

MBON Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function Working Group

The MBON BEF WG met three times since the All Hands Meeting in February, 2021. The goal of these meetings was to have a discussion with major MBON partners about next steps for MBON to strengthen collaboration to meet partner information needs. See the MBON BEF report.

TOP 3 BIODIVERSITY ISSUES

1. *Measurement and interpretation of biodiversity data*
 - Development of biodiversity baselines for characterization of ecosystem health: identification of key species, characterization of trophic levels and functional traits measurement through standardized use of imaging technology to assess biodiversity across MBON projects
 - Development of functional traits (e.g. size, lipid concentrations) as leading indicators of ecosystem function, for example shifting trophic efficiencies and linkage
2. *Dissemination of information, including infographics.* Development of clear and understandable ways to use MBON DMAC capabilities to disseminate MBON data. Development of infographics and other ways to interpret and present understanding of biodiversity information partners and other users.
3. *Connection:* Sustain and expand opportunities for connection with partners to address specific biodiversity applications at the regional level: engaging sociologists, involving managers, participation in preparatory meetings for regional NOAA IEAs.

WHO OWNS THESE ISSUES:

These issues have not been assigned a leader. This is a subject that perhaps should be addressed here or at a future All Hands Meeting. Questions that come to mind:

- Should we form separate working groups for each issue? Do some issues have priority over others? For example, development of imaging systems across MBON sites.
- Moving forward in many cases requires human resources and funding, variable among regions. How do we address this?

NEXT STEPS, FROM THE MEETING SUMMARIES:

Guidance for next steps for advancing these three issues is extracted here from the meeting summaries and notes (see appendix). Perhaps WG leaders sit down someplace to develop cross WG work plans