

Gulf of Maine Summit

Report on Activities from Breakout
Session 1

What are the top 2 – 3 insights
from your group?

Land Use

Observation 1

- The ways we use and manage land are a reflection of a complex set of values (cultural, institutional, environmental, economic)

Challenge 1

- New messaging that reflects core values of audience.

Land Use

Observation 2

- Well intended single purpose environmental laws have unintended consequences

Challenge 2

- New methods of integrated planning and management.

Land Use

Observation 3

- Many land use decisions have regional implications

Challenge 3

- Strengthen regional and watershed level planning and management.

Contaminants

- **Recognize the tremendous effort that went into the report in a short amount of time, and it was a good first step to start discussion, indeed the process of the summit/report may be more important than the product itself.**
- **Report covered appropriate contaminants, but it's not comprehensive (missing persistent organic pollutants, effects on wildlife from other contaminants besides mercury, and biomagnification)**
- **Readers of the report were seeking a clear summary or synthesis of sources, trends and future needs (like bullets at the end) that made it clear there are urgent and compelling issues to be addressed.**
- **No explanation of monitoring/assessment programs—why are we monitoring nutrients, Hg, etc. (why do we have these data?). There should be more of an effort to track the management, use, and disposal of products/goods (ie, sources of contaminants that we are monitoring).**

Fisheries

- Our participants reminded us of the wisdom of actively involving (not just inviting) all stakeholders in the whole process of identifying issues, assessing the status of the resource, setting goals and identifying indicators.
- Relationships built among all stakeholders during the process may open the door to partnerships in working on solutions.

Fisheries

- Everything is connected, and we suspect, but do not see documented, how activities in the heart of the watershed affect fisheries and aquaculture; our focus cannot be just the rim of the Gulf.
- The vision statement calls for a healthy ecosystem and healthy communities... as we review the report for the first time, we lack a common framework for which constitutes health in both ecosystems and human communities

Fisheries

- As we began our discussions, it was soon evident that participants were unsure about the audience for the report (grassroots NGOs , local communities, policy makers, managers, political structures)
- As well, there was confusion about the content of the report. Is it intended to be an assessment of the status of resources, the status of fisheries, and aquaculture industries and their contribution to the economy, a critique of existing management framework for inshore and offshore fisheries, or a summary of interactions of fisheries and aquaculture?