

## Theme Session C

### One Size Does Not Fit All – What Does an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Mean to YOU?

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**Conveners: Rebecca Shuford, USA (rebecca.shuford@noaa.gov), Hein Rune Skjoldal, Norway (hein.rune.skjoldal@imr.no), and Robin Anderson, Canada (m.robin.anderson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)**

A principle objective of the ecosystem approach to management (EAM) is to maintain an ecosystem and its components in a good state/ condition and to sustain human well-being. A core element and mechanism to achieve EAM and its objective(s) is "Integrated Ecosystem Assessment" (IEA). However, when it comes to conducting an IEA, one size does not fit all. That is to say there are multiple perspectives on, for example, how to define an IEA; what it means to develop and implement an IEA; what elements need to be included in an IEA; the scope (geographic and/ or disciplines) of an IEA; who needs to be involved in an IEA; and what governance structures guide an IEA.

In addition to papers on IEA methodology and frameworks, papers on the following IEA topics are welcomed:

- Perspectives on stakeholder engagement and/ or scoping for operational objectives: how, when, and who?
- Variability across and within regional approaches (e.g. a national framework with regional flexibility in implementation).
- The value and application of indicators (and/ or targets for management purposes) in an IEA.
- Perspectives on peer review of results: How should this be done? Who should do it? Is it needed?
- Perspectives on what the end goal of an IEA is.
- Challenges to incorporating social sciences and economics (e.g. in ecosystem models and trade-off analyses).
- Perspectives on the role of models in IEAs.
- Application of IEA outcomes/ outputs to management and policy advice.
- Scope of an IEA (e.g. ecosystem status report or science-based management objective-driven guidance).
- Role of governance structures in the oversight/ development/ implementation of IEAs.
- Perspectives of managers vs. scientists on IEAs.