

Chapter 15. Implementation Action Plan

15.0 Overview

The format used to present recommendations in the five chapters of section four incorporates the following elements: it identifies the various concerned parties for each recommendation, it sets forth the time frame for activities, and it identifies needed resources. Presenting the recommendations in this format was intended to integrate the description of recommendations with the implementation strategy for each. The implementation action plan addressed in this Chapter builds on the implementation strategies by identifying the sequencing of activities required to implement recommendations, and identifying the relative priority of recommendations.

15.1 Sequencing of Implementation Activities

Each recommendation would require one or more action to fully implement it, and others would require steps to monitor or evaluate resulting changes. In most cases, implementing recommendations would require several actions taking place over one or more years. The sequencing of activities for implementing each recommendation is detailed on the *Implementation Summary Matrix* found at the end of this chapter. The matrix lists each recommendation in order of appearance in the plan, and specifies implementation actions that would be taken within one year of the plan's adoption, within two to four years of the plan's adoption, and five years and beyond. The sequencing of actions reflects the overall priority of recommendations due to their importance to resource conditions as well as the degree of public concern.

15.2 Priority Recommendations

The recommendations of the resource management plan could not be implemented all at once. Limitations of funding and technical resources require that priorities be established among recommendations, at that those deemed most crucial to natural resource conditions and public safety be addressed first. Also, some recommendations are designed to generate information that would be used to implement other related recommendations, making simultaneous implementation unworkable.

The *Executive Summary* of the plan describes the actions to be undertaken within the first twelve months of the plan's adoption for the following priority recommendations:

- #1 Form the implementing structure for the plan***
- #2 Provide a new regulatory framework for shoreline structures in the Bay***
- #3 Increase enforcement of boating regulations***
- #4 Reduce environmental impacts from boating***
- #5 Minimize the safety and environmental impacts from personal watercraft***
- #6 Inventory and monitor the Bay's ecology, water quality, and fisheries***
- #7 Refine and coordinate fisheries management policies and regulations***

#8 Identify changes needed to strengthen local wetlands regulations

#9 Develop and implement and watershed management program

#10 Enhance public access opportunities

The selection of priorities was intended to address each of the resource management topics described in the plan. It also reflects concerns raised by local residents and business owners throughout the planning process.

The list of priorities recognizes that a significant task exists in establishing the framework for implementation. Carefully completing these organizational activities would lay the foundation for long-term effective management of the Bay's resources.

Also implicit in the priorities for year one is a recognition that further planning activities are needed to consolidate the understanding of issues gained through the plan's development. This is particularly true of recommendations for changes in regulatory language or procedures. In these cases the plan isolates issues of concern, and provides the policy direction and rough work plan for developing regulatory changes to address the issues. In the first year of implementation, actions to further refine the work plan by engaging involved town officials and other experts are called for. This approach is intended to ensure that regulatory solutions reached would have the support of all concerned parties, and have the greatest likelihood for long-term effectiveness.