

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Workgroup

All Hands Summer Meeting

ECU Greenville Center

September 13, 2006

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Joan Giordano	APNEP
Bill Crowell	APNEP
Dean Carpenter	APNEP
Rob Breeding	NC EEP
David Knowles	ECU
Joseph Luczkovich	ECU
Stephanie Kudyba	ECSU
Liz Noble	ECSU
Tancred Miller	DCM
Scott Chappell	DMF
Anne Deaton	DMF
Mike Street	DMF
Brian Conrad	DMF
Don Field	NOAA
Steve Mitchell	NC DOT
Jacquie Ott	NC NERR
Dave Eggleston	NCSU
Jeff DeBlieu	TNC
Kevin Dockendorf	WRC

Dean Carpenter called the meeting to order at 1:10pm, welcomed those present, and asked for self-introductions around the table. He then requested approval of the notes from the spring (June 7) meeting that were accepted by consensus without change.

With respect to the proposed agenda, Dr. Carpenter mentioned that Jud Kenworthy (NOAA) was unable to be present, and also requested approval to move

the "Goals and Strategies" report-out section to the end of the agenda. There was no objection.

In updating the group on the status of the MOU, Dr. Carpenter reported that he was in possession of 23 of the 25 signatures being sought. He mentioned that UNC-CH and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore signatures were imminent, and he was hoping for UNC-W's acquiescence soon.

Mapping/Monitoring Discussion

APNEP Monitoring Support for '07: Dr. Carpenter reported that the APNEP Policy Board approved reprogramming of \$160K of FY'07 program funds to be allocated to SAV flight efforts.

NOAA Mapping Project Update: Don Field reported that photography for flying the entire APNEP-region coastline would cost about \$180K. He outlined monetary contributions from various sources (USFWS, DENR, WRC, DMF) and specified that for saline species of SAV, spring '07 flights would be ideal, as would be autumn '07 flights for freshwater species. He added that fieldwork in support of imaging is underway. Discussion ensued.

NC-DMF Benthic Mapping Project: Mike Street reported SAV bottom mapping is part of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP). Of the four main CHPP goals, he referenced goal #2 "Identify, Designate and Protect Strategic Habitat Areas" that features a recommendation (2.1) to "evaluate potential Strategic Habitat Areas (SHAs) by: a) coordinating, completing, and maintaining baseline habitat mapping (including seagrass, shellbottom and other bottom types) using the most appropriate technology; b) selective monitoring of the status of those habitats; and c) assessing effects of land use and human activities on those habitats.

Discussion ensued with consensus recognition that all parties involved in SAV mapping should develop a protocol and should be engaging in like methodologies, reporting methods, data collection, etc. It was also pointed out those specific definitions for SAV, SRV, etc. should be consistent among partners.

Anne Deaton and Scott Chappell agreed to form a committee to develop a protocol for ground-truthing. Dave Eggleston recommended development of a draft protocol that would be sent out for comment. Ms. Deaton voiced her preference

for the use of NOAA's protocol, to which Don Fields commented that the protocols should be brought together at a sit-down meeting during which a plan would be devised. Those agreeing to be part of a working group to accomplish this include: Anne Deaton, Scott Chappell, Jeff DeBlieu, Don Field, Dean Carpenter, Jacque Ott, Joe Luczkovich, Brian Conrad, Don Eggleston, Liz Noble, Stephanie Kudyba, and Steve Mitchell. It was suggested that Mark Finkbeiner (NOAA) be invited to join the committee, and Dr. Carpenter mentioned the need for policy level people to be involved in the work group, as well.

ECSU Mapping Project Update: Before turning over the project status report to Stephanie Kudyba, Liz Noble mentioned ECSU was interviewing candidates for a new marine science faculty position. She also extended greetings from Dr. San Juan and relayed his support for having ECSU remain involved in the SAV working group.

Ms. Kudyba shared aerial photos of the northern shore of Albemarle Sound, the Yeopim River and Drummond Point, the Chowan, Pasquotank, and Roanoke Rivers, and SAV mapping from October and November 2002 of the Yeopim River and Drummond Point. She also included maps of ECSU water clarity sampling stations at Edenton Bay, the Chowan River, Salmon Creek Bay, and the Pasquotank and North Rivers, while updating the group on ECSU's progress to date.

Assessment Discussion

Historical Accounts Ad-Hoc Committee Report: Kevin Dockendorf and Scott Chappell presented a poster conglomerate of individual maps covering the years 1981 - 2006 that showed the extent of mapping/ monitoring done by various researchers and programs. It was noted that all data were available in a database.

Restoration Discussion

Restoration Ad-Hoc Committee Report: David Knowles distributed a handout (Executive Summary) of Fonesca, Kenworthy and Thayer's 1998 work entitled: *Guidelines for the Conservation and Restoration of Seagrasses in the United States and Adjacent Waters. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Beaufort, NC 222 pp.* Discussion ensued with the questions of what are the research needs for lower salinity waters, what relationship exists between light availability with

total suspended solids, turbidity, etc.? It was mentioned that the research needs are arrayed in the CHPP and can be found on the CHPP website:

<http://www.ncfisheries.net/habitat/chpp2.html>

In other "restoration" news, Liz Noble remarked that the Currituck Sound Study group would be meeting on ECSU campus (Dixon Hall) on October 25-26.

Policy/Outreach Discussion

Outreach Ad-Hoc Committee Report: This group has not organized yet.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.