Ira Carl | Dave W, Bruce C, Chet M, Catherine F | Dave D | Phil Matt | Claris B. (by phone) | Stephen P

11/18/10 NBH Winter Flounder mtg

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SDMS DocID 517950

Matt - hands out 1 pager - general & specific comments on the winter flounder mit. proposal

Phil - looked at OU3 - idea of improving area for spawning by capping. We said we'd viewed as enhancement rather than creation. We suggested looking for areas of deeper water that'd be shallowed

Turns to Chet's Cys of 11/10 -

depth ranges - Phil recommends finding areas 20' deep or more, build up to 16' coincides w/ white area on the map looking at OU3 first (the capped area where they proposed) - pretty shallow out to the nav. channel; probably not much more than acre or 2

White area north of Hurr barrier - understands a lot of that wd be affected by cleanup, navigation, etc. But he doesn't know enough details to know if all of it wd be off the table

other white areas in outer harbor - less preferred for Phil

currents can affect some room for going up a bit spawning - currents at bottom of no greater than .6 knots wdn't sweep the eggs away

currents that drive the larvae afterwards - area A (on map) - right depth, but concern about currents & possibility of washing away the larvae. His recollection is net current direction goes out SW into deeper water of Buzz. Bay, making that area not preferred habitat

going to other water bodies wd be even less preferred

Optimal wd be to have restricted area for greater retention of larvae. If not optimal situation, then ideally wd look for net currents moving shoreward. The young of year have to be in very shallow water equivalent to spawning depth up to intertidal shallow areas

Salinity is the other factor. Clark's Cove is more saline than Acushnet River. Fish going to Acushnet R ~~wd~~ won't go to Clark's Cove ~ 90% natal return rate

Salinity of 15-25.

Enhancement/Restoration - general starting point of 3:1, cd vary depending on ~~spec~~ specifics of given location
Variables - degree to which spawning is currently occurring
Basically reflects the gap bet present conditions & desired conditions

Phil found study that looked at impact of PAHs on WF embryo dev from N. Cape oil spill - high PAHs → 51% reduction in # survivability of embryos

Ken - proposal includes pre construction survey of existing OYS - asks if ratio cd be established based on what's found
Jan/Feb is the spawning season - may extend into March
Phil, Matt - reinforce suggestion of exploring a combination of things b/c seems unlikely that single element is going to suffice

Chet hands out map. They looked at -15 rather than -20 Northern area - a portion in the white; may be protected from SW currents. Near a light house so a bit more protected Might be as large as 13 acres
Shellfish guy doesn't like the northern area - but they think he'd be less concerned about the smaller deeper area (the overlap)

Dave U - blob to south of point near outfall - may be some PCBs in that area - ~~maybe~~
Phil - don't want to draw in flounder to spawn near sewage outfall Also currents may be too fast
Clowes Cove - Phil concerned diff water body & salinity may be too high
Idea of the other white knobs north of the hockey stick
Chris asks about whether the areas to be filled are contaminated w/ PCBs - wd be better b/c then the existing habitats aren't as crable & capping wd improve benthic habitat

Can w/ design affect the currents; shallow bowl, windrows, etc.

2d order of preference -
removal of tidal restrictions with fill removal - if fill removal isn't involved, not much benefit for WF
Chet asks ~~of~~ about removal of a restriction that wd give access to habitat that currently is blocked
Mentions a possible one in Falmouth

Phil - conceptually, creating marine system from fresh wd have to be considered case by case
Wd give more credit for greater fill removal to create shallow subtidal areas (or access to shallow water not currently accessible; but not access to salt marsh stream)

Chris - habitat creation is the primary target -
~~Even~~ Either thru creation we just discussed or fill removal

One concept - state purchase upland in prox. to site, then remove the upland/fill to create shallow subtidal + preserve it in perpetuity

Chet - after last mtg he looked down the coastline to find abandoned land - didn't have a lot of success in immediate NB area Didn't look at properties for sale (w/ residences or commercial usage occurring) - felt wd be very difficult to take

Dave mentions "no mans" land bet 95 + Coggshall Bridge.
Chet - they looked at it. It's not upland, it's salt marsh
Also very small ~ 1/4 acre. And lots of issues

Permitting - (for restoration proposals)
3, 4, 5 likely to be on site
Not sure if separate Corps permit wd be needed for mit. "off site"

3d order
Mooring program - suggested criteria
Chris identified that some people pull their moorings

in winter. We want to focus on moorings that get life in place in winter. This effort primarily benefits other life stages, not spawning

Phil - water depth or size of vessel play into impact 3 & 4 are both less cost effective than 1 & 2

Ken - they hear the message that creation is strong pref. But they may want to seek some credit for DMS enhancement they've already put on table

Matt - they can keep it in the mix but the issue is how much credit

Evidence of PCB contamination + adverse effects on spawning in the area would help the argument

Metals wd also be worth looking at

Dave D - there's data pre-90's for this area - Dave will get the data to Phil + staff to look at

Ken asks the Q re whether we're viewing the ST fill/dredge area as pristine?

Matt - we haven't seen data that tells us the quality of the habitat shd be discounted. We're awaiting data

Phil - puts more value on the biology rather than the chemistry. The biological data shows that there's pretty robust habitat

Chris reminds everyone of the overall concern here about the status of the stock - 9% of the sustainable levels!

Roseate tern (intertidal) was originally 11 acres - went down to 3 acres in order to expand the subtidal habitat. Still a 2:1 ratio for intertidal

Not clear yet whether CAD cell is needed to make this all work

~ 2 weeks for State to get us another pass at this
Meeting Dec 2 in morning @ 10