Progress on Research

Speakers

1. Rocky Harris (UK)
   Statistician at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
2. Melisa Wong (Canada)
   Research Scientist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Bedford Institute of Oceanography
3. Emily Smail (USA)
   Executive Director, GEO Blue Planet Initiative / Senior Faculty Specialist, NOAA-University of Maryland Cooperative Institute for Satellite Earth System Studies
4. Celeste Digiovanni (Canada)
   PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, University of Ottawa

Moderator

Messan Agbaglah (Canada)
Senior economist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

SEEA Ocean Research Agenda

- UN Statistical Commission meeting in March agreed to the development of SEEA Ocean, as part of the wider set of environmental accounting guidance
- The SEEA Ocean will build on the ESCAP/GOAP draft Technical Guidance, but will be more limited in scope
- The draft research agenda sets out a range of issues that need to be addressed

Rocky Harris

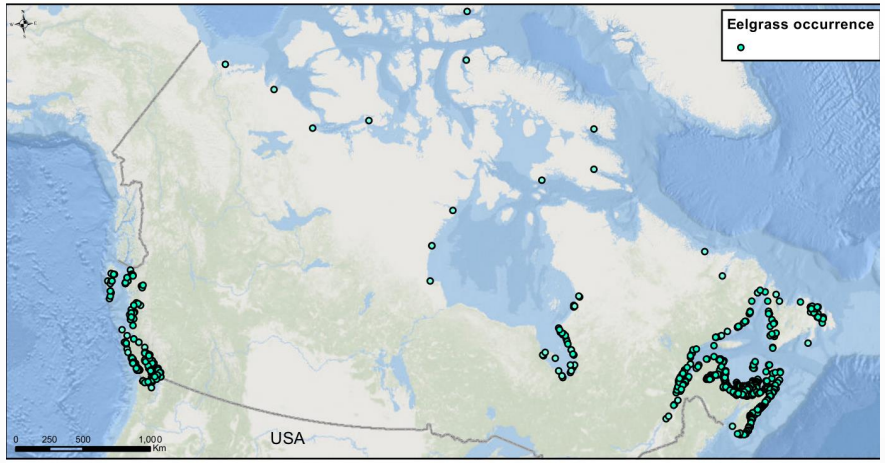
Estimating blue carbon storage capacity of Canada's eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds

- **Context of work:**
  - Eelgrass beds provide important ecosystem services
  - Are critical blue carbon habitats (capture/store carbon)
  - Eelgrass blue carbon potential in Canada is unknown (extent/stocks/rates)
  - Inclusion in Ocean Accounts acknowledges habitat role in reducing carbon emissions

- **Objectives:**
  - Estimate blue carbon storage capacity of Canada's eelgrass beds
  - Map eelgrass extent, estimate carbon stocks, create blue carbon map
  - Provide data to Ocean Accounts

Melisa Wong

- **Results:**
  - National eelgrass map with habitat presence and extent
  - Carbon stocks will be measured and overlaid to create Blue Carbon Map
  - Collaborations and capacity building with related projects
  - Potential linkages of Ocean Accounts data with Blue Economy Strategy, national carbon inventories and/or offset programs



Melisa Wong

Earth Observation data for Ocean Accounting

- The use of Earth observation data is key for achieving a solid and reproducible Ocean Accounting framework.
- The Earth observation community is working to expand and integrate data on ocean and ecosystem parameters and local, national, regional and global levels.
- Data needs to be combined, processed and analysed to be transformed into information and indicators that can be applied by end users and stakeholders.
- To achieve this, the GEO Blue Planet Initiative is working to foster collaborations between Earth observations scientists, economists and statisticians.

Emily Smail

Bridging Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science: A Fisheries Management Perspective

- Bridging of Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science
  - Knowledge co-evolution
- Collaborative management
  - Engagement & trust building
- How can Oceans Accounting help?
  - Knowledge translation

Celeste Digiovanni

Questions