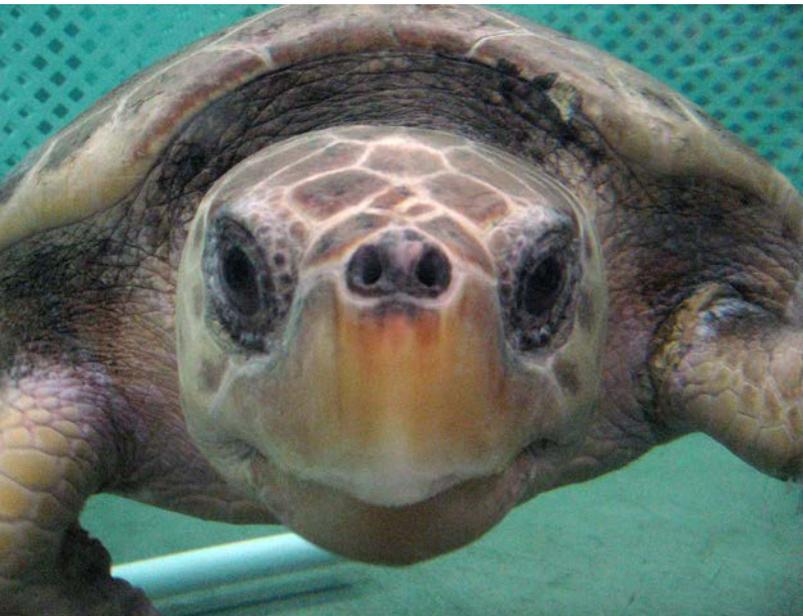


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MAFAC Recovery Actions Retrospective Analysis & National Recovery Program Review



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MAFAC November 1, 2016

MAFAC Recovery Actions Retrospective Analysis: February 3, 2016

Purpose:

- Examine recovery actions by status category (e.g., complete, ongoing) to identify characteristics that may increase the likelihood of recovery action success and help inform development of future recovery actions.

Outcome:

- Observations and recommendations on characteristics that predict successful recovery actions and recovery progress.

NMFS Recovery Program Review: April 19-22, 2016, Silver Spring, MD

Purpose:

- Evaluate, within the context of current budget constraints, the efficacy of recovery planning process, including quality of the recovery plans, implementation of recovery actions, and monitoring of recovery progress.
- Determine if current recovery planning process results in recovery plans that are effective roadmaps for recovering species as evidenced by whether plans are being implemented by NMFS and stakeholders, resulting in progress towards meeting the criteria so that the species may be delisted

Outcome:

- Recommendations to improve recovery plans and recovery planning and implementation process to increase the likelihood of recovering species

MAFAC & Recovery Program Review Findings & Subsequent Actions:

Linking Recovery Actions to Recovery Criteria. MAFAC and the Program Review found that not all recovery actions are linked to recovery criteria.

- **Action:** *We will implement many of the recommendations through the revision to the 2004 Interim Guidance. Those recommendations include, among other things, threats assessment analyses, specifically linking recovery actions to criteria, clear objectives and de-listing factors, and addressing climate change impacts.*

Recovery Teams. MAFAC found that structurally, creating a stable, well-functioning recovery team may be a stronger predictor of success than the characteristics of any particular recovery action. The Program Review recommended NMFS evaluate recovery teams across the various recovery planning efforts to determine those cross-cutting factors that facilitate an effective recovery planning and implementation process.

- **Action:** *We are addressing this through revisions to Interim Guidance, considering alternatives to the traditional approach to using recovery teams*

MAFAC & Recovery Program Review Findings & Subsequent Actions:

Monitoring and Evaluation—Adaptive Management. MAFAC found that periodic reviews of recovery actions are vital to success. Adaptive management approaches can help overcome many of the challenges to implementing successful recovery actions. The Program Review recommended that monitoring efforts should be enhanced, including an explicit analysis of the effect of management/mitigation actions on the focal species. The results of these monitoring efforts should be used as an adaptive management approach to guide ongoing recovery planning and management decisions.

- **Action:** *The Agency identified a working group consisting of staff from Headquarters, Regions, and Centers in June 2016 and tasked it with developing new ways to measure progress towards recovery, including interim benchmarks.*

MAFAC & Recovery Program Review Findings & Subsequent Actions:

Partnerships and Resources. MAFAC and the Program Review found that partnerships are essential to completion of recovery actions and species' recovery.

- *Action: We are exploring establishing a team of in-house recovery experts to assist recovery coordinators in managing the recovery process, especially related to recovery teams and building and maintaining partnerships. We are also integrating ESA section 6 coordinators (who manage state recovery grants) with recovery coordinators.*

Jurisdiction. MAFAC and the Program review found that where protected species range across government boundaries, recovery actions often are stalled by jurisdictional issues including conflicts among federal agencies, lack of cooperation between federal, state and tribal agencies, and disagreements among state entities. Cooperation across international boundaries can be particularly difficult.

- *Action: We are addressing this through revisions to the Interim Guidance to expand the guidance on transboundary and international species, integrating recovery and regulatory implementation, and improved integration of with other NOAA programs.*

Priority Action Items & Timelines

Action Item	Timeline
Revise the 1990 Guidelines to Prioritize Recovery Plan and Implementation: A working group consisting of Headquarters, Region, and Center staff was established in June 2016 to revise the guidelines.	December 2016
Issue agency guidance on determining which species would not benefit from a recovery plan.	December 2016
Revise the 2004 Interim Guidance in coordination with FWS. NOAA Fisheries will implement many of the panelists' recommendations through the revision to the Interim Guidance. Those recommendations include, among other things, alternatives to the traditional approach to using recovery teams, alternatives to the traditional approach of recovery planning, threats assessment analyses, specifically link recovery actions to criteria, objectives and de-listing factors.	September 2016-2017

Priority Action Items & Timelines

Action Item	Timeline
Develop new ways to measure progress towards recovery, including interim benchmarks. A working group consisting of Headquarters, Region, and Center staff was established in June 2016 and is tasked with defining terms for population status for the Government Performance Results Act as well as developing a way to measure recovery progress.	2017
Seek staff and funding support for a team of in-house recovery planning & implementation experts to assist recovery coordinators in managing the recovery process, especially related to recovery teams and building and maintaining partnerships.	2017
Adopt streamlined recovery processes. For example, consider web-based technologies for 'living' dynamic recovery plans.	2017-2018

Priority Action Items & Timelines

Action Item	Timeline
Develop training curriculum tailored to NOAA.	2017-2018
Integrate recovery with other NOAA Programs and ESA sections: OPR Section 7(a)(1) working group; Species in the Spotlight outreach to NOAA programs and external partners; West Coast Region Guidance for Integrating Recovery and Regulatory Work	Ongoing
Maximize the integration with the ESA Section 6 Species Recovery Grants by increasing collaborations between section 6 and recovery coordinators. Work with states to identify targeted sets of annual funding priorities.	Ongoing
Partner with academics, scientific societies, and other species experts to assist in the research and analysis necessary to produce effective recovery plans. Work continues to build partnerships with States, Tribal governments, private conservation organizations, academia.	Ongoing