

Subcommittee on Synthesis of Existing Knowledge

Update on Progress
and Proposal for Ongoing Activity

1 December 2004

Review of Subcommittee's Task

Charge to Subcommittee on Synthesis of Current Knowledge, as discussed and agreed February 5, 2004 by full Advisory Committee:

Subcommittee's task is to address items 1 and 2 in Committee's FACA Charter, as follows:

- 1) review and evaluate available information on the impacts of human-generated 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.

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,
- 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

Progress Report

- **Met twice (September and October)**
- **Worked to review and respond to all comments from Advisory Committee members and revise draft as appropriate**
- **Agreed on need for significant revisions for scientific accuracy; scrubbing for policy/mgt language, and interest-based spin**

Progress Report (cont'd)

- Developing “section” on Strandings and Beaked Whales (per Adv. Ctte. Request)
- Continuing to review and revise for scientific accuracy (references and weak areas)
- Document not at consensus level of quality for distribution at for this meeting

Proposed Next Steps on Draft Report

1. Need more time to bring document to point where we can agree to present it to the Advisory Committee
2. 3-day Subcommittee meeting to complete current round of Subctte comments and revisions - January 18-20 (tentative)
3. Send out for peer review (proposed reviewers: D. Wartzok, R. Reeves, J. Richardson, S.Moore) - late January – late February
4. Receive reviewer comments - late February
5. Subcommittee meeting to review comments and finalize draft - March 1-3 (tentative)
6. Send to full Committee - mid-March
7. Full Committee discussion in plenary - April

List of Research Recommendations

- Per request of Advisory Committee in July, Compiled list of research recommendations (prepared by Commission Staff) from sources identified by Advisory Committee and Subcommittee members
- Roughly organized by Table of Contents of Subcommittee Report

List of Research Recommendations

- List includes some non-research recommendations (policy/action steps)
- Widely varying levels of specificity/detail