



NOAA Habitat Conservation

Conserving Habitat for Future Generations

Mitigation Issues and Policy

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Why a NOAA Policy on Mitigation?

Mitigation is an important part of NOAA programs

Mitigation is evolving quickly

Growing private sector investment

New situations for staff

Only major agency without mitigation policy

Existing NOAA Guidance on Mitigation

Interagency Guidance on Mitigation Banking and ILF

- 1995 and 2000
- Now obsolete

California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy

- 2014
- Expanding to entire west coast

West Coast Region Conservation Banking Guidance

- 2015
- Broad, with emphasis on ESA

NRDA Banking Guidance

- In response to Pres Memo
- Recently completed

Policy Development Rules

Goal: A Mitigation Policy for Coastal Resources
(broadly defined)

Don't Re-invent the Wheel

Stakeholder Involvement

Mitigation Policy Game Plan

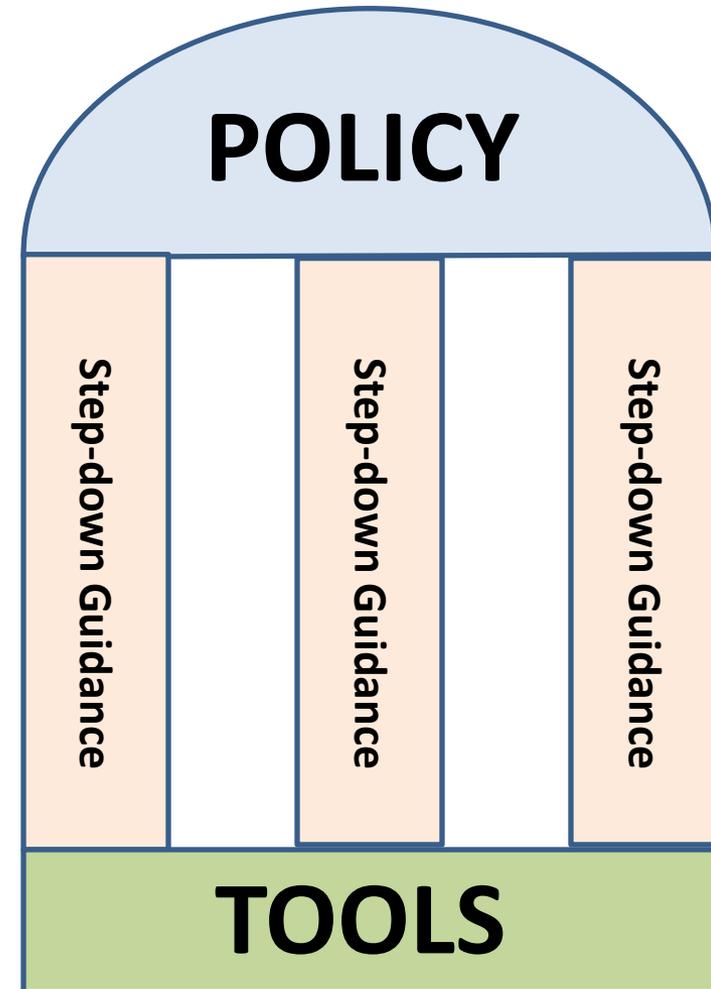
Overarching Policy

- Universal issues
- Coastal issues

Followed by Guidance, as needed

- Program-specific Guidance
- Regional Guidance

Tool Development



Mitigation Policy Timeline

Sept 2016 –
June 2017

- Develop Internal Issue Paper
- Stakeholder Input/Scoping

Feb 2017-
Dec 2017

- NOAA Internal Workshop on Mitigation
- Create draft Mitigation Policy
- Stakeholder Input on Issues and Approaches

Dec 2017 –
May 2018

- Draft Mitigation Policy circulated for public comment
- Final NOAA Mitigation Policy

Mitigation Major Issues -Universal

Mitigation goals (net gain, no net loss)

- Focus on our authorities

Sequencing/Hierarchy

- Differing approaches by program area

High value/Hard to replace

- Emphasize avoidance

Invasive Species

- Removal as restoration

Mitigation Major Issues - Coastal

Landscape/seascape approach

- What works best for coastal areas?

Out of kind compensation

- Shallow water unvegetated, corals, seagrass

Out of coastal area compensation

- High ecological value vs high sociological value

Preservation

- Special emphasis in coastal/urban areas?



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Your Thoughts?

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NRDA Banking Guidance

Presidential Memo *Mitigating Impacts on Natural Resources From Development and Encouraging Related Private Investment* (November 3, 2015) charged NOAA with developing guidance on NRDA restoration banking

- Guidance to NOAA's NRDA practitioners
- In the right situations, restoration banks can be a great solution to address natural resource injuries
- Our guidance focuses on ensuring we are protecting the public interests, NOAA's trustee interests, and minimizing risks to success where possible

Current Status: On NOAA website at <https://darrp.noaa.gov/guidance-recognition-and-use-restoration-banks-natural-resource-damage-assessments>