

# December 18, 2025 Translation Working Group Call

Attendees: Alison Gerken, Charlotte Malmborg, Abby Keller, Jody Peters, Collin VanBuren, Alexis O'Callahan  
Regrets: Janet Nackoney, Yishen Li

## Agenda

1. Poll for January to May 2026 calls: <https://www.meetingbrew.com/ij0grp>
2. From Kira: March 2026 [webinar by OCTO](#) on a stakeholder-informed Decision Support System
  - a. Host: OCTO (Open Communications for the Ocean)
  - b. **[Advancing Ecosystem-Based Marine Spatial Planning Through the MarinePlan Decision Support System](#)**

***Presented by:** Vanessa Stelzenmüller of Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries*

***Date/Time:** Wednesday, March 18, 10 am US EDT/7 am US PDT/2 pm UTC/3 pm CET*

**Description:** Achieving both conservation and green energy goals demands new approaches that more effectively align marine spatial planning (MSP) with systematic conservation planning. As a forward-looking, integrative process, MSP is uniquely positioned to help deliver sustainable marine futures, especially when grounded in strong ecosystem considerations. Implementing an ecosystem-based approach to MSP (EB-MSP) is therefore essential. This webinar will present a stakeholder-informed Decision Support System (DSS) for EB-MSP developed through the Horizon Europe project MarinePlan ([www.marineplan.eu](http://www.marineplan.eu)). The DSS offers practical guidance for aligning MSP processes with spatial conservation and restoration priorities. This webinar will introduce core components, including the use of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) as a central driver of conservation planning, as well as standardized guidance for defining planning scenarios aimed at meeting global conservation targets protecting 30% of marine areas, with 10% under strict protection by 2030. Finally, the webinar will compare developed planning scenarios with current MSP practices and discuss key insights. Challenges, opportunities, and areas for improvement within existing governance processes to support more effective implementation of EB-MSP will all be highlighted.

**Register:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_A1orKn7OSs2OiyWtNTCDBQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A1orKn7OSs2OiyWtNTCDBQ)
3. **[Social Science and Ecoforecasting Planning Award](#)** Seed funding update
  - a. 3 submissions...
  - b. What to do moving forward?
    - i. Extend the deadline - would it be unfair to the people who did make the deadline
      1. Think it would be okay
      2. Should we have made this decision last week before the deadline
      3. Priority will be given to applicants who submitted by the deadline
    - ii. Go with reviewing the 3 and leave it at that
    - iii. Have another call open later in the spring/summer
    - iv. Do the review then decide whether to open later or provide additional funds to the team.

1. Offer the extra funding for the EFI2026 conference
  2. Come present at the conference
  - v. Future considerations:
    1. Update website to say up to 5 awards
    2. Think about timing for submissions - not around the holiday
4. EFI2026 Conference - new website! <https://bit.ly/efi2026>
- a. Abstract submissions are now open until April 15
  - b. Working group submission open until January 23
    - i. Considering using time in person to work on manuscript proposed by Abby.
    - ii. <https://bit.ly/efi2026-workinggroups>
      1. Abby will draft text for the group to review
5. Measuring impact of forecasts manuscript ideas
- a. Goal of paper - if you are a forecaster interested in having your model support decisions, what typology might it follow. Often “decision support” is listed as the primary end use of a forecast, but decision science is frequently not used in the development of the forecast. What is the cost of this disconnect?
  - b. Abby - plans to connect with Melissa Kenney in the new year
  - c. Decision support scoping papers: Decision Support Scoping
    - i. Abby categorized the papers. The blue synthesis/review papers in column C are ones that are similar to the plans of this paper
    - ii. Have discussion questions based on this to refine plans
    - iii. Abby found nice methods papers for analyses will plan to write up to share with the group
    - iv. Collin’s example of group manuscript: mission statement, primary audience, and draft outline
    - v. What are the boundaries?
      1. Ex. Would something like a decision support of water facilities that would not be considered nature based solution but still impact natural systems
      2. Developing the methods of screening abstracts will help identify the boundaries
      3. Do we want it to be biological or ecological?
    - vi. Questions for the group
      1. Are we specifically interested in the term “decision support”?
        - a. Having something specific is attractive. Decision support is a squishy term, but it could be a nice way to narrow down the focus
        - b. Yishen’s point from last call, people are moving away from decision support since it is considered a one-way flow of information
        - c. Do any of the blue synthesis papers identify decision support terminology that could inform our manuscript?
          - Good paper with definitions about what decision support and decision science, decision theory, etc
          - <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cobi.13868>
        - d. Want to have definitions that we agree on internally, that we can then assess the lit survey
        - e. Are we talking about the uptake of science knowledge for policy

- f. Decision support tools that support good outcomes by allowing better decisions by making more information available
  - g. Improving outcomes is a goal to focus on
  - h. Focus on the language around decision support rather than on if it is measurably impactful
  - i. Descriptive - evaluate the papers that are doing forecasts
  - j. Prescriptive - is there a correct definition of decision support
  - k. There could be some bullets of questions from last month's call that can be pulled to give us guidance on how to frame the nitty gritty questions to answer in the paper
  - l. A decision support tool will help to make a decision - this could include projectinos/scenario planning.
    - Decision support requires a decision is made
    - Usable science - could depend on what is being used and what decisions are being made
2. Would it help to look in public health or ag fields that are more advanced than the environmental field?
    - a. Add a section to the paper - what can we learn from other fields
  3. "In conservation and natural resource management, an extensive selection of decision-support tools and decision-support frameworks support decision-making. Decision-support frameworks are structured approaches that guide decision makers from problem formulation to action, monitoring, and reporting (Figure 2) (Bower et al., 2018; Schwartz et al., 2018). Decision-support tools help provide insight for individual components of a decision (Walshe et al., 2019) (Figure 2). "
  4. Want to be solid on the why and how the decision support definition will be used
  5. Would be go through the citations of the papers add to see if the authors have gotten their definitions
  6. For next meeting Abby will share - have mission statement, have audience
  7. Narrow to decision support and synonyms and broadening input from outside ecology
  8. Audience - conservation biologists. May not need to only focus on forecast. Expect lessons from this paper will come back to the EFI community

## 6. Tutorials check-in

- a. Alexis - script is close. Jody will finish looking through it and then Alexis is ready to record!
  - i. How-Alexis and script Script and Interview Ideas;
- b. Charlotte - has draft script ready for the group to review.

## 7. For next call

- a. Abby will put together the mission for the paper, audience, scope (decision support and synonyms including lessons learned from systems outside ecology)
- b. Jody will follow up with RFP reviewers by Jan 5 with instructions for reviewing the RFPs
  - i. Reviewers to complete reviews by end of the week ~ Jan 9-11
  - ii. Have a call or discuss asynchronously results early the week of Jan 12 to then send responses to RFP applicants by Jan 15
- c. The full group - review Charlott's Barriers tutorial script

- d. The full group - look into the citations in the papers in the scoping spreadsheet to find more insights into where the definitions came for the papers in the spreadsheet.