Program Goals and Objectives

May 7, 2004

CalFish is a multi-agency cooperative fisheries data and information clearinghouse seeking to store, manage, and offer data and information in a concise and organized way. CalFish was conceived in 2001 by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) who provided the impetus and vision to launch the program and gain support from state and federal agencies with fishery research and management responsibilities in California. CalFish content may stem from a variety of sources including program cooperators, other state and federal agencies, and private fisheries organizations. CalFish administration and management is currently provided by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and PSMFC. A steering committee, comprised of representatives from cooperating organizations, and a planning committee, consisting of DFG and PSMFC representatives, provide program direction

The purpose of this document is to define both short-term (1-3 years) and long-term (3-5 years) program goals and objectives. Fishery data management and dissemination should respond to the needs of users and reflect current issues and programs that are the focus of cooperating agencies. At the same time, management and recovery of fishery resources is perhaps best accomplished by considering current and future data and information needs and anticipating focus areas and species. As one tool in the planning arsenal, clear goals and objectives can be a foundation for breaking the action-reaction cycle and setting priorities for proactive fishery resource conservation. With this in mind, the intent of this goals and objectives document is to guide program evolution while recognizing changing data and information priorities.

Short-Term Goals and Objectives (1-3 Years)

Goal S1: Develop a Complete Inventory of Anadromous Fishery Data and Information for the North Coast Hydrologic Region

> Objective S1a: Focusing on this region, acquire and manage in-stream habitat data and develop tools for viewing, querying, and make these data available to the public.
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> Objective S1b: Focusing on this region, acquire and manage biological inventory (e.g., electro-fishing, weir counts, distribution) data and make these data available to the public.
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> Objective S1c: Focusing on this region, acquire and manage monitoring (e.g., carcass count, redd count) data and make these data available to the public.

Objective S1d: Identify and obtain or link to complete and current life history information for all native California fish taxa.

Goal S2: Begin Developing a Complete Inventory of Anadromous Fishery Data and Information for the South Coast and Central Coast Hydrologic Region

Objective S2a: Focusing on this region, identify and begin acquiring and managing in-stream habitat data.

Objective S2b: Focusing on this region, begin acquiring and managing biological inventory (e.g., electro-fishing, weir counts, distribution) data.

Objective S2c: Focusing on this region, begin acquiring and managing monitoring (e.g., carcass count, redd count) data.

Goal S3: Begin Developing a Complete Inventory of Anadromous Fishery Data and Information for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Hydrologic Regions

Objective S3a: Focusing on this region, identify and begin acquiring and managing in-stream habitat data.

Objective S3b: Focusing on this region, begin acquiring and managing biological inventory (e.g., electro-fishing, weir counts, distribution) data.

Objective S3c: Focusing on this region, begin acquiring and managing monitoring (e.g., carcass count, redd count) data.

Goal S4: Design and Implement Systems for Storing, Organizing, and Disseminating and Viewing Fishery Data and Information

Objective S4a: Create a strategy for a data storage and management network which includes local storage and remote links for accommodating data and information in a variety of formats and from various sources.

Objective S4b: Create tools for organizing and viewing data and information through a centralized internet portal.

Objective S4c: Acquire necessary agreements and commitments for remote data storage.

Goal S5: Develop the Existing Routed Hydrography Improvement and Maintenance Process into a Viable CalFish SubProgram

Objective S5a: Secure funding for a half-time position to continue centralized improvement and maintenance of the 1:100,000 scale statewide routed hydrography

Objective S5b: Create and implement an outreach program to encourage use of the CalFish 1:100,000 scale routed hydrography and promote it as the statewide standard.

Objective S5c: Coordinate with the USGS including tracking development of the NHD-based hydrography and determine appropriate interval for outlining a DFG program for developing and maintaining a 24k hydrography.

Goal S6: Develop a Program Structure and Identify and Secure Commitments from Cooperators

Objective S6a: Identify potential cooperators and ascertain potential commitment to the program.

Objective S6b: Prepare and distribute for signature, a Memorandum of Agreement between cooperators outlining initial roles and responsibilities.

Objective S6c: Assemble and convene steering and technical committees to oversee planning and administrative program functions.

Long-Term Goals and Objectives (3-5 Years)

Goal L1: Develop a Complete Inventory of Anadromous Fishery Data and Information for the Central and South Coast Hydrologic Region

Objective L1a: Building on the initial identification effort, acquire or locate all identified in-stream habitat data and information sources for this region and make them available through the viewer and tools developed as part of the short-term goals.

Objective L1b: Building on the initial identification effort, acquire or locate all identified biological data and information sources for this region and make them available through the viewer and tools developed as part of the short-term goals.

Goal L2: Begin Developing a Complete Inventory of Anadromous Fishery Data and Information for the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region.

Objective L2a: Building on the initial identification effort, acquire or locate all identified in-stream habitat data and information sources for this region and make them available through the viewer and tools developed as part of the short-term goals.

Objective L2b: Building on the initial identification effort, acquire or locate all identified biological data and information sources for this region and make them available through the viewer and tools developed as part of the short-term goals.

Goal L3: Begin Developing a Complete Inventory of Inland Fishery Data and Information.

Objective L3a: Identify potential data and information sources for inland fisheries and begin acquiring or locating and integrating them as part of the program viewer and tool set.

Goal L4: Incorporate Existing Marine Harvest and Inventory Data

Objective L4a: Identify potential data and information sources for marine fisheries and begin acquiring or locating and integrating them as part of the program viewer and tool set.

Goal L5: Maintain and Improve Statewide Routed Hydrography as a CalFish SubProgram

Objective L5a: Periodically assess the need for continued maintenance of routed 1:100,000 scale hydrography.

Objective L5b: Develop and distribute tools for managing and analyzing hydrography data.

Objective L5c: Incorporate the DFG 24k hydrography development and maintenance program (if existing) into the CalFish system.

Goal L6: Expand and Stabilize Funding Base and Increase Cooperator Participation

Objective L6a: Staff time permitting, identify and pursue at least 3 outside funding sources annually.

Objective L6b: Work with DFG leadership to elevate CalFish to department program status with annual budget considerations and dedicated staff.

Objective L6c: Identify and solicit the participation of additional program cooperating agencies. Expand cooperators to include private fishery organizations.

Goal L7: Include Standard Analyses as Program Content and Support Analytical Use of Fishery Data and Information.

Objective L7a: Convene a working group consisting of cooperator representatives to identify and prioritize analytical needs and approaches.

Objective L7b: Build tools available through the internet portal or as stand alone applications designed to automate analytical or data manipulation tasks.