



ESTUARY RESTORATION ACT PROGRAM



Socio-economic monitoring will help us:

- Determine the economic value and impact of restoration
- Maximize restoration efficiency and cost effectiveness through prioritization

Socio-Economic Measures to Determine Restoration Success

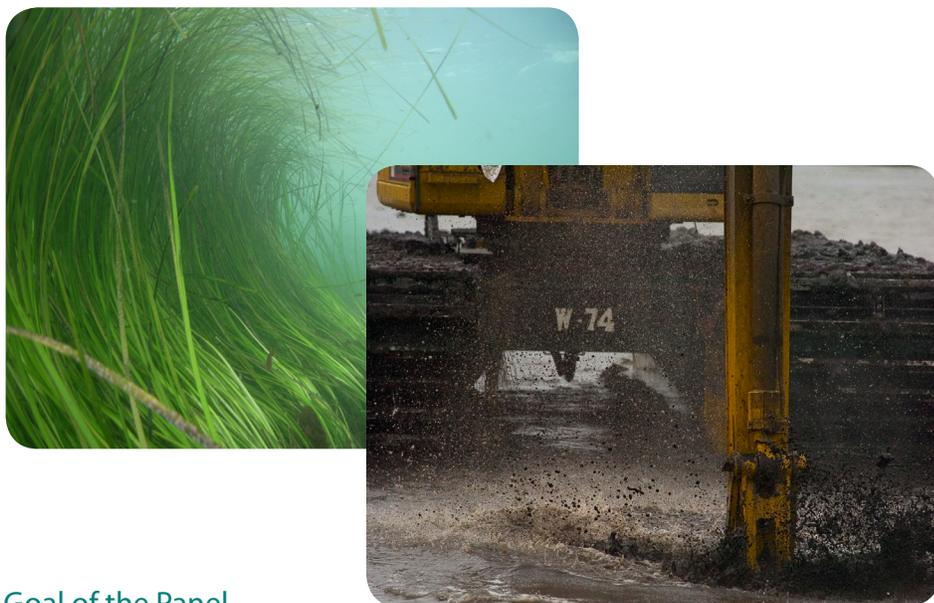
Building on previous socio-economic efforts, NOAA's Estuary Restoration Act (ERA) Program is funding an external panel and two case studies to help determine the value and impact of coastal habitat restoration. These studies will produce the best methods and metrics to use in measuring the economics of restoration.

External Panel

The Office of Habitat Conservation and Office of Response and Restoration are working with Restore America's Estuaries to convene a seven-member panel of noted academic and governmental environmental economics experts to provide guidance in using social sciences and economics to highlight the benefits of restoration projects.

The panel will provide recommendations on the development of feasible, timely, and cost-effective economic measures of restoration activities to reflect:

- programmatic performance; and
- the effect of restoration on human economic welfare.



Goal of the Panel

To evaluate the use of monetary measures as a way to describe the economic values as well as the impacts of restoration projects.

Case Studies

NOAA is evaluating two large-scale restoration projects in Huntington Beach, CA and Lincoln Park, NJ to determine the economic benefits arising from restoration activities in coastal wetlands. Direct, indirect, induced, and total impacts to sales, employment, labor income, and taxes will be determined through *IMPact analysis for PLANning* (IMPLAN).

Analyses will also be conducted to determine the recreational use benefits resulting from restoration projects. Use levels will be estimated with an on-site count effort and through monitoring via automated counters. Changes in recreational use can be combined with a dollar value for each trip to calculate gains from additional activity at the project locations.

Since the restoration projects provide benefits that would not be captured by recreational use data alone, the case studies will also document the expected gains in other ecosystem services from the restoration efforts. Through this effort, NOAA aims to catalogue the range of ecosystem benefits from restoration and may also assign a dollar value to these ecosystem services.

Goal of the Case Studies

To test methodologies for valuing the impact of restoration that can be transferred to other areas of the United States.

Estuary Restoration Act Facts

ERA was passed into law on November 7, 2000 to promote estuary restoration by:

- Forging effective partnerships among public agencies and between public and private sectors;
- Providing financial and technical assistance for estuary habitat restoration projects; and
- Developing and enhancing monitoring and research capabilities.

An interagency council is responsible for implementing the Act.

Contact

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For more information about ERA, please visit <http://era.noaa.gov>

