

Presentation at the Second Plenary Meeting
of the Advisory Committee on Acoustic
Impacts on Marine Mammals
28-30 April 2004
Arlington, Virginia

This presentation is the sole product of the author(s) and does not reflect the view of the Marine Mammal Commission or the Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals.

Subcommittee on Assessment/Synthesis of Current Knowledge

- Who are we?

- Jack Caldwell
- Gerald D'Spain
- Roger Gentry
- Bob Gisiner
- John Hildebrand
- Rodger Melton
- Jim Kendall
- Jim Miller
- Paul Nachtigall
- Naomi Rose
- Peter Tyack
- David Cottingham

- Our Task:

1. To review and evaluate current knowledge on the impacts of anthropogenic sound on marine mammals, marine mammal populations, and other components of the marine environment
2. Identify areas of general scientific agreement and areas of uncertainty or disagreement related to such impacts

Subcommittee Activities

Conference Call (February 26)

- Clarified charge
- TASK: Given a list of topics (drawn from NRC reports), each member to identify what is known/agreed, what is uncertain, where there is disagreement and submit

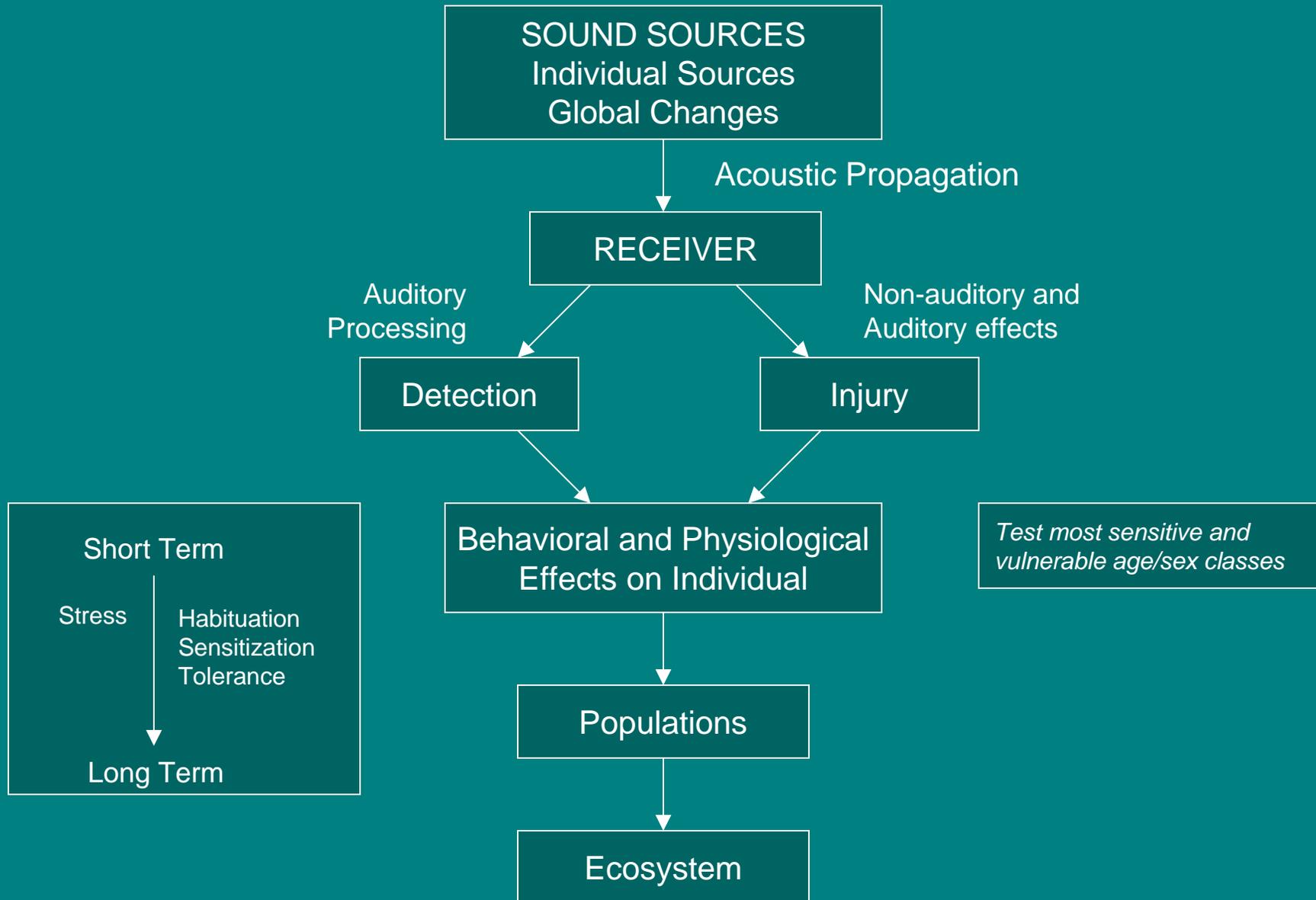
Meeting (April 1)

- Clarified vision for product
- Revisited framework of topics
- Review of members' input on one topic (Auditory Trauma) and developed 1st joint draft

Proposed Vision for Product

- The goal of the product should be to serve as a tutorial document, **NOT a comprehensive scientific product**
- Target audience of Congress and staff, managers and decision makers (also useful and informative to judges, interest groups and other interested and involved parties)
- Identifies what topics and information need to be considered (and why)
- Translates existing information into a form that is accessible, useful and informative
- Makes summary statements regarding current knowledge: what is agreed to be known, what is uncertain, where there is disagreement, and why these are significant

Preliminary Framework of Topics



Products to Date

1. Summary of April 1 Meeting

2. Working Draft of 1st topic: Auditory Impacts

(A WORK IN PROGRESS)

- Reflects subcommittee's effort to articulate summary statements of agreement on what is known, what is uncertain, and where there is disagreement
- Still needs explanatory language to illustrate significance to decision makers

NEXT STEPS & ISSUES

1. Seeking green light from full Committee to move forward with vision as described
2. Working to clarify scope and focus of ecosystem impacts for purposes of this effort
3. Meeting June 3rd
 - Will meet briefly today after Full Ctte adjourns to plan activities between now and June 3rd
4. Concerns re: timing for getting a full draft product to Full Ctte by July