

Summary of the Stakeholders: Societal, Economic, and Policy Issues session

Kaety Hildenbrand (Engaging Coastal Communities...)

- Kaety's paper was a real "rubber meets the road" paper where she talked about how Oregon Sea Grant has worked hard to help communities form groups so that developers and agencies can have a "one stop shop" from which to get a unified voice/perspectives. She shared examples of those groups.
- She talked about how these groups have been instrumental in the siting process. But, more importantly, they have been important in the learning and teaching process as well. Engagement in research to find answers to all of the unknowns is critical.
- She shared that relationships matter; providing examples of the Reedsport Settlement Process and the buoy on bottom (BOB) in Newport.

Lenore Alpert (MSP for Florida...)

- Lenore's paper talked about stakeholder engagement from the front end: legislative / state government.
- She shared how MSP can guide priorities. She shared how much folks value economic priorities (Florida's coastal/ocean resources = \$562B and is therefore important to the economy).
- She talked about how MSP but be an inclusive and participatory process. As she listed the stakeholders in Florida (fishing, boating, transport, mining, aquaculture, military) she could have easily been talking about other states such as California.
- She shared that miscommunication is problematic and that the Florida Ocean Alliance holds workshops and provides reports to inform and raise awareness.

Dave Beutel (Stakeholder Engagement in the Rhode Island SAMP)

- Dave shared that their CMSP has been completed, and he talked about how theory and the lessons learned over the two years it took to complete the plan.
- Dave talked about the 45 invited stakeholder groups (not people, but groups!) that have been included in the process. All meetings are public; attendance was 80-90 people/meeting at the beginning...but the numbers have declined as trust has been built.
- Dave shared maps that have been created (areas of most importance, by fishery and by season). He talked about how oceans and fish cross over state boundaries and how Rhode Island and Massachusetts are working together on one boundary area.
- Lastly Dave shared lessons learned (fishermen use the entire area; fisheries are dynamic; economic value of space is dynamic; fishermen will be impacted yet they do not have exclusive domain), and challenges still ahead (data acquisition, use, consistency).

Teresa Johnson (Linking Knowledge to Action...)

- Teresa's paper focuses on an NSF-funded, multidisciplinary project related to sustainability science: where you start with stakeholders, engage them in the research, move the learning into the workforce, and then do the cycle over again.
- Teresa shared that the project focuses on tidal energy in a few communities in Maine, and works closely with a developer that has been described – by the communities (77% of respondents) – as using an approach that is an excellent example of outreach and engagement. Why? Because they approached the community directly and early in their

process. They have an open and transparent process, and they have a physical presence in the communities.

- Teresa's research project entails doing observations and interviews with scientists, developers, and policy makers, plus a survey with stakeholders. Her research interest is in the overlap in relationships between all of these.
- This 4 year project is in the early stages. Early research results indicate an interest in: environmental impacts; technology; energy potential; and economic benefits.

Flaxen Conway (MRE's Social Challenges and Opportunities)

- Flaxen's paper reported on a six-project research program that looked at the textured ways that humans experience and relate to the ocean. It focused on the human dimension of wave energy in Oregon; social, economic, cultural, historical, political, and legal aspects.
- Flaxen shared that the ocean is now being viewed as the "peopled seascape" and as such, the MRE industry must pay as much attention to the human dimension as it does the technical and environmental dimensions.
- Flaxen reported on lessons learned: developing and using plans is critical; investing in research and sharing the results with the public; inviting the ocean using community to participate in research can yield many rewards; and informing the public through trusted channels and sources should be designed and implemented carefully.

Madeleine Hall Arber (via Flaxen Conway; MRE on the OCS)

- This nationwide, BOEMRE-funded research project focuses on identifying and characterizing potential space and use conflicts in the OCS on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and on finding ways to avoid or mitigate these conflicts/negative impacts.
- The project includes an extensive literature review, a geospatial database, but (more importantly) the context behind both: characteristics and use of the ocean; lessons learned from compatible and conflicting uses; the economic/social/cultural impacts of the loss of use; where use would shift; communication and preferences on strategies to gain and share information; and possible mitigation strategies.
- The project targets three audience groups: commercial fishing community; commercial non-fishing community; and non-commercial use (recreational, scientific) community.
- This project is currently under way and interested persons were encouraged to contact the principle investigators.