

Chair Report on ISP Meeting 37

17th of November 2020

The main focus of the ISP meeting was to review the scores and grades for the 2020 report card, so that these could be presented to the Management Committee for endorsement. The ISP reviewed the text explanation for each of the indicators, and developed a confidence assessment for each component of the Report Card. Additional topics discussed included:

Changes to science project scheduling in 2020-21.

The previous recommendations to stagger and reschedule projects to meet budget constraints was accepted at the last MC meeting.

1. 2021 environmental component to include two seasons of sampling for fish health (Fish Health Assessment Indicator), three sampling events for the fish recruitment indicator (instead of four) and the remaining environmental indicators to be sampled as normal in 2020-21 (apart from Mangroves). This will complete three years of detailed fish health sampling.
2. The economic component was staggered to 2022. This keeps the Social, Cultural and Economic (SCE) report intact, enables the OGBR human dimensions workshops to be completed (which has implications for the GHHP program), allows a full fish health sample to occur and inadvertently excludes a covid-19 impacted year of data.

Staggering of science projects for 2021 report card

The ISP discussed the potential issues around project scheduling if the Management Committee reduced funding for the Science program over the next four years, so as to build up reserves. The ISP will finalise recommendations for project scheduling with a reduced budget in February 2021.

Process for approval of scientific reports for GHHP website

The process for science report MC approval has been streamlined.

1. The MC agreed with the ISP recommendation to supply whole reports once the report card has been signed off (i.e. reports are not provided earlier with redacted scores).
2. In late November 2020, the MC is to be provided all project reports by the science team. The MC will be given until mid-January to read reports and decide if reports are to be released to website. They have no influence on the content of reports, however, can accept/reject whether each report is released to the website.

Human dimensions

Review of the SCE report/components has been delayed until next year. OGBR are leading a review of options to report human dimensions, with the goal of creating better alignment among the regional report cards. It may also reveal a more affordable and sustainable way to capture data through the annual or biennial SELTMP survey.

There was discussion in the human dimensions space that cultural heritage indicators may need to be redesigned. A quantitative focus may not be addressing cultural heritage concerns. Conversations about cultural heritage indicators are occurring outside GHHP and can help direct the program in future years.

Urban Water Stewardship Framework plan

The Urban Water Stewardship Framework (UWSF) is being progressed and is expected to move towards implementation early in 2021. The framework is currently being reviewed by the GBR expert panel in which John Rolfe, Eva Abal and Jenny Stauber are involved. The UWSF plan has progressed substantially in relation to expert panel suggestions, however, some minor areas of potential improvement remain.