

Just a few brief items from Wednesday's meeting.

1. Rod Kuhn, Draft Restoration Plan EIS Project Leader, will be invited to future meetings in order to keep the group abreast of the EIS process. Bob Spies will also be included on a regular basis.

2. Harlequin ducks - Jerome Montague is setting up a teleconference meeting with Jim Ayers for sometime next week to discuss harlequin data and the possible need for further research this year. Also involved will be Byron Morris, Mark Brodersen, Bob Spies, ADF&G researchers, and possibly Mike Fry. Mark Brodersen and NOAA are to prepare a 1-pg summary of the mussel bed research project.

3. Next Trustee meeting - a financial update will be included on the agenda.

4. Seward IMS improvements - Jim Ayers wanted to make sure everyone understands the project is seeking approximately \$25 million in EVOS-related funds. These may be civil or criminal, but the total amounts and the final mix have not been determined. The science advisory committee held its first meeting with the architects March 16. Kim Sundberg will discuss the Dept. of Agriculture regulations on tank design with Dave Gibbons. EIS scoping meetings are scheduled for March 22 and 24; additional meetings may be held if deemed necessary. An informal discussion on the IMS project will be held on Thursday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the 4th floor conference room in Anchorage. Participants will include representatives from the Seward facility, the Prince William Sound Science Center, the Copper River Delta Institute, the Kodiak FITC, ADF&G, and NOAA.

5. Court request - Liaisons need to make sure their Trustees are o.k. with the draft resolution ASAP. The final request needs to go out for signatures right away. Contact Brodersen.

Trustee Agencies

State of Alaska: Departments of Fish & Game, Law, and Environmental Conservation United States: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Departments of Agriculture, and Interior 6. Habitat acquisitions/appraisals - the MOU with the Trustee agencies involved in acquisition will be signed Monday. All appraisals will be going through the USFS using a standardized appraisal process. Ayers and Gibbons met with the negotiators March 15 to lay out the sequence of steps for negotiations. Staff are now working on possible parcel configurations. A final draft of the standard appraisal specifications has been sent to the sellers for their review and comment. The most significant issue involves whether the Seal Bay and Kachemak Bay purchases can be considered government comparables. The specs do not specifically say they can't be, but the appraisal would have to include a finding that they reflect fair market value.

7. March 22 Forum - the 1994 Status Report and newsletters will be available Monday.

NEXT MEETING: No meeting on March 23. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 30, 9 am, Juneau location: 4th floor NMFS conference room.