Project: GEMS
http://bit.ly/NI-GEMS

If you are encountering GEMS protocols for the first time, please read:

•The GEMS protocols can help you develop a monitoring plan for a restoration project. They were developed based on existing published monitoring methods, but should not be considered prescriptive or the only appropriate way to monitor.

•Each protocol is written as if you are monitoring a single outcome, but it is very possible you will be measuring multiple outcomes and may be able to use the same or similar methods to do so. Think about ways to be strategic and efficient when combining methods from different protocols. For example, are there ways to ask questions about multiple outcomes using a single survey instrument? Or is there a way to host a workshop that asks community members about barriers to accessing multiple types of outcomes?

•Please be aware that the "who" methods—aimed at documenting who will be affected by social and economic changes caused by a restoration project—are quite similar across protocols. Where possible and sensible, you should consolidate community engagement methods that assess stakeholder perceptions of project outcomes to avoid stakeholder fatigue.

Background

This document provides an overview of methods available for assessing access to the project site, which is required for many benefits of coastal restoration projects. These methods can be used independently or in addition to visitation-based "How Much" measurement protocols, which can be found here.

Visitation-based metrics include:

- Education-related knowledge: number of people with additional knowledge of habitat effects and other project outcomes
- Number of aquaculture jobs supported by project
- Change in recreational fishing expenditures associated with project site visitation
- Change in recreational activity expenditures associated with project site visitation
- Proportion of surveyed harvesters who say that food caught/harvested at the site is important for feeding their household
- Change in cognitive function
- Change in subjective well-being

Relevant Coastal Restoration Approaches

All

"Who" methods:

These methods will help identify a) vulnerable groups and historically underrepresented stakeholders in the project service area[1]; b) the accessibility of the project within the project service area; and c) whether groups who are interested in visiting the site may be disproportionately not accessing or benefitting from outcomes delivered through site visitation.

The tables below list when methods would benefit from the expertise of social scientists trained in survey design and implementation, statistics, and economics. These experts should have experience with human subject research, following best practices and, if relevant, conducting research in a way that

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[1] The geographic boundary containing those stakeholders for whom a particular project outcome is relevant

is accountable to their respective institution's oversight body, often called an Institutional Review Board. If you do not have such expertise in your project or program, many university programs and consulting firms should be able to assist. The methods below that involve focus groups, surveys, or participatory exercises require inclusive stakeholder engagement[2] of all relevant communities within the project service area.

Method (click on method title to see more detail)	Method Outcome	Method Description	Human Subject Research Expertise Needed*	Effort Level
Describe stakeholders	Project service area boundaries	Identify geographic boundary that encompasses all communities that could visit the project site	No	Low
	Demographics and social vulnerability of those in the project service area	Collate comprehensive demographic data of the communities in the project service area	No	Low
	List of relevant stakeholders in the project service area	Conduct a stakeholder assessment to understand who in the project service area is interested in visiting the project site	No	Low
Accessibility checklist (from project perspective)	Status of project site accessibility	Fill out a project checklist to identify accessibility of the site	No	Low
Assess stakeholder perceptions of project site accessibility and distribution of project visitors	Identification of access to and barriers to access in the project service area. Understanding of whether access and distribution is disproportionate compared to the project service area.	Step 1. Use focus groups, workshops, surveys, and/or participatory mapping *targeting people in the project service area* to ask questions about access and barriers to access for the project site Step 2. Consider information collected through step 1 in the context of the "who" information you already collected	Yes	High

For more information on the GEMS project metrics and protocols, visit this page.

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[2] There are many resources available that provide best practices and guidance for inclusive engagement. Some examples include: Five step approach to stakeholder engagement (BSR); Equitable Community Engagement Toolkit (Boston Public Health Commission); Designing equity-focused stakeholder engagement to inform state energy office programs and policies (NASEO); Inclusive community engagement (C40 Cities), and; Stakeholder engagement for inclusive water governance (OECD).