



Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group: Background and Current Activities

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Co-Chairs

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Purpose

- **The goal is to provide background on the ESMWG and an update on current activities, particularly for the new SAB members**



Charge



The ESMWG is charged to:

- **provide scientific advice and broad direction to the SAB on NOAA's ecosystem related programs, in the context of national and international activities.**
- **focus on the broad research, monitoring, and management components of NOAA's ecosystem portfolio, as well as on the underlying observations and data management issues.**
- **assist in establishing plans, assessing progress, and reviewing priorities on a continuing basis.**



Charge(continued)



- **advise the SAB on the condition and capabilities of NOAA's ecosystem portfolio and submits formal reports to the SAB that identify current issues, deficiencies, recommendations for remedial action, and proposed initiatives.**
- **fosters ongoing dialogue; enhances communication with external partners and stakeholders, and provides a sounding board for proposals to enhance the delivery of science supporting ecosystem approaches to management**



History

- **First meeting held in February 2009; since that time recommendations sent to the SAB on topics including:**
 - **NOAA Coastal Strategy (2009)**
 - **Ocean Color Satellite Continuity Mitigation (2009)**
 - **Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (2010)**
 - **Ecosystem Approach to Management (2010)**
 - **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (2011)**

Copies of the reports can be found on the SAB website:
<http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Reports/Reports.html>



Members

- **Co-Chairs**

- **Dr. David Fluharty, University of Washington**

- **Dr. Jo-Ann Leong, University of Hawaii**

- **Members**

- **Dr. Vic Adamowicz, University of Alberta**

- **Dr. Michael W. Beck, The Nature Conservancy**

- **Dr. Timothy Essington, University of Washington**

- **Dr. Efi Foufoula-Georgiou, University of Minnesota**

- **Dr. Jackie M. Grebmeier, University of Maryland**

- **Dr. Robert J. Johnston, Clark University**

- **Dr. Peter Kareiva, The Nature Conservancy (SAB liaison)**

- **Dr. Denise J. Reed, Water Institute of the Gulf**

- **Dr. Jake Rice, Dept of Fisheries & Oceans Canada**

- **Dr. James Yoder, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**



Current Activities



- **At the next in-person meeting in early 2014, members will work to finalize recommendations on Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management and Coastal Habitat Restoration**
- **Discussion will emphasize review of Ecosystem Services Valuation across NOAA and how to provide advice to NOAA to strengthen its strategy for Arctic science programs**



ESMWG Exploration of EBFM



Goal: To explore the progress in implementation of Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) in US fisheries 1999-2013

Principal lines of inquiry

- 1. To determine the availability and adequacy of ecosystem science in management of marine fisheries in the US**
- 2. To examine the use of ecosystem science in regional fishery management councils**



EBFM Exploration - Approach



- **Presentations and discussions with scientists from NMFS regional science centers and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada**
- **Presentations and discussion with lead staff on EBFM from regional councils**
- **Review of peer review literature**
- **Review of NMFS science center and regional council region reports and websites**
- **Review headquarters efforts through NMFS and NOAA Ecosystem Goal Team**
- **Review NOAA engagement in International Organizations**



Coastal Habitat Restoration Issues



- **Restoration is a substantial and growing part of NOAA's work; NOAA funds restoration projects directly and increasingly serves as an advisor on substantial restoration funds.**
- **ESMWG collected data on NOAA direct and indirect role in restoration and is developing findings and recommendations. While work is not yet complete, some early findings relate to the need for better tracking of restoration outcomes including benefits beyond fisheries.**



Future Directions

- 1. Arctic Ecosystem Research and Management Strategy**
- 2. Follow-up on restoration in consultation with the new Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program Advisory Working Group and broader restoration efforts nationally**
- 3. Role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) in NOAA Science and Management**
- 4. Special Concern raised for NOAA and SAB Discussion – Getting out ahead of ecosystem science and management issues affected by present and predicted changes in hydrology.**



Questions

Thank you for your consideration.

Do you have questions or comments?