

**Biology Focused Technical Group Meeting
December 19, 2007**

Constraints/Assumptions

Program Constraints/Assumptions

- Information collected as part of the monitoring plan will be used to inform and guide future management actions that could be implemented with or without a restoration program.

Environmental Constraints/Assumptions

- Replacement of Salton Sea habitat values and functions will necessarily be accomplished through the creation of habitat and not by retaining a whole Salton Sea.
- Created habitats will not replicate all habitat types of the current Salton Sea ecosystem, but would be designed to replace functional ecological equivalent values.
- Model projections indicate that salinity levels are expected to exceed 60 ppt by 2016, thereby resulting in the loss of the tilapia fishery that supports fish-eating birds.
- Early start habitat is only expected to buffer the loss of the fishery but will not fully replace it.
- Any future management action involving habitat creation would maintain a minimum salinity in created habitats of 20 mg/L; small inclusions of fresher water might be necessary to support bird drinking, bathing, and reproduction.
- Additional fish/invertebrate species could be introduced to created habitats to increase diversity and improve ecosystem function.
- Brine sink will continue to have bird habitat value after fish are extirpated.
- Anticipated turnover of the aquatic community in the brine sink will still provide important foraging opportunities for birds given their plasticity in their feeding habits.

Engineering/Physical Constraints/Assumptions

- Any future habitat creation would be constructed below elevation -230 (primarily on exposed seabed).

Hydrological Constraints/Assumptions

- Source of inflow water to implement future management actions will remain unchanged from its current source.

Legal Constraints/Assumptions

- Any future management actions would need to comply with applicable laws.

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