2.5 Methodology and process for setting the targets and the level of detail behind the targets.**

As with acres restored, a rolling average of past accomplishments is used to determine the target for stream miles opened. For the Hydropower Program, predicting and tracking when stream miles are actually opened as a result of a prescription is extremely difficult, as a settlement or phased-in approach may not actually call for full passage for 10-20 years or more. Hydropower Program targets are based on Regional queries of miles expected to be physically opened in the upcoming fiscal year.

### **3.2.6 Criteria for identification of the PPAs and capabilities that support the measure.**

As with the acreage measure, the majority of funds that support this performance measure derive from the lines in the Conference Reports for annual appropriations for the NOAA Fisheries budget under the heading “Habitat Conservation and Management” and, specifically, “Fisheries Habitat Restoration.” The conference language may also include references to the Open Rivers Initiative that may specifically target amounts to be included for fish passage activities. A portion of funds from the line “Sustainable Habitat Management” covers all of the money to fund Fisheries staff support of the Hydropower Program. For DARRP, natural resource damage assessment settlements contribute to a pool of funds utilized to accomplish restoration on case-specific projects. DARRP restoration is dependent on base funds used to support injury assessment and case settlements in the line “Response and Restoration Base” under the NOS line “Response and Restoration.”

### **3.2.7 How the measure is affected by changes in funding levels and how targets corresponding to different funding scenarios are determined.**

In regards to targets for this measure, the same conditions exist for “stream miles opened” as for “acres restored”, so please refer to 3.1.g for more detail. Specifically for the stream miles opened measure, there are a couple of additional factors related to funding. In FY07, there was an increase in the stream miles opened target for the Restoration Center due to funding through Open Rivers Initiative. For the Hydropower Program, the ability to issue fishway prescriptions, and thus open miles, is greatly dependent on how much funding is received through the OHC line “Sustainable Habitat Management”. With the new extensive requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, if the program does not have enough funding to defend the prescriptions it issues, they will not be able to be issued, thereby reducing the number of stream miles opened through this process in future years. For FY08, the President’s budget and the House and Senate marks have allocated \$2.8M towards the implementation of the Energy Policy Act. If Habitat Conservation receives these funds in FY08, we will begin the process of hiring staff to increase hydropower workload capacity. The initial FY08 targets for stream miles will not consider this new funding level. Future fiscal year targets will reflect the increased program capacity.

The DARRP program has also been impacted by base funding cuts in the line “Response and Restoration Base” under the NOS line “Response and Restoration”, which funds a portion of the NOAA staff participation in the entire process from injury determination and case settlement to restoration action. This reduction has decreased the programmatic output of stream miles attributable to the DARRP.

### **3.2.8 Additional contingencies that could potentially impact the result in unanticipated ways.**

Changes in baseline funding to contributing programs will impact this performance measure. Please refer to 3.1.h for descriptions of how this measure can be affected by additional contingencies. Additionally, there is inherent uncertainty in the number of miles the NMFS Hydropower Program will be able to open in a given year, because NOAA can only act on the FERC licenses that come up for relicensing in a given time period. FERC often grants extensions to licensees or makes other changes in the relicensing timeline, which affect the timing of NMFS’ prescriptions for fish passage. Despite the uncertainty, the potential contributions of the FERC Hydropower Program to the stream miles measure can be quite substantial. For example, in

FY06, only two fishway prescriptions were issued by Fisheries, but each of these prescriptions when enacted will open more than 300 miles of waterways to fish passage.

### **3.2.9 Approval structure.**

For Restoration Center reporting, including the Community-based Restoration Program and DARRP, project data are entered by regional staff. Headquarters staff use project data to compile spreadsheets of cumulative stream miles opened; the spreadsheets include other project details such as project name, state, and program. As part of the QA/QC process, the spreadsheets are reviewed by program leads before final totals are submitted to the Habitat Matrix Program Coordinator. In addition, at the end of the fiscal year, at least one verification meeting is held with regional team leads and headquarters program leads to review and confirm the data.

For NMFS Hydropower Program reporting, the National Hydropower Coordinator will work with Regional Hydro Coordinators and Habitat ARAs to collect project information on stream mile contributions. The National Hydro Coordinator will enter that data into a spreadsheet that will be used to compile program-wide numbers. Once the project information is collected from all Regions, the National Hydro Coordinator will work with RC staff to enter the project data into the RCDB, the official database of record for this measure.

### **3.2.10 Timing of when updates are available and the periodicity of available reporting mechanisms.**

Project data contributing to this measure are entered throughout the year, and a cumulative total is reported quarterly through the Habitat Program.