



North American Waterfowl Management Plan Revision:

Orientation to the NAMWP Revision and this Workshop or How Did We Get Here?



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2005 Start: Joint Task Group

MEMORANDUM

TO: MIKE ANDERSON, JOHN EADIE, JEFF HERBERT, MIN HUANG, DALE HUMBURG, FRED JOHNSON, MARK KONEFF, JIM LEAFLOOR, SETH MOTT, THOMAS NUDDS, ERIC REED, JIM RINGELMAN, MICHAEL RUNGE, BARRY WILSON

FROM: DAVID A. SMITH- NAWMP COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR
FOR
STEVE WENDT - NAWMP COMMITTEE Co-CHAIR
DON CHILDRESS - IAFWA AHM TASK FORCE

SUBJECT: APPOINTING A JOINT TASK GROUP (JTG) FOR CLARIFYING NAWMP POPULATION OBJECTIVES AND THEIR USE IN HARVEST MANAGEMENT

DATE: JUNE 14 2005



Joint Task Group Recommendations (March 2007)

- Harvest managers should adopt a shoulder strategy for Northern Pintails and Mid-Continent Mallards.
- NAWMP should adopt the same shoulder strategy to ensure coherence
- Focus more science on reducing key uncertainties
- Enhance the technical capacity of the Adaptive Harvest Management Working Group and the NAWMP Science Support Team
- Convene a human dimensions working group to assess stakeholder values and develop an approach for more explicitly incorporating these values into management decisions.
- Convene a waterfowl management policy summit



Future of Waterfowl Management Workshop – “the Waterfowl Summit” (August 2008)

- An inordinate amount of time is spent on annual regulation setting.
- Monitoring and evaluation require more attention.
- Monitoring, evaluation and management science
- Resources dedicated to habitat conservation should be re-allocated among important waterfowl landscapes.
- Attention to waterfowl and wetlands has declined
- Managers are not well-positioned to achieve a net gain in wetland habitat.



Messages from the Waterfowl Summit

Achieved Low Success in:

- Goals for harvest and habitat management that are complementary and coherent.
- Understanding and incorporating hunter expectations and satisfaction.
- Simplifying waterfowl regulations.
- Clear process for setting and revising population goals.
- Rallying support of non-hunters.



Messages from the Waterfowl Summit cont'd

Conclusions:

- A group or venue be created to continue the work of the Human Dimensions Working Group. (94% agreed or strongly agreed).
- The NAWMP update should be used to develop more coherent goals for waterfowl harvest and habitat management. (88% agreed or strongly agreed).



Waterfowl Summit - Canadian Context

- Currently our regulatory and hunter issues are stable
- Canada provides the majority of breeding habitat for North American waterfowl
- Canadian harvest is likely not the dominant factor in most species' population dynamics
- There is increasing attention paid to the value of wetlands for species at risk, biodiversity or ecological goods and services



Waterfowl Summit - Canadian Context cont'd

- but habitats are increasingly subject to change which may remove the total carrying capacity – there is a sense of urgency about this
- changes in the US harvest or investment from the waterfowl community will affect habitat conservation in Canada
- US hunters are an important component of the hunting community in Canada



Waterfowl Summit - Canadian Conclusion

- Even though the drivers between the US and Canadian circumstance may differ, we will be active participants and contributors in this “futures” discussion and take decisions, while respecting the Canadian context, to improve the various components of waterfowl management.



Getting Started (Feb 2009)

- The PC appointed a NAWMP Revision Steering Committee:
 - Broad-based; focal point for gathering, vetting and synthesizing ideas about content.
 - Identify technical work and resources needed.
 - Review NAWMP Assessment report and highlight topics needing attention.
 - Develop stakeholder engagement process.
 - Propose a review of management processes and institutions in light of the Revision.
 - Propose work plan, schedule, process, etc.



2009 Progress

- Revision Steering Committee met in April to elaborate charge; numerous conference calls.
- Technical working group established and met at Pawtuxet in June to consider a process for reformulating Plan objectives.
- RSC published the NAWMP Revision Scoping Document in early August.
- PC met in August, reviewed draft Scoping document and agreed with recommendation that a series of objective identification workshops should be conducted as part of the initial consultation process.



Messages from PC Meeting (Aug 2009)

- *The purpose of the NAWMP is to sustain abundant waterfowl populations while preserving the traditions of wildfowling and achieving broad benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem processes and the people of North America. Plan goals will be accomplished by partnerships that conserve habitats and sustain populations, guided by sound science.*



2009 Progress cont'd

- Members of Technical Work Group met via conference calls to design and organize this pilot workshop for the Plan Committee.
- The Technical Work Group met on November 9-10 to finalize workshop plans and a recommended consultation process.
- Plan Committee meeting/workshop November 11-12. Approved 2-phase consultation process.
- First “official” NAWMP Workshop held in Portland, December 1-2.
 - Similar scoping workshops held by Mississippi Flyway and Ducks Unlimited.



Moving Forward 2010

Conduct additional workshops in Memphis, Edmonton, Ottawa, Sacramento and Milwaukee (NAWNRC) to:

- Identify fundamental objectives for waterfowl management.
- Identify alternative, broad-scale (high level) strategies for achieving objectives.
- Create ownership of objectives.
- Consistent process; diversity of attendees.



Primary Participants - Edmonton

waterfowl management community (involved in managing populations, habitat, and hunting)

- Waterfowl and wetland managers – federal and provincial wildlife agencies, non-government agencies
- Joint Ventures (Habitat & Species)
- NAWMP Committees
- Agriculture agencies
- Hunting community



How will the results be used?

- The Revision Steering Committee will be responsible for synthesizing workshop results, drawing on technical resources as needed.
 - Proposed objectives hierarchy.
 - Technical group – initial prototype model and decision framework.
 - Vetted with NAWMP Committee.



Consultation Process Round 2

- Communicate results back to waterfowl management community.
- Facilitated, face-to-face workshops: review consequence tables, weights, and trade-offs.
- Use consultation results to inform objectives hierarchy, decision framework, and modeling protocols proposed in draft NAWMP revision.



Milestones

- March 22, 2010 - Final round 1 workshop(s) in Milwaukee at the ‘North American Conference’.
- April, 2010 - Revision Steering Committee begins work to synthesize results, develop prototype models.
- September, 2010 – Begin round 2 consultations at AFWA annual meeting.
- January, 2011 – Begin drafting NAWMP Revision document.
- June, 2011 – First draft released for comment.
- January, 2012 – Final draft for PC approval.



Thank you

Next –

Mike Anderson, Ducks Unlimited Canada -
Introduction to consultation approach and
elicitation process