

# Gulf of Maine Summit

Report from Breakout Groups

# What is your group's key message about:

- The Tides of Change Report
- Indicators
- Next Steps
- Building Partnerships

# Land Use

## Messages about the report

- Trends are different in rural Canada and rural Maine (importance of community vitality/loss of working lands and waterfronts).
- Understand tourism impacts -no info or stats provided.
- Sectoral uses (agricultural and forestry) not represented.
- Social and cultural community health not represented (e.g., livability).

# Land Use

## Messages about indicators

- Groups attempted to tweak/lump/split indicators.
- Suggested new indicators for rate and pattern of land consumption, sprawl index, fragmentation, impervious surface (reconcile report with indicator list).

# Land Use

## Messages about indicators

- Suggested new social indicators: number of children remaining in community/water use and availability.
- Confusion about where we are in indicator process.
- “Type and rate of land use change” only meaningful in context of underlying resources.

# Land Use

## Messages about next steps

- GOM needs to portray a consistent image (branding or visual messaging).
- Identify available models for land use planning or management and create exchange programs.
- Need for understanding social marketing as a means of developing a more effective communication/education strategy.
- Cross-border sharing of data and creating standards and links.

# Land Use

## Messages about building partnerships

- Need to connect various indicator efforts.
- Need to include data (TEK) collected by NGOs and groups in the whole data set (need standards).
- Need resources to develop partnerships.
- How do we engage business people and developers?
- People need to have mechanism to get together *within* their jurisdictions.

# Contaminants

## Messages about the report

- Good first step, process it stimulated was more important than product.
- Covered appropriate contaminants, but was not comprehensive.
- Readers were seeking clear summary or synthesis of sources, trends, future needs.
- No explanation, synthesis or analysis of monitoring/assessment programs.

# Contaminants

## Messages about indicators

- Some of the identified indicators should be combined or eliminated because of overlap.
- The proposed indicators can be grouped and prioritized according to purpose based on 1) Human Health Concern, 2) Ecosystem Health, and 3) Management Effectiveness.

# Contaminants

## Messages about indicators

- Many of these indicators are irrelevant without knowing ambient levels of the contaminant and action levels.
- Some new indicators were identified including: coastal debris, illegal and episodic discharges, and inclusion of new and emerging contaminants.

# Contaminants

## Messages about next steps

- Gap analysis, data availability and the feasibility to fill these gaps needs to be assessed.
- There needs to be a dedicated team identified to further develop the indicators and to develop a state of the gulf report.

# Contaminants

## Messages about next steps

- We need to be able to package and promote the suite of indicators using diagrammatic/graphic approaches where possible to ensure public understanding and support.
- Need to identify funding sources and coordinate fundraising to support the establishment of programs and for long-term support both regionally and locally.

# Contaminants

## Messages about building partnerships

- Identify appropriate agency partners to develop and/or employ specific indicators.
- Leverage private sector participation and engagement to share costs and information.
- Use the “inventory of contaminants” indicator as an exercise for identifying participants, practitioners and partners.

# Contaminants

## Messages about building partnerships

- Engage local community organizations in monitoring and data gathering programs.

# Fisheries

## Messages about the report

- The report, coupled with a comprehensive report of the Summit, will serve as a milestone on the way towards development of an effective “State of the Gulf” Report. The “State of the Gulf” Report, along with appropriate indicators, will allow the Council and stakeholders to develop goals and objectives that lead to improvements in the health of the Gulf ecosystem and human communities.

# Fisheries

## Messages about the report

- The report was helpful background, a beginning to understanding how three issues affect the health of the Gulf of Maine and its human communities.
- The report may need to be supplemented with background or “ecosystem health”, including the connections between human activities within the entire watershed and what is happening to fisheries and other aspects of the Gulf.

# Fisheries

## Messages about the report

- The matrix system illustrates the potential of a color-coded system summarizing priorities, which needs to be combined with trends, indicating if things are getting better worse. However, the process used to develop the matrices needs to be carefully evaluated and improved to be credible.

# Fisheries

## Messages about indicators

- The background papers on indicators, if people read them, provide good rationale for the selection of most fisheries indicators.
- Participants had many suggestions and questions about the draft indicators and new indicators.
- It was sometimes difficult to link the vision for the health of the Gulf to indicators without discussion of what we were trying to accomplish - our goals and objectives.

# Fisheries

## Messages about indicators

- Assuming that there are 3 groups of indicators addressing the health of the Gulf of Maine, participants saw the need to counter-balance those indicators addressing ecosystem health with those addressing stock assessment (health of the fisheries) and socio-economic characteristics.

# Fisheries

## Messages about indicators

- Choice among indicators may be influenced by different audiences and different scales of reference. People relate best to indicators that hold meaning in their day to day lives.
- In general, though the issue area is titled fisheries and aquaculture, there aren't good analysis of indicators for aquaculture and that industry's relationship to wild fisheries.

# Fisheries

## Messages about next steps

- There were two basic views about the best roles of the Council as we move forward. Some believe that the Council should only report the “state of the ecosystem”, while others would like to see the Council initiate collaboration with fisheries management bodies and industry to develop common approaches to ecosystem management.

# Fisheries

## Messages about next steps

- There was consensus that the Council is the most appropriate body to continue the process begun with the development of the report, the draft indicators and the Summit. The Council must continue its work on indicators and produce a State of the Gulf report, with periodic updates so all stakeholders can work in concert to take action to improve or maintain healthy ecosystems and associated human communities.

# Fisheries

## Messages about next steps

- The Council should pay particular attention to the lessons learned so far about the process of collaboration to frame issues, gather data and select indicators. Industry must be brought into the process.
- The Council should support exploitation of both local watershed management and habitat protection as well as the potential of large ocean management areas being explored in the offshore waters of the Gulf of Maine.

# Fisheries

## Messages about next steps

- The Council should designate a core transboundary team to further work on ecosystem/human community health.

# Fisheries

## Messages about building partnerships

- The Council will best forward this work by linking with Gulf-wide and local efforts to monitor conditions affecting the health of the ecosystem, fisheries stocks and related human communities.

# Fisheries

## Messages about building partnerships

- Partnership with industry groups (which have also been referred to as the “regulated community”) will lead to better outcomes - when key stakeholders are involved in framing the issues, developing appropriate goals and objectives, selecting helpful indicators and monitoring conditions, there is greater ownership of the outcomes and investments required to make improvements.

# Fisheries

## Messages about building partnerships

- The Council and its formal and informal partners will do well to remember that citizens and taxpayers are the ultimate audience for work towards a healthy Gulf of Maine - they must understand the value to their day to day lives and future generations in order to support investments and policy choice.