

Programmatic (Pisces) Metrics for FY05
Contractor Workshops Follow-up
September 10, 2004

These are answers to some of the questions asked about programmatic (or biological) metrics at BPA's contractor workshops in August.

What are the metrics?

In general, the Pisces metrics are measurements of "how much" individual projects and the Fish and Wildlife Program (FWP) as a whole have done. For riparian protection projects they include miles of stream protected and how many years the protection will last. For irrigation screening projects they include the quantity of flow screened. They also include some supporting information, like exact location (latitude/longitude), effective dates, species benefited, data that help define the specific type of action, etc. In FY05, they will be similar to those previously obtained for some of our BiOp habitat actions and those collected by NOAA-Fisheries' Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. However, Pisces metrics must span the broader scope of the FWP, including wildlife, resident fish, and diverse types of research and monitoring. We are developing the specific metrics now.

When will they be identified?

Around October 4 we plan to release two lists of metrics to the region, including our contractors and the Power Council. One list will comprise the metrics we intend to implement in our FY05 contracts, which includes those measurements that are most familiar, easy to obtain, and regionally important. The second list will include other ideas for programmatic metrics that may be considered for use in later years. Metrics for specific Pisces Work Elements in contracts will be identified when the contracts are converted to the new Pisces format. Early adopters are being converted before the metrics have been identified, so their metrics will be identified this winter.

Who will collect them?

Nearly all of the FY05 metrics will be collected by our contractors, who also will enter them into the Pisces system via web interface.

By when do they need to be collected?

The **FY05** metrics should be collected (or "tracked") as contractors conduct their FY05 activities. Metrics can be entered into Pisces as soon as the user interfaces are ready in 2005. We expect the deadline for entering the FY05 metrics to be December 31, **2005**, which is actually 3 months into FY06.

note: We will ask that **FY04** BiOp metrics and accomplishments be reported at the end of this year, Dec. 31, **2004**. These metrics and accomplishments will be the same as last year.

Will they require or cause changes to projects?

The metrics specified for FY05 will not require changes in the work of a project, although they may require more information about the work itself. *After* FY05, some project changes could be sought to acquire metrics, if they were deemed important enough by the region.

How much time will it take?

In FY05 we estimate roughly 8 to 16 hours average per project, depending on how complex the project is and how much of the information the project staff already have on file. We will be asking for exact locations of actions in latitude and longitude to one decimal point of seconds, preferably using a GPS unit. Some projects may not require metrics, and many others will need only an hour or two to report their metrics. A few projects that implement actions on many work sites – such as agreements to protect riparian habitat on several private properties – may need a bit longer than our estimated average.

Will BPA pay for this time?

BPA will pay for this time as part of the regular reporting activities of the contract. We do not anticipate that the FY05 metrics will require enough time to affect a contract's budget, and we will not increase a budget for this purpose.

Which Work Element should be used to document efforts to gather the metrics data?

The appropriate Work Element will be identified by your COTR when your contract is converted. The present draft Work Element, "Produce BiOp Metrics Report," probably will be revised to cover all programmatic metric reporting, not just BiOp.

Is BPA developing these metrics alone, or will the region be involved?

BPA seeks ideas from all interested parties in the region. We also are moving very quickly to implement in FY05 contracts, so there will be only a couple of short windows for input:

- Through Sept. 22: E-mail or phone your metrics ideas (see specifications, below) to:
Sabrina Keen
503.230.5049 sdkeen@bpa.gov
- Oct. 4-14: Comment on draft metrics lists (point of contact will be identified)

We seek your ideas on two types of metrics:

1. Measures of project and programmatic technical achievement. These are data about quantities of work accomplished or effectiveness of actions that can be collected at the project level and summarized at the program level in ways that are meaningful for decision-makers. We will compile these metric ideas and evaluate which can be implemented through our contracts in FY05 and which might be implemented later.
2. Specific data about actions and work sites – such as location and other characteristics – that would be good to collect and record in the Pisces database, although not necessarily made publicly accessible (e.g., sensitive information).

Please keep in mind that we wish to identify metrics that have high regional value and that will not create an undue reporting burden on our contractors. Think in these terms: Ten years from now, what information will decision-makers desire to determine how much the Fish and Wildlife Program has accomplished?

Further Questions?

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