Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Division Of Water Resource Management

UMAM
UPDATES

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About UMAM

- Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM)
- Effective Feb. 2, 2004
- Fulfills requirements of 373.414.(18), F.S.
- 62-345, F.A.C.
- Standardized procedure
- UMAM used to determine:
  - **Amount of mitigation needed to offset impacts**
  - # credits mitbank may earn
  - # mitbank credits needed to offset impact

UMAM Basics

- Scoring Basis of 1-10

- Impacts and proposed mitigation

- Scored relative to reference community

- Scoring based on
  - Location and Landscape Support
  - Water Environment
  - Community Structure
  - Timelag and Risk

- Scoring worksheet = mostly free form

UMAM Perceptions

- Most used by consultants and regulators
- Majority classified UMAM as:
  - "moderately satisfactory"
  - "scientifically reasonable & mostly appropriate"
  - "moderately useful & effective"

- STILL ISSUES WITH RULE USE
  - "Frustrating to use"
  - Rule interpretation often needed
  - Training often requested

Clarify the intent of the Rule

Rule Change Goals

- More consistent application
- Streamlined and straightforward method
- More applicable to all environments
- More certain regulatory process

What Stays the Same

- UMAM principles:
  - Rule Intent
  - Practical for use within permitting timeframes
  - Use with reasonable scientific judgment
  - Must still determine functions relative to reference conditions
  - User of UMAM must possess knowledge of habitat

- Aside from UMAM, Applicant must still address:
  - Avoidance and minimization of impacts
  - Cumulative impacts
  - Prevention of secondary impacts
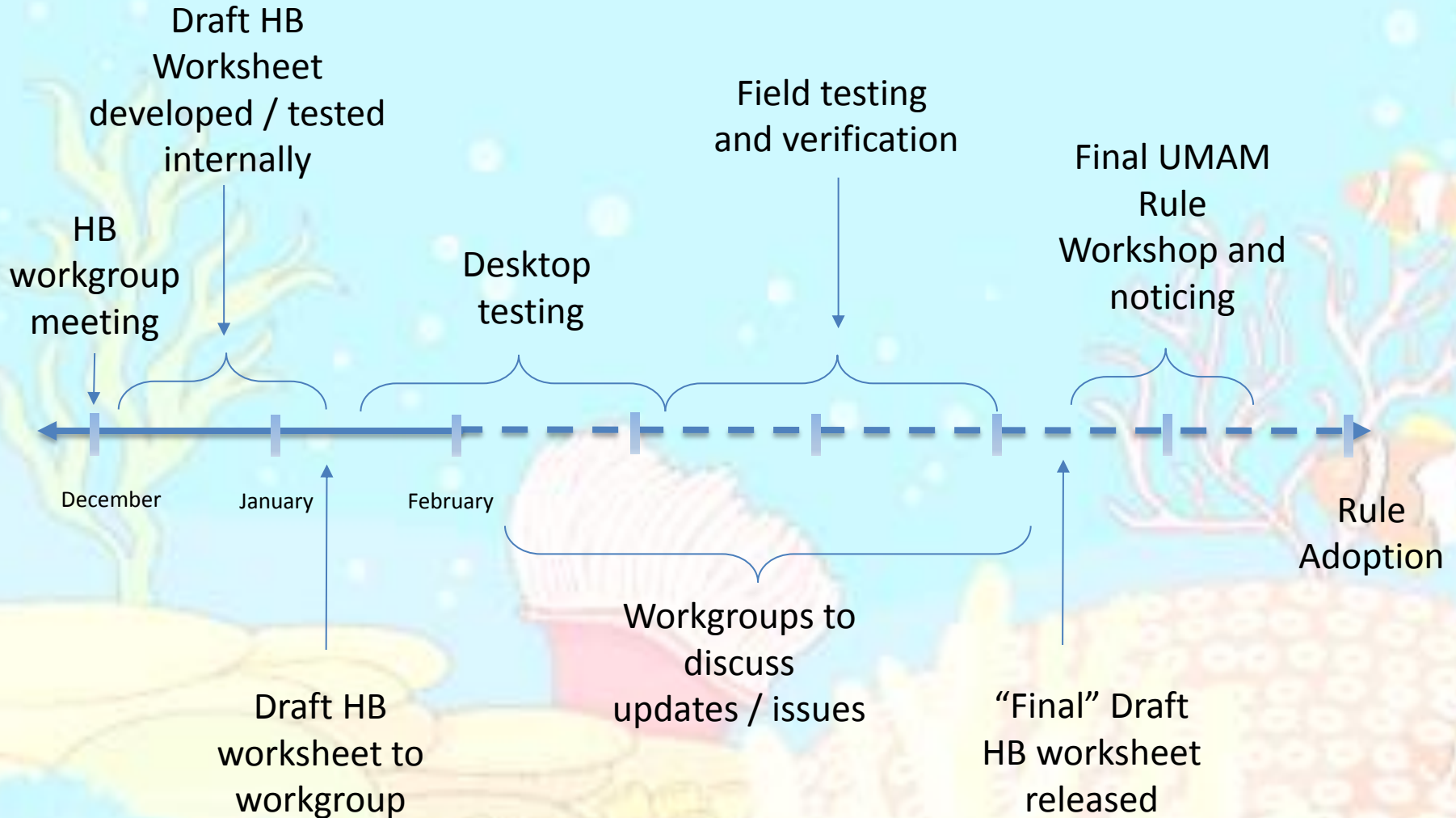 - Mitigation appropriateness

UMAM Efforts

- Rule revision initiated June 2013
- Specific habitat worksheets developed
- Working group participation
- Results must be verifiable and reproducible
- Clarify rule language
- Public Workshop February 5th of updates to date
- Hardbottom efforts ongoing

- Prompts scoring according to Rule
- 3 main components remain
    - Location and Landscape
    - Water Environment
    - Community Structure
- Specific questions to auto-generate score
- Attributes relevant to resource

Location + Landscape support:
- Proximity of nat. communities
- Proximity to fill, dredge, channels, disturb.
- Edge / landscape comp
- Uniqueness (listed species)

Water Environment:
- Water quality/ salinity
- Water clarity/ sediments
- Wave and current dynamics

Community Structure:
- Physical substrate/rubble or debris
- Appropriateness/ richness
- Demographics/ distribution
- Health of species

HB Scoring Worksheet

- Majority of score questions = 4 options
  - Optimal, moderate, minimal, not present
  - percentages
- With / without project
- Impact / mitigation sheets
- Risk / Timelag

Community Structure			
11	**Considering all species observed within the assessment area, please characterize the proportion that are appropriate for the reference community type and location?**		

Current | W/Project
A (Selection) | A (Selection)

A (Optimal) — All species observed within the assessment area are appropriate for the reference community type and location.

B (Moderate) — A minimum of 70% of species observed within the assessment area are appropriate for the reference community type and location.

C (Minimal) — A minimum of 40% of species observed within the assessment area are appropriate for the reference community type and location.

D (Not Present) — None of the species observed within the assessment area are appropriate for the reference community type and location.

Excitement to Come!!

- New risk calculator added

- Enhancement of Part I worksheet

- Desired submittal method will be web based
  - Direct insertion of info into geodatabase
  - Mobile ready

- Finalize worksheets (62-345.500 FAC)
- Updates / clarifications within Rule language
  - Timelag (mitbank)
  - Current condition
  - Temporary impacts
  - Assessment areas
- Reference to guidance via UMAM manual
- Rule adoption
- Training

UMAM Resources and Training

- http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/mitigation/umam/training.htm
- Reference materials, assessment tools, training resources
- Schedule link: webinar registration, field training
- Reference link: PowerPoints, quick reference guides, videos
- Eco-Toolbox link: worksheets, field data sheets, suggested field practices, tools
- ftp://ftp.dep.state.fl.us/pub/outgoing/UMAM_RULE/

THANK YOU

- John Humphreys – UMAM Coordinator
- Jenny Peterson, Ph.D. – HB UMAM Point Person
- Working Group Participants

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