

Afternoon Session

- *Oceans Act* principles
 - “Identify and protect special, sensitive or unique estuarine and marine life and habitats;
 - Value biodiversity and ecosystem health; and
 - Respect the interdependence of ecosystems”
- Tools developed to evaluate habitat and impacts for MA waters
 - EVI
 - Habitat mapping and classification
 - Ranking and Mapping the Impact of Human Activities
 - Ecosystem Service Modeling
 - Identification of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (ESSIM)
 - Potential others – PSA, HSI

Where do we go from here...

- Given the efforts currently underway what is the best approach to developing scientific advice on habitat?
 - Is EVI the right tool? What role can the EVI serve?
 - Can EVI be made into the right tool and with what modifications?
- Are there scientific gaps that need to be immediately addressed to provide adequate advice?
 - Do existing/ongoing activities fill those gaps?
 - How will that enhance the advice?
- Is there a different/better tool for advising managers?

Recommendations

- What method or management tool will allow for continual integration of new data?
- What are the potential role(s) of EVI as a decision-making tool?
- What form should advice on habitat take?
- What other investments need to be made in the near, medium or long term?