**IMBeR Innovation Challenge 4 (IC4)**

**To advance and improve the use of social science data for ocean management, decision making and policy development**

**Case Studies Contributions**

Much of the marine-related social data and information collected is unevenly distributed in time and space, in contrast to some oceanographic data, that can be collected globally by satellites to provide synoptic, continuous views and can be analysed over a range of spatial and temporal geo-referenced scales. The effective use and integration of social science data will support the interdisciplinary effort to couple ocean and human systems in IMBeR’s Grand Challenge II, while strengthening the social science data needs of Grand Challenge III to improve ocean governance.

As part of the focused activity/outputs of IC4, Activity 1 aims to Identify best practices in integrating social and natural science data in upscaling from local to global application, based on around 10 case studies across the globe. This will include assessing from which critical areas of human impact on the ocean these case studies emerge. This activity is envisaged as a participatory process of co-development of knowledge among a network of partners.

A best practice is defined as a “methodology that has repeatedly produced superior results relative to other methodologies with the same objective; to be fully elevated to a best practice, a promising method will have been adopted and employed by multiple organizations” (Ocean Best Practices System: <https://www.oceanbestpractices.org>).

We are currently developing a potential list of case studies that could contribute to this activity. We would like to suggest different categories of engagement as there is at present no funding available for IC4. Support and technical assistance for IC4 is provided on a voluntary basis by IMBeR, led by the two co-champions of this challenge.

We envisage the following categories of engagement:

* 1 – Interest in contributing information and reflection on your own organization/network as a potential case study of best practices in a structured format, including linking to the Marine Data Hub on the IMBeR website
* 2 – Interest in being engaged in a discussion process on structuring a study on best practices and contributing information and reflection on your own organization/network as a potential case study
* 3 – Commitment to being engaged in a discussion process on structuring a study on best practices, contributing information and reflection on your own organization/network as a potential case study and co-authoring a publication

Please let us know you level of interest. For further information see the attached IC4 description.

Institutions which have expressed an initial interest in collaborating to co-develop case studies of best practices:

**Atlantic Ocean and Baltic Sea**

Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden (Baltic Sea region)

(Michael Gilek: michael.gilek@sh.se)

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain (Galicia Northern Spain)

(Sebastian Villasante: sebastian.villasante@usc.es; s.villasante.arg@gmail.com)

**Indian Ocean**

Dakshin Foundation, Bangalore, India

(Naveen Namboothri: naveen.namboo@gmail.com)

University of Cape Town, South Africa (South Africa Marine Systems)

(Louise Gammage: louise.gammage@uct.ac.za ; Lynne Shannon: lynne.shannon@uct.ac.za; Astrid Jarre: ajarre@gmail.com)

**Pacific Ocean**

Centre for Excellence in Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University, Australia

(Tiffany Morrison: tiffany.morrison@jcu.edu.au)

**Global**

Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus, Japan and Earthlab, University of Washington, USA

(Yoshitaka Ota: yota1@uw.edu and Karin Otsuka: karino3@uw.edu)

IUCN, Canada

(Nathan Bennett: nathan.j.bennett.1@gmail.com; n.bennett@oceans.ubc.ca)

SSF Stewardship Network, Saint Mary’s University, Canada

(Tony Charles: Tony.Charles@smu.ca)