

# The Bay RMP

Lessons learned in two decades

# Overview

- Brief History
- Essential Ingredients for Success
- Adaptations
- Science Informs Management and Management Responds to Science
- What Elements Are Transferable?

# Brief History

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- New research in a monitoring context (UCSC)
- Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Estuary
- Invitation to an independent, science-based organization to manage program

# Essential Ingredients

- One or more champions
- Cost neutrality
- Transparency
- Clearly articulated management and policy questions
- Forums for evaluating management alternatives based on new information
- External reviews to keep program relevant

# Adaptations

- Move from “background” characterization to probabilistic, stratified design
- Continuous refinement of questions
- Continuous refinement of management approaches
- Changing balance between “what?” and “why?” questions – trends vs. processes and mechanisms

# Management – Science Interactions

- As questions are checked off, TMDL implementation plans, permits are modified, restoration investments are prioritized, legislation is adjusted
- Requires regular forums for sustained interactions between applied scientists and managers
- Science has to be credible

# Which Lessons Are Transferable?

- Key ingredient menu
- Development of joint “ownership”
- Data credibility – sound science
- Adaptability
- Independent and sustained science in service of management and policy
- Focus on effective data management and exchange