

## **NAWMP Science Support Team (NSST) discussion of IIC Work Plan – prepared by M. Brasher**

The IIC Work Plan was shared with the NSST membership during mid-July, and it was a topic of discussion at their recent meeting, July 30-31. Dale Humburg attended the NSST meeting and delivered a presentation to provide more details and solicit feedback. The presentation and Work Plan were received well by the NSST, and the NSST seemed comfortable with and excited about the role they are expected to play. Moreover, the NSST reviewed their current work plan and agreed to reprioritize certain items to achieve better alignment with the priorities and timelines in the IIC Work Plan. The NSST believes significant work remains to achieve an integrated waterfowl management enterprise, including the development of greater appreciation and understanding of the responsibilities, expertise, and organizational structure/composition among the three technical groups. The NSST is eager to play a role in facilitating this enhanced understanding and interaction.

The following are additional thoughts and comments captured during the meeting or otherwise excerpted from the NSST meeting notes:

- IIC is not an authoritative body and is also not expected to be the collective lead for the three management streams. It needs to be clear that the responsible groups will contribute toward developing a joint workplan and should not assume that the IIC is developing a workplan independently without input/collaboration from partners. NSST and other technical groups should be viewed as already having an active role via their representation on the IIC. The IIC can provide a mechanism for more deliberate and purposeful coordination and implementation.
- The NSST work plan contains multi-JV science-related tasks that represent our responsibilities and priorities. This work plan, early on, was purposely based on anticipation of what the NAWMP Revision recommendations would lead us to regarding our work responsibilities. At this point we wish to align our priority work plan elements with the IIC work plan tasks to lead us to some clarity regarding how the NSST would collaborate with the other management streams.
- NSST was encouraged to remain open-minded about what the “NSST” or other technical groups might “look like” in the future as we move towards integration.

### **NSST Discussion re: NAWMP Action Plan and the IIC Work Plan (All)**

J. Copen suggested that, for the short term, we can prioritize NSST work planning so as to be congruent with the IIC work plan tasks outlined in the matrix (pgs. ii and iii)....

1. NSST mapping committee efforts going forward
  - a. High priority for NSST
    - i. Scaled back a little bit - need to refine map based on biological parameters but when addressing HD elements that becomes a more regional targeting effort. All possible combination of decision contexts need to be considered

while incorporated sociological and biological parameters...scalable decision support tools are desired to allow JVs to weight things differently or even add/remove parameters for their purposes, but ultimately a continental scale map.

ii. Establishing these linkages is a priority for the NSST in the short term.

## 2. Ecological Goods and Services Literature Review

- i. Was not clear on who needs this document, what they need to know and how we provide guidance for moving forward. Need to clearly define who would use this information and on which audiences it would be used (i.e., the need defines the objective and approach)
- ii. Could encompass a general continental scale review with individual chapters addressing strategies used across JV; build a document used for communications across broader partnerships.
- iii. Ultimately viewed this as an opportunity to advance the HD conversation and considerations that will be necessary within the “Focusing Resources on Important Landscapes” item. Could also represent an opportunity for input from the stakeholders to weighting HD parameters across landscapes.
- iv. The NSST Map Committee will proceed with a brief (<5 pages) review of EGS, primarily to inform their conversations for the “Focusing Resources” decision support task. Expect completion of this brief review within approximately 1 month. Will then reevaluate where EGS review goes from there.

There are at least 2 other NSST Work Plan items that have connections to IIC Work Plan items:

- Develop methods for setting demographic population objectives (i.e., vital rates) at BCR/JV-scales for focal species based on recommendations of the NSST Alternative Performance Metrics (i.e., “Demographic Objectives Committee”)
- Develop methods to aggregate regional-scale (i.e., JV/BCR) estimates of K across multiple species into an assessment of net progress toward NAWMP continental goals

Both of these items have connections and potential implications to annual cycle modeling efforts, development of frameworks for integration, and multi-species modeling.

Achieving synergies and collaboration among these different groups may represent our earliest opportunity to “test-drive” the possibilities for integration.