

May 5, 2020 Social Science Working Group Call

Attendees: Kira Sullivan-Wiley, Jaime Ashander, Güray Hatipoglu, Deepak Ray, Melissa Kenney, Jody Peters

Agenda/Notes:

1. RCN Slides/Presentation

- To add: We are not just interdisciplinary. We are comprised of multiple social science disciplines. Our group is united by looking at the human dimension of eco forecast from conceptualization/development through use and application. Goal is to improve forecasting cycle end to end.
- 1-2 points per slides.
- For the start and the end - what is the 1 or 2 things we want them to go away with
 - Who are we and what do we do
 - How can I be a part of this group?

2. Blog Post Updates

- Still have posts from when the initial large post was split up. Still working on getting these cleaned up and ready to post
- Güray has sent ideas. Made a table of environmental regulations. Chose wildlife regulations with forecasting components. May want to focus on the fact that there is a lack of forecasting in regulations. So there are opportunities to include forecasts
 - What's the main message? Scarcity of forecasts in regulations. If we had standardized forecasts in regulations then could measure the success.
 - High level idea is very interesting.
 - This use of forecasting in ecology hasn't been recognized/used in regulation and more engagement with policy is needed. Do we observe the same patterns for fields where forecasting is more developed (e.g., weather forecasts)?
 - Forecasting is a technical term to show up in a piece of legislation. "Evidence-based science" may be a more general term that is found more often in legislation rather than "forecasting". Things where we think that kind of thinking influences legislation.
 - Where do we think that forecasts will be implemented? In US expect forecasts to be used in decision making processes. Legislation gives mandate to agency to do specific things, but it doesn't tell them how to do it. Those federal agencies have different roles. USGS - science base, NOAA - science based and has regulatory, EPA - mainly regulatory with small science arm
 - Look at the agencies and what they are doing and then look at the barriers

- Have a solutions framing. What are the decision criteria. How can the decision process be set up to have some criteria that has forecasts that allow for management to be adaptive
- Moving forward on the post - what is the niche and what are recommended solutions and actions moving forward? Have an action-oriented framing to blog post
- Regulations vs legislations - important to think about the distinctions between the two
- The parallel to weather forecasting is nice. It gives the realm of possibilities after a field has matured over 50 years. This may give us examples as a team of things that we can accelerate in ecological forecasting.