

Awareness and application of long-term monitoring data in the Pacific Islands

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Date _____

Number of participants _____

Introduction

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this focus group discussion. My name is _____ and I am facilitating the discussion today. I am part of a team that is collecting data on behalf of a project to assess awareness and application of long-term socio-economic monitoring data in the Pacific Islands . You have been selected to participate in this group discussion as you have been involved in designing and implementing long-term monitoring data in the Pacific island region or you have been identified as a current or possible user of the data. Recently we have conducted a survey to examine awareness of available monitoring data and their uses. I will share with you a brief presentation of the key results before we begin the focus group discussions.

The purpose of the group discussion today is to learn more about your experiences with producing and/or using long-term monitoring data. We would like to obtain any suggestions you might have to optimize long-term monitoring, with an emphasis on socioeconomic data, for better ecosystem-based management of fisheries and coastal marine resources. The information you provide will help us make recommendations on the types of data collected in the future, how to better integrate biophysical and social monitoring efforts, and ways to make the data more useful for various types of users. We hope to outline a future socioeconomic monitoring plan in the Pacific island region as a result of this project.

This focus group discussion will last about three hours. Your participation is voluntary. You may be assured of complete anonymity. To protect your privacy, nothing you tell me will be personally attributed to you in any written documents that result from this session. At any time during the discussion, please feel free to let me know if you have any questions or if you would rather not be involved in the any part of the discussion. Please remember that we want to know what you think and feel, and to discuss with other participants. There are no right or wrong answers.

The public reporting burden for collecting this information is estimated to average 90 minutes to complete the group discussion. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Supin Wongbusarakum, Ecosystem Sciences Division, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1845 Wasp Boulevard, Building 176, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818, supin.wongbusarakum@noaa.gov.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number

Is it OK if I record this discussion today? We are recording the session because we don't want to miss any of your comments. The recording and all raw data will be destroyed at the end of this project.

Thank you for taking the time to assist us with this effort. Do you have any questions before we begin?

Privacy Act Statement

Authority: The collection of this information is authorized under the [Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000](#) (P.L. 106-562; 16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq).

Purpose: NOAA proposes to conduct a survey and focus groups. The information gathered will help inform partners in coastal and marine resource management and conservation about the types of data that are important for their monitoring programs, that can help fill data gaps, and that can improve integrated monitoring.

NOAA Routine Uses: NOAA will use this information to generate information that will help ensure that monitoring programs are designed appropriately with useful indicators and are effectively implemented, and that will help bring about conditions that are optimized for users to apply data effectively in their work and to better integrate biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring in ecosystem approaches for fisheries, coastal and marine management. Disclosure of this information is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) to be shared among NOAA staff for work-related purposes. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all of the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice [Commerce/NOAA-11](#), Contact Information for Members of the Public Requesting or Providing Information Related to NOAA's Mission.

Disclosure: Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to participate in the survey or a focus group will provide less information for use in this endeavor.

Focus group semi-structured questions

- 1.) What is your vision for long-term monitoring?
- 2.) How has the long-term monitoring been in comparison to the vision?
- 3.) Are there challenges in terms of availability of data or accessing data you need? If so, what are they?
- 4.) (Following a brief presentation of the survey results), what do you think of the results? Do you have any thing you would like to comment on or add?
- 5.) Does management you are involved with have objectives related to benefiting human communities? If yes, what are they? If not, what do you think are the reasons?
- 6.) What would be indicators to evaluate effectiveness of alternative management scenarios?
- 7.) How has collaboration among resource managers and monitoring teams been?
- 8.) If you have worked across disciplines or collaborated with others from different disciplines, could you please elaborate on factors important for successes or failures?
- 9.) We are trying to integrate biophysical and social monitoring. What would you suggest to optimize such integration?
- 10.) What do you wish to see improved about monitoring design and process? [Facilitator may prompt with the following topics: collaboration between people who collect the data and managers for decision-making, sampling design, monitoring resources, types of available data, how to access data, how data are shared or communicated with those who may use them. Small group breakouts may be used to discuss factors to overcome obstacles participants have experienced.
- 11.) Is there any other area of improvement you would like to suggest? What would it be?

Thank you for your time!