

Socio-economic and ecological benefits of MPAs

We've benefited from some outstanding overviews of the techniques involved in evaluating benefits, whether direct and indirect use benefits, or less tangible benefits such as environmental services and existence benefits.

We've also enjoyed a variety of case studies, covering a range of social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits.

A few summary points from our breakout groups:

1. Benefits need to be demonstrable even if only in a future sense to local communities and equally to decision makers if we want to achieve win-win results. Especially true in achieving objectives such as initial MPA

establishment and in aspects of subsequent management planning goals (e.g., zoning).

2. Agreement that we need to consider the range of benefits, not simply the direct or indirect use benefits. That said, the less tangible benefits present greater assessment and “utility” challenges. [MPA programs should not retreat from such challenges.]
3. Demonstrable social benefits are often as important as economic: e.g., increased local role in governance; sustainable cultures; local capacity building to provide new local opportunities rather than relying on CFAs.
4. Benefits derived and that should be evaluated are not generic ... linked to

MPA goals and objectives. Need to know our audiences.

5. New assessments are emerging in some places: e.g., South Slough reserve in Oregon; with prospect of exploit other opportunities (existing fishery closures).

6. On question of network vs. site-specific, both have relevance. Gray whale provides example of a case where it makes particular sense to consider benefits at a regional, network scale; other situations more suited to demonstrating benefits at a site level (e.g., to achieve “tool box” examples useful for MPA establishment objectives).

7. Challenges for NAMPAN:

(a) There is a body of existing studies of MPA benefits, and some

attempts to begin cataloguing this information have begun in more than place, usually academia. That wasn't broadly known within the NAMPAN prior to this meeting.

Great News!! Our keynote speakers of yesterday have already agreed, during this meeting, to begin coalescing their work to build the existing data base.

(b) Need to foster work at the network level, but developed at pilot site level, of site-specific MPA benefits. This will require some volunteered effort from NAMPAN members: CEC has provided the seed, we need to make it grow.

1. What categories of MPA benefits should the NAMPAN project focus on addressing first with a view to obtaining early, reportable results?

- How to determine tangible benefits to communities?
- Social impacts – often over-riding factor in MPA establishment (over conservation impact)
- Not generic - tied to goals and objectives of MPA, e.g., fisheries enhancement, recreation

- Employment
 - from production of fisheries, number of people changing to equally preferred/socially attractive (economically and quality of life) activity e.g., from fishery to tourism, traditional activities
 - comes back to compensation
 - pay or public resource

- right to compensation for access to a common resource (e.g., forestry in Canada; a service that's of benefit to society,)
- Tax relief for ecological/conservation easements/covenants – but problems with paying people for e.g., 10 year lease, just delayed an environmental degradation for greater personal profit
- Capacity building/training to take advantage of new employment opportunities, e.g, internships
- direct employment (relatively easy to determine)
- indirect employment – multiplier tools e.g., stats can but relevant to smaller scales?
- Demonstrate sustainable fisheries – not broad generalities but specific experiments to demonstrate providing good science; involve

displaced fishermen into research,
e.g, fishermen advisory group use of
boats, collection of data,

- Enhanced tourism spinoff or downstream benefits
- Improved property values, e.g., protect from neighbour development
- Education in school programs
- awareness
- Quality of life – have moved for improved QoL (e.g., character of fishing community) and don't want to see it change;
- How to measure?
- Data available in census units blocks
- Governance – better able to organize themselves and take aggressive/empowered role in decision making
- Property rights within MPA, higher sense of appropriation, more certainty

- Locals have preferred access to natural resources within MPA
- Project economic benefits into the future, but few toolkits/case studies in temperate areas
- Scale of benefits at local scale compared to the network
- Identify gaps
- Lobbying power that a particular region was laggin