

Recommendations on a new direction for Foodbase Monitoring

Background

- **Goal 1 of the GCDAMP**

Protect or improve the aquatic foodbase so that it will support viable populations of desired species at higher trophic levels

- **Five (5) MO's related to aquatic foodbase each with one CMIN and EMIN**

Background

- **Aquatic Protocol Evaluation Panel Convened in May 2001**
 - **Final PEP Report Received by TWG October 2001**
 - **GCMRC Responses and Direction to Work with TWG Toward Implementation of PEP Recommendations Approved by TWG in May 2002.**
 - **Science Advisors Generally Concurred with Recommendations in June 2002**
 - **Initial Descriptions of Proposed Changes Included in FY03 and FY04 Budgets and Work Plans**
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Specific Recommendations from External Reviews

– 2001 Aquatic PEP:

“A long-term monitoring program for the food base does not presently exist. This is understandable because the research needed to ensure a successful monitoring program has not yet been completed. ... **The food base program needs to be critically reviewed** because the current level of understanding about the linkages between lower trophic levels and food availability of native fishes is not adequate to interpret food base data in relation to the management goal. ... **GCMRC needs to explicitly identify the goal of the food base program, determine what metrics to use to monitor the lower trophic levels, and decide what level of detection of change is required.**”

Specific Recommendations from External Reviews

- The 2001 Aquatic PEP recommends additional research regarding appropriate methods for monitoring the aquatic food base
 - **Ultimate objectives (bioenergetics)**
 - Primary Productivity (metabolism)- algae, plants, and other carbon sources
 - Secondary Productivity (turnover rates) - invertebrates
 - Drift (Lees Ferry Anglers May Assist)
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Specific Recommendations from External Reviews

- In addition to monitoring recommendations, the 2001 Aquatic PEP recommended focused research empirically linking the food base to native and non-native fishes.

Action

- **Based on this background GCMRC Chief decides to stop present work, ask SAB to review past program and provide recommendations for future work**



**Food base program review by
SAB (Garrett)**

GCMRC Recommendation

– Release solicitations for cooperative agreements to enlist external scientists to conduct research related to developing a monitoring program that addresses the Aquatic PEP and SAB recommendations.

- Solicitations to be developed and competed in 2004 for award in 2005.



Requests to AMWG

- Endorse revised food base direction based on PEP, GCMRC & SAB recommendations
- Approve FY05 budget items with caveat that precise nature of work will be determined through RFP process and peer review