

Analysis of Critical Elements for Implementation of Requirements of the Biological Opinions

What It Is

- Identification of critical Biological Opinion needs, particularly with regard to baseline condition, and 3- and 5-year check-ins of the NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion and requirements of the USFWS Biological Opinion
- Identification of projects associated with critical needs based on broad review
- Estimated cost based on BPA's FY03 accrual estimate, subject to revision from ongoing review with project sponsors

What It Is Not

- Detailed project review to identify only those tasks that address critical needs
- Reflection of current efforts to resolve RPA and baseline designations between BPA and NOAA Fisheries
- Identification of all projects necessary to meet other obligations (e.g., non-listed anadromous and resident fishes and wildlife)

Issues Identified during Development

- Broad objectives/strategies under the Council Program cover specific requirements under the Biological Opinions, thereby defining a major component of an integrated program.
 - Projects that were largely established under the Program satisfy many requirements under the Biological Opinions
 - Projects provide benefit beyond those identified as critical for listed species
 - There is potential for conflicting objectives between recovery planning under ESA and Subbasin Plans

Total Cost Estimate

The total estimate for projects associated with critical needs under the NOAA Fisheries and USFWS Biological Opinion's is approximately \$120 million. This is an **overestimate** because some projects that were identified also include objectives/tasks that are not necessary to address critical needs.

- This product is a best estimate given:
 - Limited quantifiable information on project deliverables
 - BPA review without the benefit of discussions among regional parties on needs, interpretations of requirements, project objectives/tasks, and project deliverables
 - Accuracy of accrual estimates, subject to revisions based on review by project sponsors