

Central Flyway Discussion on IIC Work Plan – prepared by Jim Gammonley

The Central Flyway Waterfowl Technical Committee met during July 22-26, and the Central Flyway Council met during July 24-26. The IIC work plan PowerPoint was presented and discussed in some detail at the Technical Committee meeting, and a shorter presentation and discussion was held at the Council meeting. Below are some summary points and notes:

- The Central Flyway is generally supportive of efforts to revisit the Plan and improve communication among various Plan partners.
- The exact role of the IIC is not entirely clear to the Central Flyway, but there is a recognition that efforts need to be made to coordinate and integrate Plan-related work being done in the Flyways, JVs, and various work groups. There also seemed to be some comfort level in that many IIC work plan items were already identified or related to work items identified in the HMWG, NSST, and HDWG, and the IIC seems to be focused on helping get these things done in the most effective sequence with meaningful involvement across the individual groups.
- The Central Flyway wants to be involved in the development of specific, measurable objectives for waterfowl populations, habitats, and people. There was extensive discussion about how the double-looping process for midcontinent mallards is an opportunity to explore how to consider and bring together these three areas. At the same time there was some concern that updating midcontinent mallard harvest management could grow into an over-arching policy and technical assignment that would take considerable time to make meaningful progress on.
- The “straw-man” objectives and measurable attributes that the IIC produced were helpful in that they caught the attention of the flyway representatives, but they also immediately caused concern and interest in discussing the details, although there was not sufficient time to do this. In particular, the draft population objectives were met with skepticism (as might be expected).
- The Central Flyway Waterfowl Technical Committee plans to make review and input on NAWMP objectives (populations, habitat, and people) a primary focus of its working meeting in December, so that feedback can be reviewed and addressed by the Council in March, and forwarded to the IIC. If other IIC members are available they might consider participating in this working meeting (location in Texas to be decided, likely during week of Dec 9-13 or possibly Dec 16-20. The technical committee will try to have some Council involvement (possibly one or two Council contacts) in this effort.
- The flyway did not identify its representatives to the NAWMP Objectives Task Group, but will be addressing this over the coming months.

As a side note, The Central Flyway’s representative on the Plan Committee, Tony Leif, stated that he will not be able to attend the August Plan Committee meeting.