

Socio Economic Group

Content of Presentation

- Brief recap of main points from the Socioeconomic table
- Overall Capacity Needs and how to address them
- Big Messages (WOA and Socio economic messages)

SUMMARY POINTS FROM SOCIO ECONOMIC TABLE

Main points from the Table

- Most of the chapters assigned to the socio economic aspects of the report were deemed to be **deficient in well known socio economic assessments**
- Much of the information cited seemed to be in **grey literature**
- There seem to be **few regional assessments** – many are national or sub-national

OVERALL CAPACITY NEEDS

Overall Capacity Needs and how to address them

- Both **human and institutional capacity are weak in the Region.** In that context we suggest that in seeking to strengthen the human and institutional capacity there is usually a trade-off and therefore we need to have informed decision making in that prioritisation process.
- **Networks – national and regional** - offer solutions to build capacity. Another way to strengthen capacity is to network regional projects and programmes.
- **Lack of political capacity** e.g. translating interdisciplinary research into policy. Need to improve the link between societally driven research, evidence from science and other sources, into producing actions that improve well being.

Overall Capacity Needs and how to address them

- The social sciences could help articulate research questions based on what the political priorities may be (which could help close the gap between the policy making and implementation).
- Careful attention needs to be paid to **communication strategies** that are **appropriate to the knowledge demands** of varying publics which range from the political to civil society organisations and communities.

BIG MESSAGES (WOA AND SOCIO ECONOMIC MESSAGES)

Big Messages (1)

- What might be an appropriate node for sharing information on the Caribbean in the context of the WOA?
 - Cartagena Convention/CEP ?
- A socio economic assessments are often site specific therefore there is need to build a regional picture based on scaling up (where possible).

Big Messages (2)

- What is the strategy going forward with respect to communication, information dissemination etc. ?
- There should be an opportunity for public engagement as early in the process as feasible with connections to the political processes so that the output answers specific societal questions
- Need to do upstream demand-driven (country driven) analyses to ensure there is ownership/buy-in of outputs and follow-up (the Sustainability dimension)

Big Messages (3)

- What is the value added to be derived from the WOA process vs other meta assessments and processes past and present (and future)
- From a socio economic perspective there needs to be a sense of the Total Econ Value e.g. the cost of degradation from pollution but also capturing use and non-use values from the ocean.

Big Messages (4)

- The WOA should capture cross cutting issues:
 - Climate change issues (ocean acidification, SST, flooding etc.)
 - Gender
 - Poor and Vulnerable Communities
 - Governance specifically as an integrating factor across the 30-odd chapters.