

7.9.1. Membership on the Science Committee.

The Implementing Committee and the Stakeholder Committee will each select an equal number of members of the Science Committee and will coordinate with one another in making selections in order to ensure balance and proper coverage of areas of expertise. The Implementing Committee and the Stakeholder Committee will jointly select one additional member of the Science Committee. In the case of a vacancy on the Science Committee, the committee, or committees, that made the initial appointment for that position will appoint a replacement member.

a. Invitations to Serve.

The Parties recognize that participation on the Science Committee is voluntary and cannot be compelled by the Service or the Parties. Any person to which the Implementing Committee or the Stakeholder Committee extends an invitation to be a member of the Science Committee will be requested to respond in writing to the Program Manager within 30 days of the date of the invitation advising of the acceptance of the invitation and to provide the invitee's contact information. If an invitee does not timely respond with acceptance, that invitation will be considered declined and another qualified person will be invited to become a member of the Science Committee in the same manner as for the invitation that was declined.

b. Authorization to Vote.

Each member appointed to the Science Committee will be authorized to vote and such appointed member will become a member of the Committee on the date that the Program Manager receives the written acceptance of the appointment.

c. No Alternate.

No member of the Science Committee may designate an alternate to act for that

member in the member's absence.

7.9.2. Role of the Science Committee.

The Science Committee will have the role in the AMP and the Program as described in this Subsection, as follows:

- a.** consult with, advise and make recommendations to the Program Manager, the Implementing Committee and the Stakeholder Committee on any AMP Decision upon request;
- b.** provide independent and unbiased advice based on their best scientific judgment so that all AMP Decisions will be made consistent with the best scientific and commercial data available; and
- c.** participate in the meetings of the Science Review Panel and provide to the Panel such information as requested by that Panel or the Implementing Committee.

7.9.3. Operations of the Science Committee.

a. Meetings.

The Science Committee will meet at any time upon the request of the Program Manager, the Implementing Committee, or the Stakeholder Committee. Meetings will be conducted at the official offices of the EAA or at any other location agreed upon by the Science Committee. The Program Manager will provide reasonable advance notice of the meetings via email to each member of the Science Committee and will post notice of any meeting on the EAA website. Meetings will generally be open to the public, but, with good cause, may be closed to the public at the request of the Program Manager or any two members of the Science

Committee. Meetings of the Science Committee are not subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act, but the Committee and Program Manager will make reasonable efforts to provide notice of its meetings and conduct them open to the public as though they were subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

b. Subcommittees.

The Science Committee may be organized into subcommittees as jointly determined by the Program Manager and Implementing Committee.

7.9.4. Requests for Science Committee Evaluations or Recommendations.

a. Requests on Proposed Routine AMP Decisions.

Requests by the Program Manager, the Implementing Committee, or the Stakeholder Committee for an evaluation or recommendation on a proposed Routine AMP Decision may be made to the entire Science Committee or the appropriate subcommittee of the Science Committee. However, for any proposed Routine AMP Decision that has significant potential to affect the overall well-being of a Covered Species, the decision-maker (the Program Manager or the Implementing Committee, as appropriate) will, if time allows, consult the Science Committee for input prior to making a decision or, if that is not possible, as soon as possible after making the decision and will adjust the decision as appropriate.

b. Requests on Other AMP Decisions.

For any proposed Nonroutine or Strategic AMP Decision, the Implementing Committee will seek a recommendation from the entire Science Committee prior to taking action on the proposed decision.

c. Information Provided.

The Program Manager will regularly inform the Science Committee of plans related to the applied research activities described in the HCP, including, but not limited to, Subsections 6.3.4 (applied research facility), 6.3.5 (Texas wild-rice enhancement) and 6.3.6 (monitoring and reduction of gill parasites), and, unless exigent conditions require otherwise, seek comments and recommendations from the Science Committee with regard to the research plans before the plans are implemented. The Program Manager will also inform the Science Committee and the Science Review Panel of the findings and results of the research activities.

7.9.5. Procedures.

The Science Committee and its subcommittees will operate to the maximum extent achievable by a collaborative process designed to achieve consensus. In the absence of full consensus on any evaluation or recommendation, the Science Committee will provide a written summary of competing positions to the Program Manager or the Implementing or Stakeholder Committees, as may be appropriate. Each member of the Science Committee will have one vote towards consensus until participation is resigned, or forfeited by absence from three consecutive meetings. A quorum for any meeting of the Science Committee will be three-fourths of the total number of members for whom the Program Manager has received the notification of acceptance described in Subsection 7.9.1.b. The Science Committee will elect a chair person and a vice chair and adopt procedures to govern its activities.

7.9.6. EAA Funding.

The EAA, after consulting with the Implementing Committee, may enter into contracts with members of the Science Committee as, in the judgment of the EAA, are necessary and reasonable to secure the members' services.