

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION PLAN (ICP) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERIM FINAL SEDIMENT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (SEF)

1. PARTIES

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps); Northwestern Division (NWD), Seattle District (NWS), Portland District (NWP), and Walla Walla District (NWW); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 (EPA); National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE); Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ); and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ).

2. BACKGROUND

The joint EPA/Corps national manuals on sediment assessment developed for compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) all required development of regional manuals for specifics not discussed at the national level. The Pacific Northwest has developed a series of sub-regional manuals, most notable in 1988 the Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis (PSDDA), in 1995 the Grays Harbor Dredged Material Evaluation Manual, and in 1998 the Lower Columbia River Dredged Material Evaluation Framework (DMEF). The DMEF was formally agreed to in 1998 to be the standard approach for evaluating sediments for open water disposal of dredged material in the lower Columbia River. It was recognized in that agreement that updates and additions would be developed as needed. Since 1998, no additions have been made, but the DMEF has become the process of choice for most sediment evaluation requirements in the Pacific Northwest. The exception is PSDDA (now known as the Dredged Material Management Program, DMMP), which is a mature well-organized interagency plan for the Puget Sound Area.

It was recognized that a full regional plan for evaluation of sediments in the Pacific Northwest was the logical next step to the successful sub-regional processes. In September of 2001, the Regional Sediment Evaluation Team (RSET) was formed to examine the feasibility of developing this process. It was also recognized that since the acceptance of the DMEF in 1998 several species had been listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and there was a need to include NMFS and USFWS into the development of the new process.

All parties have been participating on RSET and the development of the SEF for the last 4 years. The RSET process and the SEF have developed to the point that the parties recognize the process should be implemented on an interim basis during the finalization process.

3. PURPOSE OF THE ICP

This plan will outline each agency's use of the SEF and initiation of the RSET process. This plan will define schedules for project review, agency roles and responsibilities, and the development of adaptive management for the RSET process.

4. AGENCY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The SEF is at a stage of development where implementation is possible. Each agency agrees to use the project review process outlined in Chapter 3 of the SEF, including the agreements developed during the 2006 Beta Test for Portland District. Each agency agrees that the SEF moves the process forward and agrees to provide continued participation in RSET, including participation in the monthly coordination meetings, annual meeting and manual updates. The agencies agree to use the evaluation procedures and process outlined in the SEF to assess sediment/dredging projects.

The agencies agree to keep the Regional Dredging Team informed and to elevate issues to them as necessary.

While recognizing budget constraints, agencies value the SEF and its continued development and will make RSET funding and staffing a priority.

Participation in RSET does not abrogate individual agency authorities and responsibilities.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

Where appropriate, the SEF will replace the DMEF in those areas where the DMEF has been traditionally used. The SEF is a compilation of state of the science. As such, there are some issues requiring continued development, such as tissue residue concentrations and freshwater bioassay assessment. Some of these issues are critical to the project review process. Until these issues are resolved, projects may need to be evaluated on a case by case basis. Issues related to the case by case evaluation of projects will be vetted through the RSET process.

6. CONCLUSION

The Parties to this ICP agree to fulfill the roles and responsibilities and to collaborate with each other as outlined in this plan. This ICP may be amended, altered, or terminated by officials in the respective agencies. Nothing in this ICP supersedes individual agencies authorities or funding priorities; however, all agree to the importance of this process and that the continued development of the SEF is a regional priority. A schedule of events and estimated times and, where practicable, costs to accomplish them for continuation of and finalization of the SEF are presented below.

Schedule of Events for Completion of SEF

<u>Event</u>	<u>Est. Start and End Times</u>	<u>Est. Costs</u>
Interim RSET process in place of Beta test	1 Oct 2006 (monthly)	No additional
Continuation of RSET Policy Group	1 Oct 2006 (bi-weekly)	No additional
Continuation of SEF Subcommittees	1 Oct 2006 (as needed)	
Review of Interim Final SEF and ICP	1 Oct /15 Nov 2006	No additional
Public Workshop for SEF	1 Dec 2006	No additional
Executive RDT Meeting	15 Dec 006	No additional
Continued development of Freshwater SQVs to final	1 Nov/30 Sept 2007	\$25,000
Biological testing issues:	1 Nov/30 Sept 2007	\$25,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of the Biological and SQV Subcommittees • ESA protectiveness of current proposed SEF biological tests • Reviewing existing biological interpretive criteria • 10-day versus longer term tests for freshwater • Reviewing available laboratory bioaccumulation species for freshwater testing • Reference sediment area selection process • Appendix of sediment bioassays (tool box) • Ecological relevance of sublethal endpoints and biomarkers • Review of existing marine biological tests • Additional ESA issues 		

<u>Event</u>	<u>Est. Start and End Times</u>	<u>Est. Costs</u>
Bioaccumulation Issues:	1 Nov 2006/15 Jan 2008 ^{1/}	\$100,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of the Bioaccumulation Subcommittee • Compilation of Tissue Data • Identification of Regions (appropriate regional subareas for evaluation of tissue data and development of BCoC lists) • Development of Regional BCoC Lists • Identification of Reference Areas and Screening Concentrations • Finalization of Human Health and Wildlife TTLs • Development of Fish Tissue TTLs • Selection of BSAF Calculation Methods 	
Annual DMMP Meeting	6 May 2007	
First Annual RSET Meeting	5 June 2007	
Preparation of Final SEF	1 Aug 2007	
Public Notice of Final SEF	15 Sept. 2007	

^{1/} Ongoing bioaccumulation technical revision will continue to be part of the SEF annual updates.