

NAVIGATING THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT GUIDE

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Tackling a challenging coastal management issue? Want to increase the chance that your project will have the intended impact? Join us for an introduction to and tour of the online Needs Assessment Guide to ensure you will have the information you need at the ready to support your project design.

A needs assessment has been described as the study that is done to figure out what to do (Rossett, 2001). It is a critical step that provides the foundation for the entire project planning process, ensuring the solution is appropriate for the setting and stakeholders involved. Without an assessment, coastal decision makers face potentially costly and time consuming retrofitting in project implementation.

The Needs Assessment Guide was developed to provide a straightforward, stepwise approach to help plan and conduct an assessment. It is designed for those with some experience with needs assessment, but who may need a refresher. The tour will focus on the step-by-step guidance, with stops along the way to view the variety of other resources such as case studies and needs assessment questions. During this session, you will become familiar with how to access and navigate through the Guide so you can apply it to planning and design of future projects.