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Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment Cumulative Effects Working Group

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BREA Results Forum
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Canada

BREA Cumulative Effects Mandate

- Simplify project-level environmental assessment and regulatory decision-making for oil and gas activities
- Strengthen the relationship between environmental assessment and integrated planning and management in the region

<u>CE Working Group</u>

- Develop consistent method for managing (both *assessing* and *monitoring*) cumulative effects
- Address regional concerns based on identified Valued Components (VCs) and their associated stressors

BREA Cumulative Effects Working Group Members

- AANDC: Genevieve Carr (chair)
- IRC: Bob Simpson / Chris Harrison
- EC: Mike Fournier
- DFO: Lisa Loseto (Science), Habitat?
- Industry: Linda Graf
- GNWT: Jane McMullen
- Yukon: Pippa McNeil
- Parks: Nelson Perry
- FJMC: Vic Gillman
- IGC/JS: Norm Snow
- CEAA: James Oliver
- NEB: Jess Dunford
- CAPP: Phil Langille

Need for Cumulative Effects Management

1. Cumulative Effects Assessment Required by legislation
   - Ensure that incremental effects of combined actions are assessed
   - Allow EAs to contribute to better planning and decision-making
2. Cumulative Effects Monitoring Required to manage unintended or undesirable effects
3. Required to demonstrate that impacts can be and are being managed
   - CEA regulations were response to public/social demands
4. Project-specific CEA doesn't contribute to better planning and decision-making without broader mgmt framework

Need for Cumulative Effects Management (cont)

- But…Nobody's satisfied and current methods fall short of expectations
  - Regulators, interveners, academics expect industry to fulfill government responsibilities
  - Interveners and resource managers use CEA as regulatory lever to oppose development
  - Industry and practitioners view CEA as unnecessary/inappropriate regulatory cost and hurdle to be avoided
  - Interveners, resource managers, and academics don't acknowledge the practical/ political limitations of project CEA
  - Practitioners struggle to identify practical methods that address evolving or unrealistic expectations
  - Regulators, interveners, public, resource managers, academics, proponents, practitioners differ on key indicators
  - Regulators, interveners, resource managers, academics, proponents, practitioners differ on preferred assessment and monitoring methods
  - Regulators, interveners, public, resource managers, academics, proponents, practitioners differ on level of acceptable change
  - People change and bring new ideas/expectations

BREA Cumulative Effects Realities

- Constraints and Opportunities
  - 2 year desktop exercise
  - limited budget
  - complex issues and uncertain future
  - lots of available information
  - political agenda for regulatory streamlining
- Measure(s) of Success
  - Develop a framework that will be implemented by regulators for next offshore application
    - Focus on decision-making (not science)
    - Start simple, implement, test, and refine through decision-making
      - Demonstrate feasibility for specific VCs and indicators
      - Provide clarity to joint management bodies, proponents, assessors, and regulators
      - Rely on existing data, land use plans, and regulatory system
      - Identify links to monitoring and impact management

What's Different this Time?

- Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry
- Beaufort Environmental Assessment and Review Panel (BEARP)
- Beaufort Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP)
- Mackenzie Environmental Monitoring Program (MEMP)
- Northern Oil and Gas Action Program (NOGAP)
- ESRF Effects Monitoring Design
- ISR Regional Land Use Plan, Community Conservation Plans (CCPs), and Industry Scenario
- Northern Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN)
- NWT Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Framework (CEAMF) and Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP)
- Northern Ecosystem Initiative (NEI)
- Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI)
- Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) CEA Scenarios and federal research
- ESRF Beaufort Delta Cumulative Effects Project
- ESRF Valued Component Thresholds (Management Objectives) Project
- Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action (BSStRPA)
- ESRF Offshore Biophysical Research Requirements Project
- Integrated Ocean Management Plan
- **Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment (BREA)**

Cumulative Effects Working Group plans

- Pilot project to develop the an assessment and monitoring framework with between 3 to 5 Valued Components
  - **Regular engagement of stakeholders throughout framework development**

Framework Development Steps:

1. Select **Valued Components** (VC) and VC objectives
2. Identify activities and development scenarios (forecast).
3. Define **linkages between stressors and VCs**
4. Define VC **management indicators** and methods for monitoring the indicators

Cumulative Effects (continued)

EFFECT ON A SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

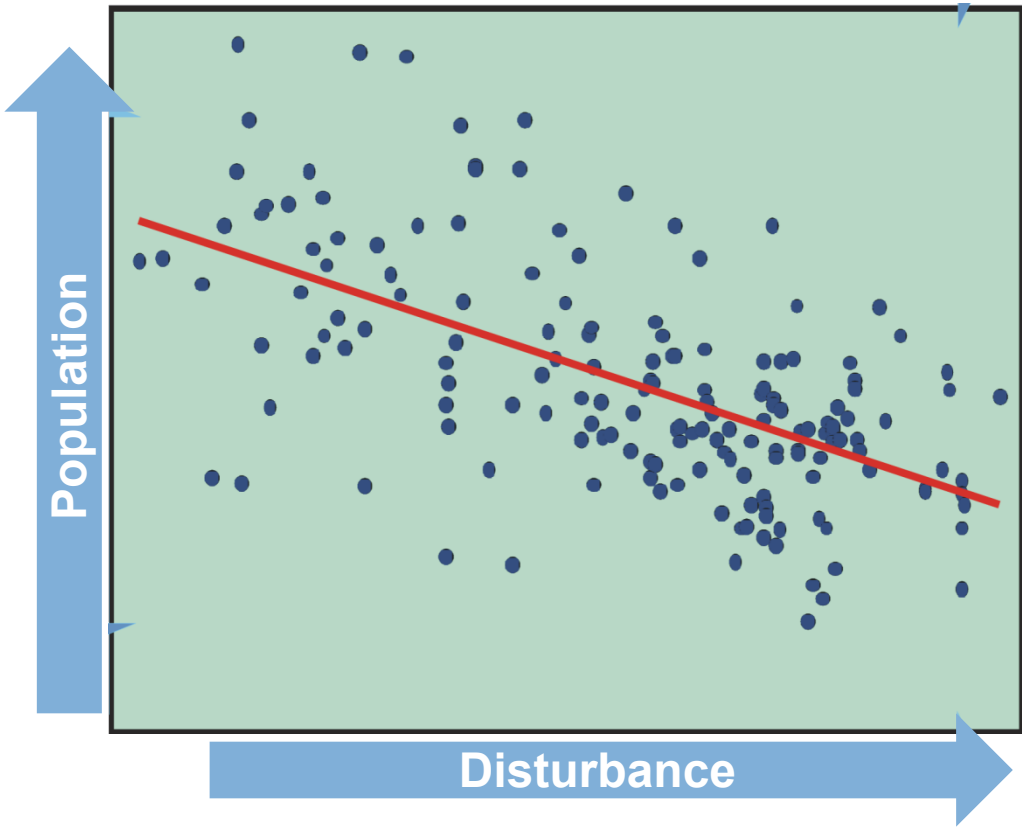
↑ 2

DISRUPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

↑ 1

STRESSOR (EG. INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY)

Relationship between a Valued Component (e.g. Population) and Management Indicator (e.g. Disturbance)

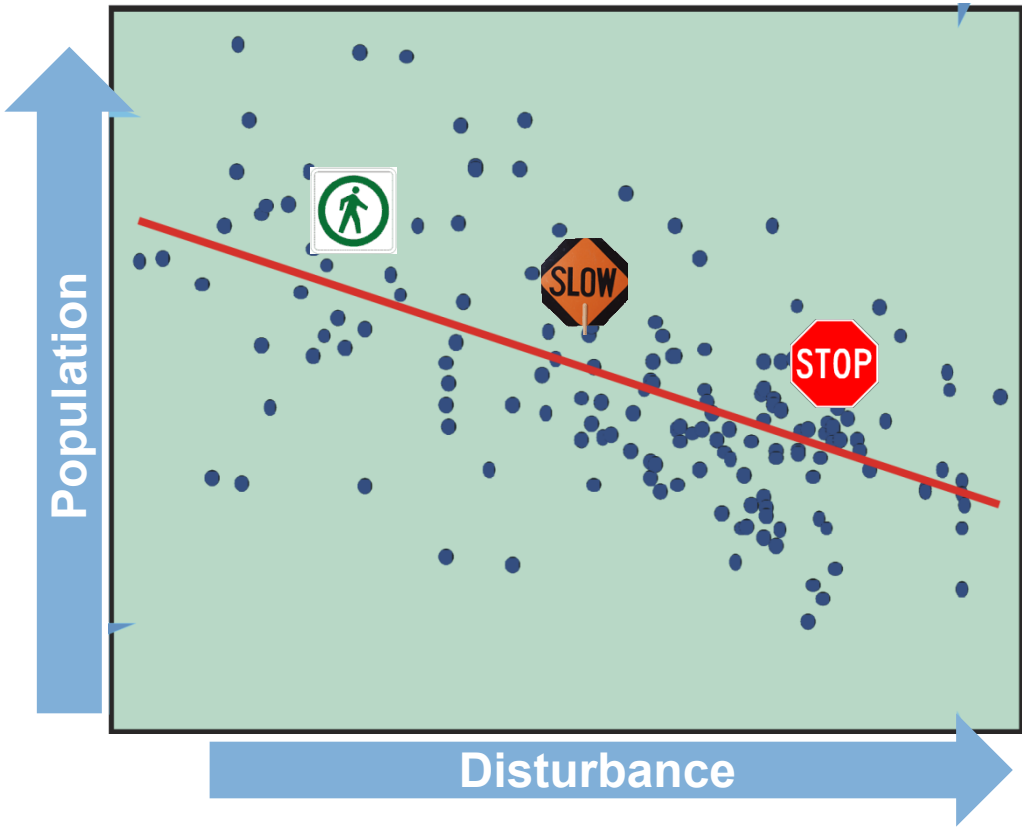


Cumulative Effects (continued)

Framework Development Steps:

5. Identify VC management indicator objectives
6. Develop tiered triggers for each indicator
7. Define impact management and stressor monitoring strategies for each trigger point
8. Identify linkages to overall effects monitoring system for each VC and indicator

Relationship between a Valued Component (e.g. Population) and Management Indicator (e.g. Disturbance)



Next steps

- April 2013: Engage consultant to begin framework development, in full consultation with working group and other stakeholders to:
  - Identify VC and VC objectives
  - Define links between stressors and VCs,
  - Identify management indicators, tiered triggers, and methods for monitoring
  - Define impact management and stressor monitoring strategies for each trigger point
  - Identify linkages to overall effects monitoring system for each VC and indicator

- Final Cumulative effects report will outline pilot project Valued Components to be used in future applications, as well as recommendations for:
  - Additional VC examination
  - Frequency with which framework, including VCs, trigger points, and monitoring strategies should be reviewed.