



NOAA Habitat Conservation
Conserving Habitat for Future Generations

Mitigation Issues and Policy

December 14, 2016

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



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
- In development

Policy Development Rules

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

Don't Re-invent the Wheel

Stakeholder Involvement

Mitigation Policy Game Plan

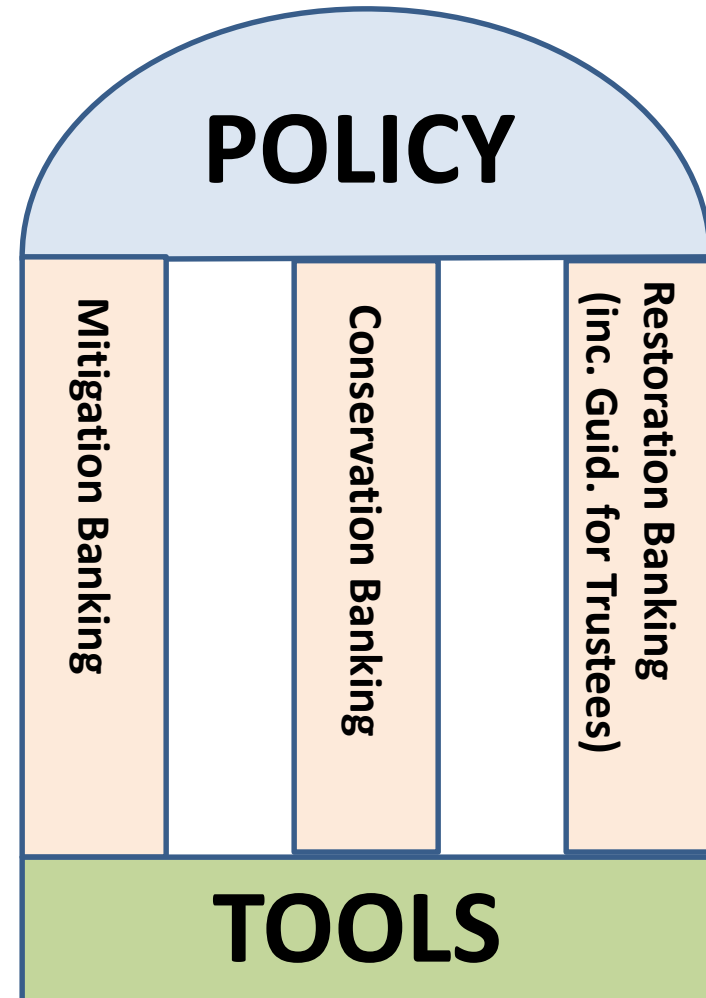
Overarching Policy

- Universal issues
- Coastal issues

Followed by Guidance, as needed

- Mitigation Banking
- Conservation Banking
- Restoration Banking*

Tool Development



Mitigation Policy Timeline

Sept 2016 –
Feb 2017

- Develop Internal Issue Paper
- Stakeholder Input/Scoping

Feb 2017-
July 2017

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

Sept 2017 –
March 2018

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

Mitigation Major Issues -Universal

Net gain vs no net loss

- Clarify different authorities

Sequencing/Hierarchy

- Differing approaches by program area

High value/Hard to replace

- Emphasize avoidance

Invasive Species

- Removal as restoration

Mitigation Major Issues - Coastal

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?

Landscape/watershed/ecosystem

- What works best for coastal areas?

Climate change

- Design and assessment challenges



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Your Thoughts?

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