Assessing the Role of Scientific Information in Sanctuary Management

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ONMS • Fall 2010
University of California, Davis
Graduate Group in Ecology
Department of Environmental Science & Policy

... and Bodega Marine Laboratory

... and fieldwork in the Monterey Bay!

photo courtesy of MBNMS
DISSERTATION: ‘Zones of Impact’

HUMAN COMPONENT

small-scale river runoff

environmental chemistry

kelp forest ecology

nearshore oceanography

photo courtesy of MBNMS
DISSETATION: ‘Zones of Impact’

DISSETATION COMMITTEE:
Dr. John Largier – Coastal Oceanographer
Dr. Peter Green – Environmental Chemist
Dr. Mark Lubell – Political Scientist

photo courtesy of MBNMS
Dr. Foster was a former Director of NOS & NMSP.

- supports graduate students in marine science, particularly women & minorities
  - tuition & stipend
  - research collaboration
Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship Program

"I will never forget; I didn't do it alone—
it was a combination of hard work, luck
and a helping hand along the way."

About the Scholarship  How to Apply  This Year's Scholars
What I am doing here?

ONMS Collaboration
...and part of my dissertation research!

“SCIENCE MATTERS TO SOCIETY”
...but it has to be relevant
...and it has to be accessible
...and it is only one facet of consideration
How do scientists share their knowledge?

Often disconnected from the management and policy processes
THIS ecologist delves into social science to answer questions about science...

How does scientific information (SI) play a role in management & policy decisions?

• Initial focus on coastal water quality networks
• Since extended to ONMS & advisory councils (all 14 sites!)
Research Goals

1. Evaluate the flow of SI through advisory councils as well as its valuation and use where recommendations are made to sanctuary managers.

2. Assess how sanctuary managers value and use council recommendations along with their own understanding of the SI.

3. Identify conditions under which SI can facilitate collaboration and improve the effectiveness of sanctuary management.
Why does it matter?

LOCALLY

• Improve the overall understanding & effectiveness of sanctuary management
  • across multiple spatial scales &/or characteristics
  • advisory council-NMS feedback loops

• Potential to highlight advisory councils & ONMS as a model system for incorporating stakeholders and science

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Why does it matter?

GENERALLY

• Inform current lack of academic understanding about the role of SI in resource management decisions
  • tool facilitating collaborative action
  • extent to which it is useful/valuable

• Offer perspective to scientists seeking to improve their communication of relevant findings to appropriate audiences
The Details

Stage 1: Observational Visits
  • West Coast Region (5 sites)

Stage 2: Introductory Visits & Interviews
  • introduce self & research
  • exploratory interviews w/ advisory council members and NMS staff (n ~ 10)

Stage 3: Online Survey
  • all council members, relevant NMS staff, and relevant working groups
My ‘Sanctuaries Tour’

1. Olympic Coast
2. Thunder Bay
3. Gulf of Farallones
4. Stellwagen Bank
5. Monitor
6. Fagatele Bay
7. Flower Garden Banks
8. Cordell Bank
9. Channel Islands

10. Monterey Bay

11. Florida Keys
12. Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale
13. Gray’s Reef
14. Papahanaumokuakea Monument
What ACs & ONMS get out of it...

INITIALLY

• my gratitude!!!
• an opportunity to share your individual perspective

PRODUCTS

• preliminary results @ 2011 SAC Summit
• official report to ONMS & SACs
• publication as a chapter of my dissertation
• publication in academic journal(s)
How you can help...

Stage 2: Interviews (Sept 2010 – Jan 2011)
- standardized – across all sites
- selected – by site & perspectives
- offered – ANY staff or council member who is interested

Stage 3: Online Survey (March 2011)
- ALL council members, including alternates
- key NMS staff (local, regional & national)
- key working groups
Confidentiality & Time

Interviews & survey responses are considered, saved and reported on anonymously.

Questions can always be skipped or discussed off-record by your choice.

• Interview: 30-60 minutes
• Survey: 30 minutes
QUESTIONS?

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