

Breakout Group Sessions

Session 1: Issue and Problem Definition (2 hours)

- a. Amend and ratify the conceptual model, issues and management questions
 - i. Review day's agenda and breakout charge from Day One (10 min.)
 - ii. Is the break-out session topic well-defined in the conceptual model? If not, why not? Fix. (20 min.)
 - iii. Are the most significant management issues included in both the model and in the web survey? Remove redundancy, add missing issues & reword when necessary. Consider web survey results and rank in priority order. (30 min.)
 - iv. Go through the key questions. Remove redundancy, add missing questions & reword when necessary. Rank in priority order. (30 min.)
 - v. Does your work so far provide a clear, sufficient and compelling basis for developing indicators? If not, why not? Fix. What is missing? (30 min)

Final product - consensus on conceptual model. (If consensus can't be reached; identify a plan to address the issue(s), and lists of issues and management questions in priority order

Session 2: Review "straw-man" indicators – align with session 1 issues and questions (2 hours)

- a. Review "straw-man" indicators & discuss alignment with session 1 results (20 min.)
- b. Commence with priority question #1 (identified during Session 1) and respond to the following: (30 min)
 - i. Identify core information the indicators are to convey for the first question.
 - ii. Define who the primary and secondary end users are and what their needs are.
 - iii. Prioritize indicators for each question (try to choose no more than 3 & sort by Pressure, State and Response)
 - iv. Define indicator metrics at the most applicable spatial and temporal aggregations (e.g., annually @ bay level; seasonally within the Gulf of Maine, etc.)
 - v. Discuss how the indicators can be used to communicate the status of the region's ecosystem
 - vi. Define how we will know if people are using the indicators (program or statutory changes, increases in funding, etc.)
 - vii. Define feedback, modification and evaluation loop

Final product – Reach consensus on the indicators applicable to this management question.

- c. Repeat i-viii above for management questions #2 – 5 (20 min/question)

Session 3: Make it happen (2 hours)

- a. Identify actions required over the next 12-18 months to implement the proposed indicators.
 - i. Identify key partners to refine concepts (organizations that have the data needed for the indicator)
 - ii. Identify appropriate approaches (seasonal surveys at coast and estuarine level; moored systems at locations representative of the water body of interest, etc.) to collect data to support the indicator (if applicable)
 - iii. Identify the adequacy and shortcomings of existing data sources to support the indicators and define data gaps
 - iv. Identify ways to engage end-users in proposed indicators and garner their support
 - v. Identify what actions we expect end-users to take when they receive and use the indicator (how will we know success?)
 - vi. Identify implementation approaches
 - Existing or new group are engaged to develop
 - Possible funding sources

Final Product – Consensus on the method(s) to make it happen

Suggested time line is 20 minutes for each item (i-vi above)