

Terms of Reference for the Ecological Forecasting Initiative (EFI) Partners & Knowledge Transfer Working Group

Terms of Reference:

The routine production and use of reliable ecological forecasts often relies on partnerships among many organizations. The Partners & Knowledge Transfer working group (hereafter WG) is focused on fostering collaborations and forecast (co-)production among academics, policymakers, resource managers, government agencies, industry, NGOs, and the engaged public. The WG also works to facilitate the transition of research to a routinely generated and disseminated product, service or application that is fit-for-purpose by the user. The WG is also interested in promoting the awareness and use of the variety of ecological forecasts available to help society better understand, manage, and conserve ecosystems.

The WG has three core functions:

- To foster a collaborative community, the WG will build knowledge within EFI about partners and about the resources produced by, and useful to, partners involved in ecological forecasting
- Promote the co-development and use of resources and tools related to ecological forecasting
- To transition forecasts from research to operations, the WG will establish best practices for transitioning forecast products from research to operations or to other applications including commercialization

Membership:

- Membership is open to all EFI members expressing interest in this activity. To join the Partners and Knowledge Transfer Working Group, please email the EFI Gmail (eco4cast.initiative@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.
- Members currently include:
 - Christopher Brown (NOAA) - Co-chair
 - Kira Sullivan Wiley (BU) - Co-chair
 - Michael Dietze (BU)
 - Clifford Duke (NASEM)
 - Kathy Gerst (USA-NPN)
 - Melissa Kenney (UMN)
 - David Klinges (SERC)
 - Jody Peters (ND)
 - Jake Weltzin (USGS)
 - Jake Zwart (USGS)
 - Güray Hatipoglu
 - Michael SanClements

Meeting Frequency and Attendance:

- Meetings are held approximately monthly via teleconference

Decision Making Process:

Decisions are reached by informal consensus through working group discussions during teleconferences, and documented in meeting notes available through the [EFI Knowledge Transfer & Partners webpage](#). Decisions requiring additional input can be raised to the EFI leadership as appropriate.

Terms of the Charter:

- It is anticipated that this working group will continue as long as needed with affirmation of the working group members.
- The terms of reference will be revisited by the WG members to determine whether to continue or disband the working group.

Rules of behavior:

- Adhere to EFI's higher-level rules: code of conduct <https://ecoforecast.org/efi-code-of-conduct/>