Coastal & Marine Ecosystem-based Management at Different Scales: Unique Challenges & Critical Linkages

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Project Background

- **Objective**: to determine what factors enable effective coastal and marine ecosystem-based approaches to management
- **Approach**: case studies of exemplar processes
- **Case selection criteria**:  
  - Ecologically relevant boundaries  
  - Integrative: social and ecological considerations  
  - Collaborative  
  - Adaptive approach  
  - Different scales  
  - Varied levels of formal authority  
  - Underway at least 10 years
Key Questions

• How and why did the initiative form?

• Who was involved & why?

• How was the process organized and managed, and how did these factors change over time?

• What factors (tangible & intangible) enabled those involved to work together?

• What challenges were encountered, and how were they managed?

• What has been accomplished? What is different because of their work together?

• What lessons have they learned? What would they have done differently?
Overarching Lessons Learned

Island Press, 2017

seas.umich.edu/ecomgt/mebm
How does SCALE matter?

• Is there a “right” scale?
• What distinguishes processes at different scales? (transnational vs. multi-state vs. state/regional vs. community-based)
• What is the relationship between scales?
How does SCALE matter?

- Is there a “right” scale?
- What distinguishes processes at different scales?
- What is the relationship between scales?

Findings:

- Effective processes at all scales.
- Authorities, jurisdictional complexity, strategies vary
- Robust cross-scale linkages are evident and essential to all processes.
Cross-scale linkages:
Large-scale, transnational

“We envision a healthy and resilient Gulf of Maine where people and aquatic life thrive”

Gulf of Maine Council Vision Statement
Cross-scale linkages in the Gulf of Maine

- A common table
  “A lot of it is just simply the opportunity to learn and network and share information so that we can all do our respective jobs better.”
- Action plans
- Joint research & monitoring
- Strategic grant-making
- Instilling a shared identity
Cross-scale linkages: Community-based Initiatives

Mission
To ensure the long-term sustainability of Port Orford’s ocean resources and our community that depends on them by uniting science, education, local expertise and conservation.
POORT Marine Stewardship Area
State/Local Synergy --
A cross-scale linkage that addressed interests at two scales
Cross-scale linkages: National/State Initiatives
What enables effective cross-scale linkages?

**Synergies** across scales that are rooted in:

- Common, overlapping interests
- Aligned, complementary interests
Questions/Comments?

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