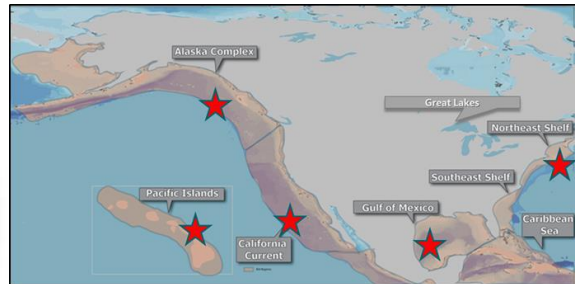
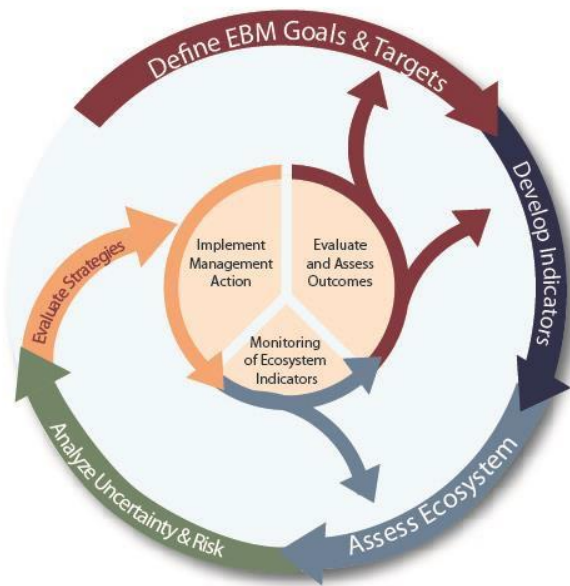


Box 1. NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Program: An analytical framework to deliver management advice in an ecosystem context



NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) program is an end-to-end framework that enables the implementation of EBM, including EBFM, to provide resource managers with ecosystem-specific information to make more informed and effective management decisions. While IEAs are designed to enable full multisector EBM, they support needs along the ecosystem management continuum by providing an ecosystem context to traditional single-sector decisions, such as fisheries management.

NOAA's IEA is a science-based stepwise process implemented with stakeholders and managers to identify priority issues and provide robust decision-support information in an ecosystem context. The approach identifies socio-economic and biophysical attributes that maintain ecosystem structure and function, assesses human activities and their interdependence with the natural ecosystem, and evaluates trade-offs of management alternatives to sustain human well-being in the coupled social-ecological system.

Though IEAs share a common national framework, the implementation varies regionally based on the ecosystem of interest and the management drivers. The overarching goal is to inform decisions that will promote ecosystems that are both sustainable and capable of providing the diverse ecosystem services upon which our society depends.

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