

## **Making the Ecosystem Approach operational across the Atlantic.**

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### **Presenter**

Mark Dickey-Collas

### **Theme**

Governance – integration across sectors, institutional arrangements

### **Abstract for presentation**

A workshop held in January 2016 considered “where are we and where do we want to go, in moving from single to cross-sectoral implementation of the ecosystem approach (EA)?” It was supported by the EU, NOAA, DFO, FAO and Norway to further the Galway Statement for trans-Atlantic cooperation in marine research. It focused on the main sectors that operate in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The experiences shared at the workshop will resonate with the challenges in the Arctic. The 54 participants considered these 13 examples of practical implementation of ecosystem based management from a range of sectors and governance situations. One of the case studies was the Barents Sea Management Plan. The workshop created an opportunity for stakeholders to come together to review concepts and address scientific, institutional, legal and socio-economic challenges related to operationalizing the ecosystem approach. The range of case studies included implementations that could be considered successful, and those that fell short of expectations. Across the participants, there was a common understanding of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM), and the associated processes and principles. The workshop highlighted that despite the many gaps in knowledge on the functioning of the system, and the impact of human activities, the main hindrance to EBM appears to be governance and legal frameworks. This talk will illustrate the approaches used at the workshop and summarize the conclusions and will provide examples with which to compare examples in the Arctic. It will also provide comment on possible ways forward for EBM and the challenges to implementation.

**Keywords:** management regional EBM stakeholder governance