

Addressing invasive house mouse impacts on the South Farallon Islands:

Partner meeting: Minutes

12/10/08

10 AM; Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Crissy Field

Attendees

IC: Jacob Sheppard

FWS: Gerry McChesney, Zach Coffman, Winnie Chan

PRBO: Russ Bradley, Jim Tietz

Expected outcomes

Alignment on timeline & major tasks ahead

Responsibilities assigned for major compliance tasks ahead

Consensus on establishing a communications plan for public involvement

Discussion and action items

1. Impacts to gulls:
 - a. Discussion of new impacts analysis
 - i. Additional explication of evidence from previous rodent eradications (short story: gulls have not been identified as a species of general concern for brodifacoum use)
 - ii. Additional data on the Anacapa gull population, and impacts from rat eradication in 2002
 - iii. First estimate of take: 30 western gull individuals; one to two individuals each of the other common gull species
 - b. Further needs:
 - i. More refined data on hourly, daily gull patterns. PRBO to continue special gull monitoring
 - ii. Review from gull experts within the FWS/PRBO community: what proportion of the population would be likely to feed on mice? PRBO/FWS to address with observational trials (using mice trapped in housing?)
 - iii. More data on mouse density. Comparing gull density to mouse density (and the knowledge that a large proportion of mice would succumb underground) to come up with an estimate of total mouse carcasses available. JS to follow up: Can we get an idea of mouse density with limited transects & limited or no mark-recapture?
 - iv. Biomarker data from trials to be conducted on the islands in Fall '09
 - c. Next steps:

- i. PRBO, FWS to review revised gull section
- ii. JS to make room w/in gull section for results of ongoing PRBO gull obs. studies
- iii. JS to ensure that pellets can be manufactured with no dye
- iv. PRBO to determine whether or not roosting gulls will eat pellets or mice
- v. PRBO to continue special gull monitoring thru 12/31

2. Timeline:

- a. Dec. '08:
 - i. JS finalizes next EA draft
 - ii. FWS, PRBO send JS EA materials requested
 - iii. PRBO continues gull observations
 - iv. JS sources inert bait for gull trials
- b. Jan. '09:
 - i. FNWR, PRBO begin review of "administrative draft" (4 weeks for review & revisions?)
 - ii. FWS, IC initialize contact w/ reviewing agencies (NMFS, Sanctuary, USCG etc.)
 - iii. FWS, JS prep add'l compliance materials (IHA, Sec. 7) for submission w/ EA
- c. Feb. '09:
 - i. Submit NEPA, ESA, MMPA materials to stakeholder agencies (6 weeks for administrative review?)
 - ii. Meetings w/ stakeholder agencies
 - iii. Establish communications plan!
 - iv. Finalize public-comment plans (mtg, add'l materials, etc.)
- d. Apr.-May '09:
 - i. EA public comment period
 - ii. Implement communications plan!
 - iii. Sec. 7 consultations completed (BO issued if appropriate)
 - iv. Initiate planning for Fall '09 trials
- e. Jun. '09:
 - i. FONSI issued
- f. Aug. '09:
 - i. IHA public comment
 - ii. Finalize Fall '09 trials planning!
- g. Oct. '09:
 - i. IHA issued

3. Prepping for public comment

- a. Partners to share one set of consistent talking points. JS to initiate communications planning process
- b. Each partner to designate one public spokesperson (not an action item yet)
- c. FWS, PRBO, IC to keep their respective public outreach folks in the loop w/ our upcoming communications needs
- d. Prep for public response, but no proactive public outreach

- e. Outreach to NGOs for advocacy:
 - i. Audubon
 - ii. NRDC
 - iii. Ocean Conservancy
 - iv. Farallon Marine Sanctuary Ass'n
 - f. Outreach to local/state politicians:
 - i. Speier
 - ii. Pelosi
 - iii. Woolsey
 - iv. Other Bay Area reps? (JS to research those potentially interested)
 - v. Feinstein (involved in general Refuge issues)
 - vi. Boxer
4. Other environmental compliance:
- a. WC to coordinate w/ JS on Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis
 - b. ZC to coordinate w/ JS on Sec. 7 consultation materials
 - c. MBTA:
 - i. JS to try IC pursuing MBTA incidental take issue (generally)
 - ii. FWS to follow up w/ CNO Mig. Birds office in preparation for admin. review
 - d. FWS to follow up w/ SHPO to determine compliance needs
 - e. ZC to follow up w/ State water quality board on compliance needs
 - f. Sanctuary – GM to follow up
 - i. Is “low overflight” permit separate from Manager’s Permit?
 - ii. Any other permits required (beyond low overflight, Manager’s permit)?
 - iii. Do new Sanctuary regs affect the compliance environment for the mouse project?
 - g. Coast Guard:
 - i. FWS to follow up with currently-detailed CG employee
 - ii. May need an exemption from USCG for fumigating lighthouse, other buildings
5. Delegate responsibility for remaining compliance tasks
- a. EA data:
 - i. CA State status for Farallon species – list – WC (from CCP) w/ ZC
 - ii. Map of Designated Wilderness – WC (from CCP)
 - iii. Map indicating rookeries & major haulouts for pinnipeds – WC (from CCP) [complete]
 - iv. Map indicating roosting seabird concentrations
 - 1. COMU (+corms?) – WC (from CCP, breeding season) [complete]
 - 2. BRPE – WC (from CCP) [complete]
 - 3. Gulls in Nov./Dec. – PRBO (draw/compile basic map), FWS (finalize [GIS?] PRBO map)
 - v. Improved, site-specific narrative climate section (PRBO data) – RB
 - vi. Appendices: Checking for accuracy – PRBO, FWS
 - b. Distribution of EA to agencies – FWS to delegate

- c. Sec. 7 consultations – *FWS to delegate*
 - d. IHA submission – *FWS to delegate (should be same as Sec. 7 POC)*
 - e. GFNMS Manager's Permit – *FWS to delegate*
 - f. Coastal Commission – *FWS to delegate (likely WC)*
 - i. WC to send me the info she submitted for CCP consistency determination
[complete]
6. Status of further pre-implementation studies
- a. Salamander baseline studies – *ongoing (PRBO)*
 - b. Biomarker trials:
 - i. Fall '09
 - ii. Funded separately
 - iii. IC to lead, will coordinate w/ PRBO as early as possible...
 - iv. Goals:
 - 1. Bait acceptability
 - 2. Application rate
 - 3. Gull exposure
 - 4. Salamanders (when possible)
 - 5. Bait interactions in intertidal
 - c. Intertidal fish surveys
 - i. Funded w/ Luckenbach \$\$: will probably not happen until Luckenbach money released...
7. Brief funding check-in
- a. No word yet. Keep moving forward...