

Use of Ecological Expertise for Communicating Sound Management Advice

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Supporting Co-Production

What is Co-Production?

 Coproduction of knowledge is the process of producing usable, or actionable, science through collaboration between scientists and those who use science to make policy and management decisions

Key elements in a successful Co-Production

- 1. Building ongoing relationships between scientists and stakeholders
- 2. Ensuring two-way communication between the groups
- 3. Maintaining a focus on the production of usable science

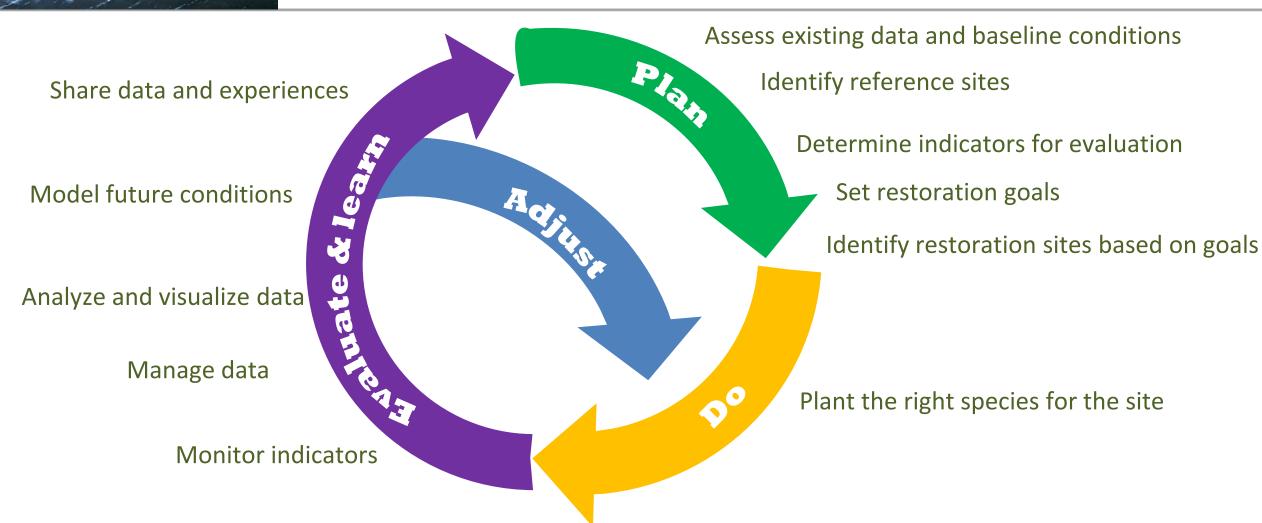


Generalized conceptual model for Co-Production (i.e using ecological expertise for communicating

sound management advice)



Data, Tools, and Expertise to Support Restoration



















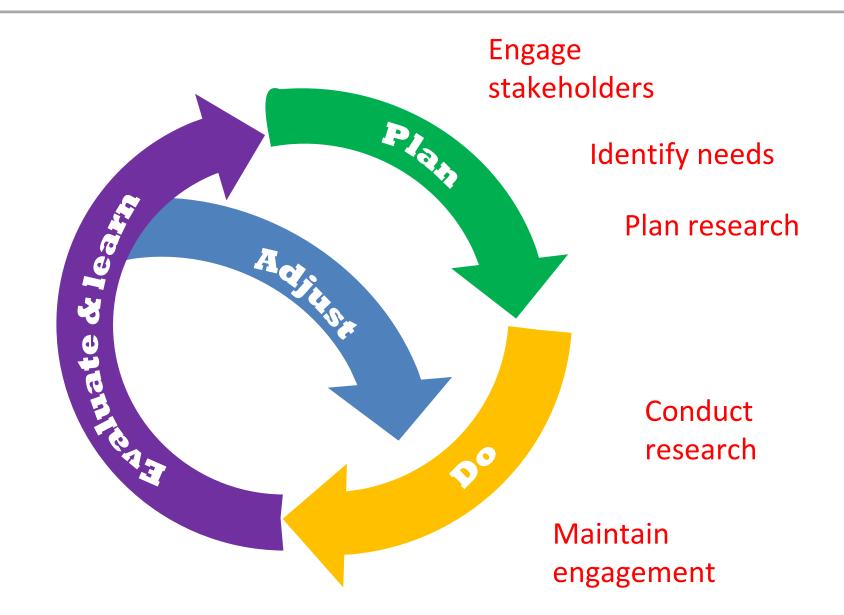
Manager Engagement: Lessons Learned

- Make human connections
- Read management plans
- Invite managers to be on the proposal team
- Invest in gathering requirements for the entire project cycle
 - prototype as soon as you can
 - iterate
- Understand manager's capacity
 - engage their leadership
 - reveal constraints early
- Provide workshops and training





The Adaptive Research Cycle







Gulf-wide assessment of habitat use and production estimates of nekton in turtlegrass

- Driven by management needs identified by end-users
 - Reports, Stock Assessments
 - External Advisory Panel
- Initial engagement with end-users
 - Guide project design, study site selection
- Maintain engagement with end-users
 - Collaborative partnership







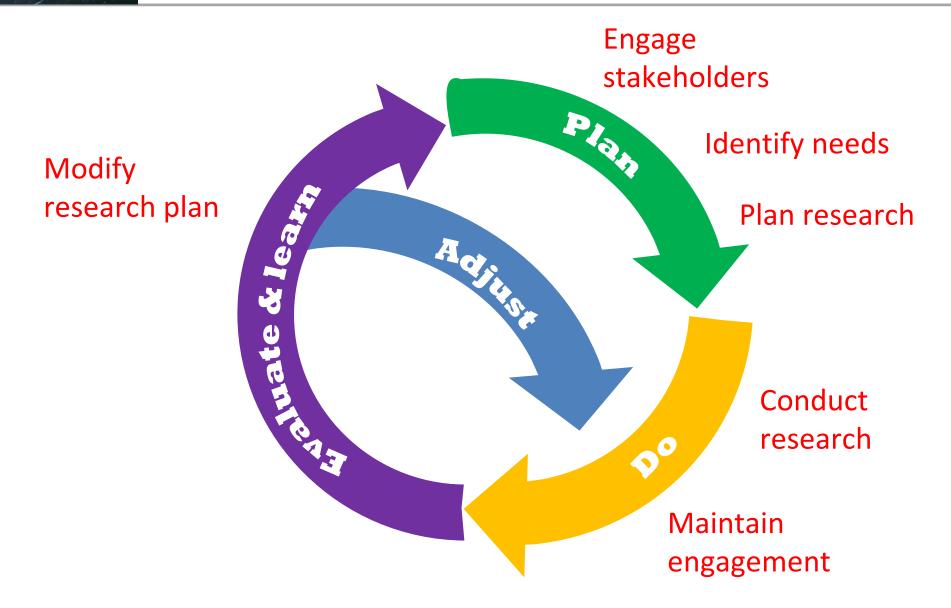








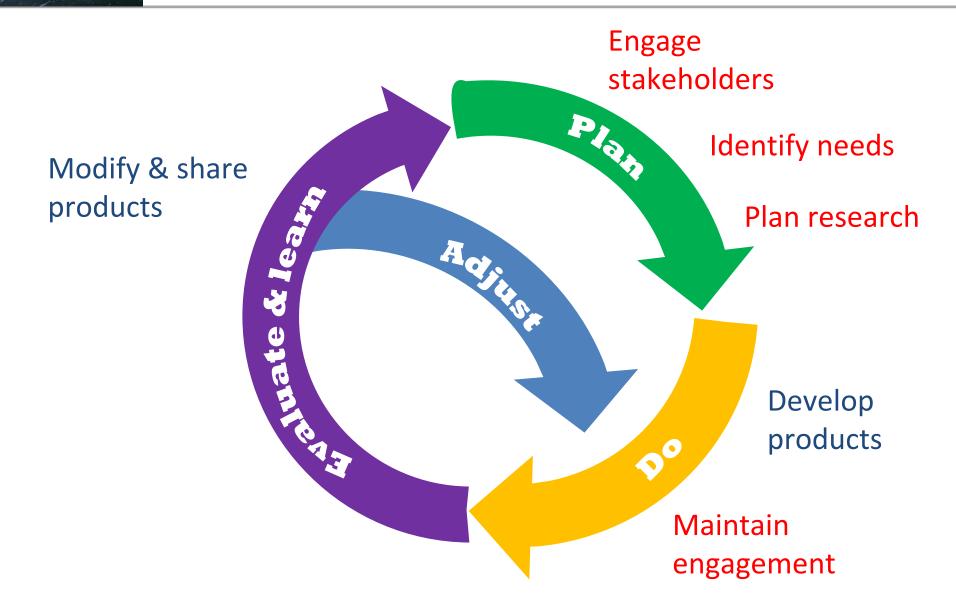
The Adaptive Research Cycle







The Adaptive Research Cycle







Legacy effects of land-use change in a nGOM estuary system

- Local problem with transferability
- Increased end-user engagement
- Communication with stakeholders guided application of scientific data
- Stakeholders need <u>tangible</u> & accessible products & recommendations
- Grant programs may need modification to support adaptability & product development





wastewater footprint



Messy Reality









Messy Reality: Integrating science into decision-making

Partnerships

- Long-term, trusted
- Engagement outside of specific projects
- Identify and address gaps in knowledge

Products

- Flexibility in application
- Longevity
- Broad applicability
- Useful science ≠ usable science
- Opportunistic = people on the ground







