

Ecosystem Services and the Research Reserves

Context and the Potential for Conducting and Applying Ecosystem Services Research

Pete Wiley

NOAA Office for Coastal Management

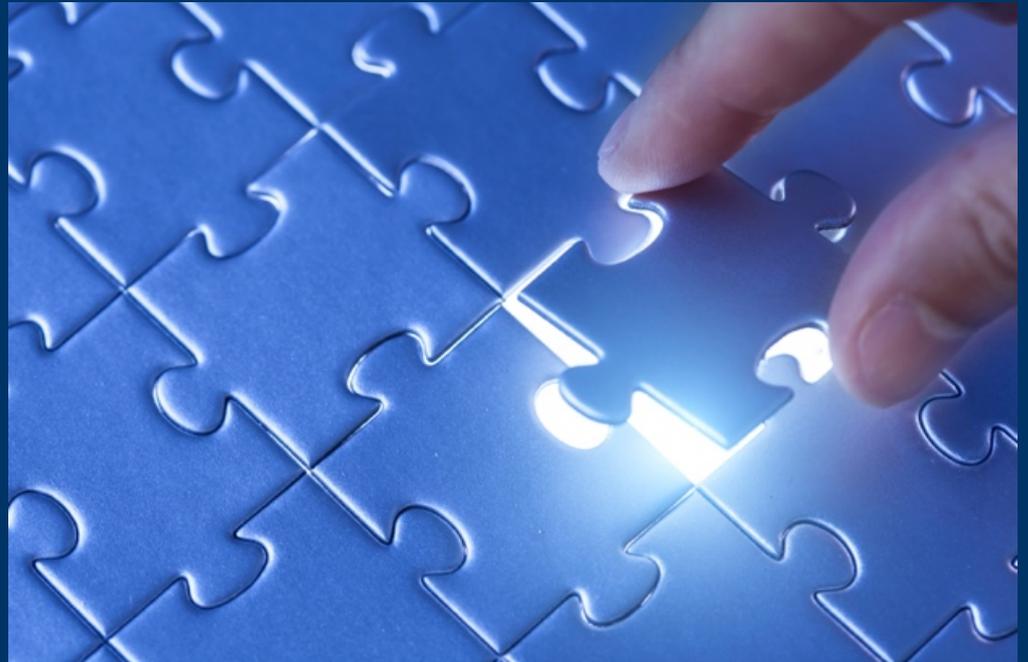
Social Coast Forum – February 9, 2016

Why Ecosystem Services?



Organizing Principle

- All the right pieces of the puzzle
- Ensure that they fit together to form a picture
- Helps us use the information correctly and with impact



Demystifying Ecosystem Services



- Relationships are already known
- Human interaction with estuarine resources
- How will the puzzle pieces fit together, and what will the picture look like?

Communicating the Process, Results



- Language
- Relevance
- Credibility
- Emphasis

Different Languages

- **ES is inherently interdisciplinary**
 - Natural and social science
 - Management and policy
 - Stakeholders and the public

→ Each have their own language
- **Clarity of language is critical**
- **Need for precise definition of terms**

Ecosystem Services Summit

- Work is ongoing
- Capacity being established
- Places for this work—use NERRS to advance ES science nationally
- Need for expanded social science
- Capacity an issue—access, advice

White House Memo

Incorporating Ecosystem Services into Federal Decision Making - Oct 7 Memo from White House

“Directs agencies to develop and institutionalize policies to promote consideration of ecosystem services, where appropriate and practicable, in planning, investments, and regulatory contexts.”



NERRS Staff Perspectives

- Helps to bring all sciences together
- More work than anticipated
- Community eager to see results but nervous about results
- May help getting to the right answer
- Help advance conversations
- Some value politically
- Opportunity for lots of learning about lingo
- ID learning tools to communicate information
- Next steps needed and keep group
- Policy makers now interested

Needs for Data, Expertise

- Policy Management
 - Ecosystems Affected
 - Ecosystem Services Supply
 - Societal Benefit
-

Data

- Change data
- Spatial data
- Benefit transfer data
- Qualitative data (mental models)
- Goals, info from stakeholders, partners

Expertise

- Social Science
- Economics
- GIS
- Issue specific (e.g. fisheries)

Current ES in the NERRS

- Thirteen projects
- A broad range of habitats, services
- Applications

Applications

- **Importance of knowing how the information is going to be used**
- **Guides the approach and methods**
- **NERRS Projects**
 - Program Justification – 2
 - Better informed decisions – 5
 - Management Information – 4
 - Markets (e.g. carbon) – 1
 - Methods Development - 1

In Summary

- Lots happening
 - Projects
 - Discussion
- Lots of potential
 - Next steps



Questions?

Thanks!

Pete Wiley

NOAA Office for Coastal Management

Peter.Wiley@noaa.gov