

Science and Decisions: A Town Hall Discussion on Ecosystem Services, Science, and Decision Making

Scientific information can be a critical input to decision making on natural resources management and other societal issues. However, the existence of scientific information alone does not ensure that it will be effectively used to inform decisions. Analytical efforts, collaboration and communication with stakeholders, adaptive management, and other proactive approaches may facilitate application of scientific information in decision making.

The impact on decision making of these proactive processes, including use of an ecosystem services approach, will be discussed at this town hall meeting. An ecosystem services approach provides a structured process for applying (biological, physical, social, and economic) scientific information to identify, measure, and value ecosystem services resulting in information that may be useful and useable to inform decisions. The town hall meeting will provide a forum for discussing how an ecosystem services approach can be applied to decision making and some of the resulting opportunities and challenges.

Science and Decisions Panel

Carl Shapiro, Moderator, Director, Science and Decisions Center, U.S. Geological Survey

Jim Boyd, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for the Management of Ecological Wealth, Resources for the Future

Erica Goldman, Director of Policy Engagement, COMPASS

Jerry Miller, Director, Science and Technology for Sustainability, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Paul Sandifer, Director, Center for Coastal Environmental and Human Health, College of Charleston

Valerie Were, Risk Communication Social Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration