Terms of Reference
June 2021

Context

Multiple researchers, agencies and organizations in the Northwest Atlantic are conducting vulnerability assessments for a range of different purposes, spatial scales, and approaches.

Mandate

The Northwest Atlantic Vulnerability Hub [NavHub] is a collaboration between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Centre for Marine Applied Research (CMAR). Our objectives are to:

- Connect scientists, managers and industry leaders, who are developing, applying and using vulnerability assessments in support of decision-making
- Exchange technical information on approaches, methods, and datasets related to vulnerability assessments
- Develop practical guidance on how to operationalize vulnerability assessments in support of decision making in the Northwest Atlantic.

Membership

Logistics committee: Leigh Howarth (CMAR) and Catalina Gomez (DFO)

Co-organizers:

Steering committee: …

NavHub is an active collaboration hub working on vulnerability related projects in the northwest Atlantic. Additional members, organizations and departments/agencies may be invited to join as necessary.

Breakout groups may be formed under NavHub to address specific issues, or analytical tools. A breakout must have at least one member of NavHub and they shall meet independently.

See Appendix A for a complete list of members and their contact info.

Members will report through their own organizations on matters raised during the conference calls/meetings as needed.

Operating Principles

The success of NavHub will depend on members working cooperatively. This requires some common operating principles proposed below. These principles represent our pledge and a challenge on how to advance this initiative (courtesy of T. Worcester).

- We treat all people with respect, dignity, and fairness
- We build trust within our science community
- We value diverse perspectives and celebrate diversity
- We strive to make the world a better place
- We stay informed and connected
- We participate
- We hold ourselves and others to high ethical and professional standards
- We value intellectual curiosity and honesty
- We avoid or acknowledge bias
- We acknowledge the contributions of others
- We explore and adopt good ideas, regardless of where they come from
- We learn from others
- We value critical thinking and constructive feedback
- We monitoring and evaluate progress
- We celebrate success
- We provide evidence-based recommendations and guidance

Management and Administration

NavHub will be co-chaired by the co-organizers & logistics committee to provide an interface between regional groups, support engagement with partners, and execute the advice of the steering committee. Secretariat functions will be carried out by either Co-chair, including the preparation of agendas, scheduling, and other tasks.

Meeting Frequency

Meetings via Microsoft teams as needed.

Duration

NavHub will be launched on May 17 2021. The group will continue to operate depending on interest amongst members.

Procedures

Members are encouraged to contact the logistics committee with proposed items for inclusion on any meeting agenda. Meeting notes will be shared with members following each meeting.

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed by members of this community do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Canadian and/or US organizations, departments, or agencies. Examples of research and analysis recorded and shared by this community are the result of research projects that are independent of NavHub. Assumptions made within the material shared via NavHub are not necessarily reflective of the position of any Canadian or US organizations, departments, or agencies.

Appendix A: NavHub Membership List

TBA