

To: Timber Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee Members

From: Meghan Tuttle and Marc Engel, TFW Policy Co-Chairs

7/28/2021

RE: TFW Policy SAO Audit Recommendation Actions

The TFW Policy Committee has been directed by the Board to develop recommendations for action to address two of the SAO recommendations for improvements of the Adaptive Management Program (SAO Recommendations 5,6). The assigned work to Policy is to focus on development of two actions meant to improve the decision making process: decision criteria for determining actions; and, a net gains model for project planning. Below is a summary of the SAO recommendation and further AMPA recommendation from the FPB 2021 May meeting to begin our policy deliberation related to the audit recommendations.

SAO Recommendation 6

Adopt decision criteria for determining actions that will occur depending on project results before those results have been found, such as the ones promoted in Adaptive Management: The U.S. Department of the Interior Technical Guide.

DNR AMPA Recommendation on SAO Recommendation 6:

The AMPA should work with the TFW Policy and CMER committee co-chairs and their respective committees to develop recommendations to for the Board. This process will need to consider the range of environmental parameters examined, their relationship to established performance targets, the spatial and temporal validation needed for the results, as well as the level of effect considered actionable.

DNR AMPA Deliverable to FPB on SAO Recommendation 6:

- Timeline: The AMPA will bring the Board an options paper describing the different ways that decision criteria could be made a part of the AMP process by November 2022.
- Budget: Internal resources should be used to develop the options paper. Consideration should be given to obtaining outside technical and facilitation assistance only if the process reaches an impasse.

SAO Recommendation 5

Implement a “net gains” approach to each proposal, project, and decision that benefits more than one caucus by considering packages of projects instead of individual projects.

DNR AMPA Recommendation on SAO Recommendation 5:

- TFW Policy committee should be tasked to examine how the goals of this recommendation can be implemented in the AMP, and whether recommendations to the Board might in some circumstances involve “bundling” the results of multiple research projects to accomplish the spirit of this recommendation.

- The TFW Policy committee should identify what changes, if any, may be needed to RCW, WAC, and Board Manual to support a “net gains” process.

DNR AMPA Deliverable to FPB on SAO Recommendation 5

- Timeline: TFW Policy should provide the Board with recommendations for transitioning to a net gains approach by May 2022.
- Budget: Internal resources should be used to develop the options paper. Consideration should be given to obtaining outside technical and facilitation assistance only if the process reaches an impasse.

Policy Timeline:

August 2021 Begin deliberations and set timeline on policy response to SAO audit recommendations

May 2022 AMPA presentation of Policy recommendations to FPB on SAO Recommendation 5

November 2021 AMPA presentation of options paper to FPB including Policy recommended on SAO Recommendation 6

Attachment: FPB SAO Response Plan (05/05/21)

Link: SAO Audit https://sao.wa.gov/performance_audit/adaptive-management-program-improving-decision-making-and-accountability/