

Defining the Problem

Finding the underlying cause of the social and behavioral aspects of resource management issues can be difficult. Understanding those elements can help you breakdown the issue and point you toward effective solutions to complex problems. Use the information in the table below as a mental tool to help guide you in defining the problem.

Describe the problem or issue in the space provided below. Be simple and brief.		
The Five Whys ¹	Key questions	We know.....but.....therefore.....
<p>This technique involves iteratively asking ‘why’ to explore the cause-and-effect relationships of a particular problem. It is called ‘five whys’ because that is the average number of iterations needed to identify a root cause.</p>	<p>This technique involves stepping through a series of key questions intended to uncover the multiple dimensions of a particular problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the problem? Why does the problem exist? Who or what is causing the problem, who is affected by it? What is the desired state relevant to your problem? What prevents the desired state from being achieved at the present time? 	<p>This technique consists of simple 3-part framework for creating a problem statement. Each component should be 1-2 sentences.</p> <p>‘We know’ component - a brief summary of your experience and pertinent knowledge about your coastal management issue.</p> <p>‘But’ component - a brief description of what is unsatisfactory about the current state.</p> <p>‘Therefore’ component - a statement or list of ideas with potential to address the issue</p>

¹ The technique now has widespread application but was originally developed by Sakichi Toyoda and used within the Toyota Motor Corporation.

Using a technique from the reverse side, think about the social and/or behavioral elements of the issue to re-frame your problem below.