

A Policy Relevant Science Vision for the Gulf of Maine

Overarching Aim of March meeting: Building on past efforts, eight organizations are collaborating to advance a regional ecosystem-based approach to ocean management starting with a policy-relevant science vision.

We will do this by:

- Developing a shared understanding of the science needed to advance EBM in the Gulf of Maine using input from managers and scientists.
- Envisioning the policy-relevant science that would guide scientific research to inform EBM decision-making
- Turning our shared vision into a blueprint for coordinated action throughout the region

For this particular meeting, we will:

- Provide a draft vision statement for policy-relevant science. This vision statement will evolve as we get input from participants before and during the March 2007 meeting
- Use break-out sessions and presentations to answer directed questions that crystallize the science needed to implement EBM and managers' needs related to that science
- Identify methods for better connecting science to management
- Overlay current scientific understanding with what's needed in a Blueprint for coordinated action
- Create an informal network that coordinates future efforts and develops an ongoing forum for regional communication

Meeting Details

There are three overarching focus areas for this meeting. All will try to get participants to start developing regional goals related to policy-relevant science in support of EBM. We will start with plenary presentations by a few key organizations and/or researchers who are pursuing science in support of EBM. Then we will break-out into smaller groups of 10-15 individuals and respond to the questions below.

Day One			
What	How	Who	Time
<i>Breakfast</i>			8:30 – 9:00
Meeting goals	Welcome, set tone for the meeting	Chairperson	9:00 – 9:30
Kicking off the meeting	Keynote presentation (Title TBA)	Bob O’Boyle, Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada	9:30 – 10:00
A Sampling of Regional EBM Initiatives	Presentations TBA	Selected scientists & managers	10:00 – 11:00
Presentation Wrap-up	Q & A, summary and discussion	Chairperson	11:00 – 11:45
Directions for Break-out Sessions	Participants are divided into four groups for each of the three break-out sessions	Chairperson	11:45 – 12:00
<i>Lunch</i>			12:00 – 1:00
Break-out Session #1	Identifying ocean/land-based activities & services in the Gulf of Maine (Summary and questions at end of agenda)	Facilitated break-out groups	1:00 – 2:30
<i>Break</i>			2:30 – 3:00
Break-out Session #2	Identifying spatial & temporal scales for an EBM Approach (Summary and questions at end of agenda)	Facilitated break-out groups	3:00 – 4:30
<i>Break</i>			4:30 – 4:45
Break-out Session Summary	Plenary discussion	Chairperson	4:45 – 5:30
<i>Evening Reception & Dinner</i>	Cash bar and sit-down dinner	<i>New England Center</i>	6:30 – 9:30

Day Two			
What	How	Who	Time
<i>Breakfast</i>			<i>8:30 – 9:00</i>
Recap on meeting goals	Welcome, set tone for the day	Chairperson	9:00 – 9:30
Break-out Session #3	The Integration of Science and Management	Facilitated break-out groups	9:30 – 11:00
Policy and management relevant science Blueprint discussion	Plenary Discussion (see details at end of agenda)	Facilitator	11:00 – 12:30
<i>Lunch</i>			<i>12:30 – 1:30</i>
Life After the Meeting	Plenary Discussion (see details at end of agenda)	Chairperson	1:30 – 3:00
Evaluation	Plenary	Chairperson	3:00 – 3:30
<i>Adjourn</i>			<i>3:30</i>

Break-out Session Descriptions

Day One

Break-out Session #1

Identifying ocean/land-based activities & services in the Gulf of Maine

It is important to understand the range of ocean-based activities and ecosystem services that are occurring within an area, in addition to identifying areas of ecological or sociological significance. By enhancing our understanding of how activities and services interact within an ecosystem context, we could better focus our scientific resources.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the important interconnections between human activities and provision of ecosystems services by marine ecosystems?
2. Given what we talked about in #1 what do we need to know to balance the human activities of the marine ecosystem to guarantee its continued health and resilience?
3. Given the activities above, and the goal of maintaining balance, what groups of activities can realistically be managed in an integrated fashion within an ecosystem context?

Break-out Session # 2

Identifying spatial and temporal scales for an EBM approach

To accelerate EBM approaches we need to enhance our understanding of the short and long-term effects of human activities on our coastal and marine ecosystems and managers' and scientists' constraints in relation to scale.

Discussion Questions

1. Over what spatial and temporal scales should we manage critical ecosystem services (e.g. fisheries stock, clean beaches, etc)?
2. How do we determine and connect science and management scales for multiple ecosystem services and sectors?
3. What do these differences in scales mean for needed agency and government cooperation? OR Conceptually, how can agency and government programs better consider these scales?

Day Two**Break-out Session # 3****The Integration of Science and Management**

As we come to some regional understanding of the mismatches of scale affecting science and management and some common ground on the ecosystem services and activities we value most, we must also consider better integrating science and management so that we can truly work toward a more ecosystem-based approach.

Discussion Questions

1. How would we know if science and management were more integrated? What would be different?

Examples:

- a. Ongoing, relevant science advisory structures for managers
- b. Effective communication and enhanced citizen participation and input
- d. Useful and scientifically rigorous ecosystem indicators
- e. Enhanced management and access to data and information
- f. Effective integration of science into ongoing management strategies

2. How would the suggestions we just discussed actually happen (choose 2 or 3 of #1 to answer this question – ask group to choose)? What resources/tools do we need and how do we acquire them? For instance, accessibility to the most relevant science data, funding etc.

3. Absent of any major changes, what can we do now to strengthen the integration of science and management?

Plenary Discussions

Day Two

Policy and management relevant science Blueprint discussion

The Blueprint will be a synthesis of the results of this meeting and will be created by the summer 2007. It will offer recommendations for accelerating EBM activities in the region. Based on the information we're gathering at this first meeting, the Blueprint will help us to understand the following points so that we can start to develop an EBM action plan as a coordinated region:

- Key ecosystem services and impacts to the services in the Gulf of Maine
- Ecosystem services and activities relevant to an EBM approach
- Current and needed science relevant to an EBM approach
- The most critical spatial and temporal mismatches between science and management
- How to make better use of current EBM decision-making tools and identify needs.
- What can be done now, absent statutory or regulatory changes, to accelerate EBM approaches in the region.

This discussion is meant to recap what we heard (at this meeting and through the pre-meeting online survey) are the priorities for moving forward and determining what are the important issues/challenges we will face next.

Life after the Meeting

The purpose of this discussion is to get at what happens next. What is the responsibility of the organizations involved in this meeting and the different sectors? What is the collective responsibility of us all? Given all we've discussed, what's the best strategy for getting to that next step?

Examples of discussion questions include ...

How can we make our next steps as transparent and inclusive as possible?

Should we adapt other EBM implementation strategies?

Should COMPASS host a series of smaller follow-up meetings to keep the coordination going?

How will the NROC meeting follow up with the March meeting?

What role can regional partners (e.g., Sea Grant, Gulf of Maine Council, RARGOM, etc.) play?

What are some creative approaches to funding entities?