



NET GAINS ALLIANCE

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Data Collection Committee Presentation

August 14, 2019

George Lapointe





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Background

- Builds on recommendations from Fishing Data Innovation Task Force's 2017 Report: [*Improving Net Gains: Data-Driven Innovation for America's Fishing Future*](#)
- In 2018, Walton Family Foundation provided support to further data modernization efforts, further support by Packard Foundation
- [*Net Gains Alliance*](#) launched in February 2019 as an initiative committed to accelerating the modernization, implementation, and adaptation of robust information systems to support sustainable management of ocean resources





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Three Initial Goals

- Strengthen relevant NOAA Fisheries policy and accelerate pace of modernization
- Support regional modernization projects that unlock the power of better fisheries data
- Expand constituency in support of fisheries information system modernization





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Who's Involved?

Net Gains Alliance Leadership Team: Scott Burns, George Chmael, George Lapointe, Dorothy Lowman and Kate Wing

Net Gains Advisory Panel (NGAP): Mike Cahall, Rick Bellavance, Eric Brazer, Chris Brown, Erika Feller, Leigh Habegger, John Henderschedt, Lori Steele, Nancy Munro, and Gregg Waugh

The 'Alliance': participation from a wide swath of organizations interested in advancing information systems for better ocean management





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National Policy Engagement

- Regular communication with key decision makers
- Sponsor workshops that help inform procedural directives and best practices
- Support collaborative Regional Implementation Plan development
- Submission of formal recommendations when appropriate
- Other Suggestions?





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Expanding Constituency Support

- Using communications to build awareness, interest and engagement
- Emphasis on digital and social media efforts
- Leveraging and supporting partner and cooperative efforts – i.e. Seafood Harvesters, EMinfo, TNC, etc.





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Regional Grantmaking

- 6-8 grants over next 2 years; a third to be awarded by Fall 2019; if secured, additional funding may lead to more grants
- Not an open solicitation process
- Leadership Team members work with potential grantees in proposal/work plan developments
- Want to complement or leverage other available funds (e.g., FIS, NFWF)
- Grantees can include federal or state agencies, Councils, industry





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Criteria for Selecting Projects

- Build capacity & data literacy in regions, Councils and science centers
- Meet a core need (like stock assessment) identified by a Council and/or region
- Take pilots to scale or build on existing work
- Inform national guidance/actions that smooths paths for broader advancement
- Projects that span regions or fisheries





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Grantmaking: Initial Areas of Interest

- For-hire electronic reporting
- Integrated fishery reporting
- One-stop reporting
- Pacific-wide pelagic data integration
- Other ideas?





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How Can NGA Best Engage and Support

- National policy and regional strategies
 - Ways to support collaborative regional implementation plans?
 - Workshops on related topics?
- Regional grantmaking?
 - Are the focus areas of importance to the Gulf Council?
 - What other projects could be considered in the Gulf of Mexico?
- Constituency building?
- Other ideas?





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Thank You!

For more information:

www.netgainsalliance.org / [Twitter](#)

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Specific Questions:

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