

Seascape Ecology: Identifying Research Priorities for an Emerging Ocean Sustainability Science

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

seascape ecology

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

international

Why was it conducted at all?

Seascape ecology, the marine-centric counterpart to landscape ecology, is rapidly emerging as an interdisciplinary and spatially explicit ecological science with relevance to marine management, biodiversity conservation, and restoration. While important progress in this field has been made in the past decade, there has been no coherent prioritization of key research questions to help set the future research agenda for seascape ecology.

What was the objective?

to help guide the future research agenda for applied seascape ecology

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 34 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to submit up to five research questions, 139 questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: resulting in 128 research questions. Step 3: Delphi round 2: participants were asked to select all important questions within each of the 9 themes, then participants were asked to select top 10 questions from those selected

Which stakeholders took part?

Academics, senior staff at intergovernmental, governmental (national and local) and non- governmental organizations, specialist marine management consultants. Delphi round 1: 38 participants (35 academics, 3 coordinators), Delphi round 2: 66 participants (35 academics, 31 practitioners).

How were stakeholders recruited?

No information provided.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.