

## Segment 2- Moving to Implementation: Implications for enabling elements

### **Science advice supporting implementation**

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This talk focuses on the science advisory elements supporting implementation of an ecosystem approach to management of human activities in the sea. It will consider three different areas of particular concern for implementation. The first is definition of the correct task; the second the preparedness of science to advise on different aspects of implementing an ecosystem approach; and the third, the culture of seeking and using science advice in management of different human activities in the sea.

Without denigrating the importance of integrated management and inclusive governance, if jurisdictions are seriously interested in making human activities in the sea sustainable from an ecosystem context, then there are benefits to focusing specifically on the management of each activity in a broad ecosystem context. Implementing an ecosystem approach to managing human activities in the sea will require building a culture of asking the right questions at the right time in policy development. It also requires building a culture among the science advisors of making the most of what is known, while take adequate protection against the risks posed by what isn't known. Anyone experienced in the provision of science advice to diverse clients is familiar with how different the advisory cultures are between advisors and managers focused on activities that primarily impact populations than those focused on activities that primarily affect environmental quality and habitats. A move to an ecosystem approach will require these two cultures to merge – even before an ecosystem approach grows into integrated management.