

INTRODUCTION

The Ocean Health Index (OHI) – a collaboration between Conservation International (CI) and the National Center of Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara (NCEAS at UCSB) – is the first integrated assessment framework that scientifically combines key biological, physical, economic, and social elements of the ocean's health. Overall OHI scores are a combination of various components, or 'goals', of ocean health. These scores are calculated using best available data and indicators at the scale of the assessment.

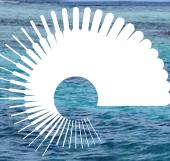
The OHI framework was first used for an assessment at a global scale, combining dozens of data sets to produce annual Index scores for all coastal nations and territories around the world. Recalculating scores annually establishes a baseline of ocean health and serves as a monitoring mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of actions and policies in moving towards improving ocean health.

Independently led assessments using the OHI framework (called 'OHI+ assessments') allow for exploration of variables influencing ocean health at smaller scales where policy and management decisions are made. Goal models and targets are created using higher resolution data, indicators, and priorities, which produce scores better reflecting local realities. This enables scientists, managers, policy makers, and the public to better understand, track, and communicate the status of local marine ecosystems, and to design strategic management actions to improve overall ocean health. The OHI+ assessment process consists of four interconnected phases: Learn, Plan, Conduct and Inform.

OBJECTIVES

This module serves as a tool to lead training workshops to begin an OHI+ assessment. The workshop leader needs and familiarity with the Ocean Health Index framework.

Training workshops are designed with the goal of providing stakeholders, including research institutions, government agencies, policy groups, non-governmental organizations, civil and private sectors, a platform to discuss issues, identify key characteristics and priority areas and develop next steps for conducting an OHI+ assessment. The overall purpose of the OHI+ training workshop is to inform participants and create a foundation and organized plan to continue with the OHI+ process post-workshop.



PREREQUISITES

Prior to the workshop, the workshop leader must spend time identifying:

- needs, existing knowledge, and skills of participants on marine planning issues
- need for the session structure to be flexible to accommodate for participant questions, suggestions and general discussion which they identify as most relevant
- necessary regional and local input from relevant ministries, organizations and stakeholders

Training workshops are designed for participants with introductory knowledge of the Ocean Health Index framework and completed OHI+ assessments, and have begun thinking of how it can be used in regional context. Participants should also explore the ohi-science.org website and be familiar with the Learn and Plan phases.

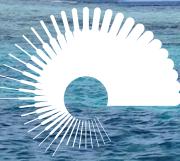
The following are pre-workshop materials, to be distributed to participants in advance of the workshop:

- OHI+ assessment factsheet
- Brief questionnaire/discussion question guide:
 - What could the spatial boundaries be and what is the purpose of doing an OHI+ assessment in this area?
 - What are keys issues of ocean health in our area?
 - What known information should be included in our assessment?
 - What are potential challenges in information acquisition?
 - What are expectations and/or desired outcomes of this workshop?

Participants are expected to read provided pre-workshop materials, brainstorm a list of available information (data, indicators, policy mandates etc) to conduct an OHI+ and prepare a list of 3-5 questions.

Needed materials:

- Pens/pencils
- Notebooks and/or pads
- Flip board & markers (or equivalent depending on materials)
- OHI+ factsheets



AGENDA

Day 1: OHI+ Overview

Objective:	To inform and introduce participants to the Ocean Health Index framework and to facilitate discussions on needs, priorities, and challenges for tailoring the framework for this OHI+ assessment
8:00 – 8:30	Arrival & Registration
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Introduction and participants: participants will do a brief introduction including name, organization and reason for attending the workshop.
	Facilitator will welcome all participants and state the objective(s) of the workshop –overall and for the day specifically.
9:00 – 9:30	Activity 1: “What are key issues facing ocean health & management in our assessment area?”
9:30 – 10:00	Presentation: key local speakers introduce marine planning context, current ocean and coastal management initiatives, and determine the need and purpose for an OHI+ assessment
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation: Ocean Health Index framework – ‘core’ overview Brief Q & A
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 11:15	Presentation: national statistics/data system presented by local authority (optional) aimed at sharing existing protocols for data collection (lead agency, methodology, frequency) and storage
11:15 – 12:00	Presentation: Ocean Health Index framework - ‘tailored’ overview Brief Q & A
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Activity 2: “What characteristics are most important to capture in our assessment? Should we focus on certain goals more than others?”
2:00 – 4:00	Activity 3: “What information do we have and what do we need?”
4:00 – 4:30	Review: Themes, lessons learned, summary

ACTIVITY 1

Title: What are key issues facing ocean health & management in our assessment area?

Aim: Brainstorm on workshop themes and understand overall intended outcomes and goals. Discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis) to effective ocean and coastal management in the region.

Group size: All participants as a group

Duration: 30-minutes

Resources required:

- Notepad
- Pens
- Flip-boards
- Markers

Description of activity:

Trainer will ask the group to break into small discussion groups. Each group will be asked to briefly address the following discussion questions:

- What is a healthy ocean? List definition & benefits
- Who is dependent on a healthy ocean? List key stakeholder groups
- How do you measure and manage ocean health? List key challenges
- What is currently needed to improve ocean health? List resources available and needed ~ 10 minutes

Facilitator will have written questions down on separate flip board pages around the room. Groups will record answers and key points under each question (5 – 10 minutes)

The group will reconvene and discuss (10 minutes)

Note: leader or assistant will record answers and themes developed from discussions

ACTIVITY 2

Title: What characteristics are most important to capture in our assessment? Should we focus on certain goals more than others?"

Aim: Begin thinking about OHI+ in regional context – including identifying key characteristics and priorities for the assessment framework design

Group size: Small-discussion groups

Duration: 2-hrs.

Resources required:

- Notepad for recording the groups' conclusions
- Markers

Description of activity:

Leader will ask each group to break into small discussion group to discuss (about 1.5 hours):

- whether each goal identified for global assessments is relevant for this local context
- whether the pressures and resilience categories identified for the global assessments are relevant for this local context
- other key characteristics/priorities important to the local context that are not captured by above goals, pressures, resilience
- identify a group leader to present their selection with explanations for the choices and their proposed action plan

Leader will bring participants back together to (about 30 minutes):

- discuss the results of the prioritization of the goals and the activities needed to achieve them

Note: Leader or assistant will record answers and themes developed from discussions

ACTIVITY 3

Title: What information do we have and what do we need?

Aim: To begin discussions on designing a framework that incorporates key values and priorities specific to the regional context

Group size: Small-discussion groups. Groups can be separated into the following four categories:
1) Food provision and natural products (provisioning); 2) biodiversity, clean waters, coastal protection and carbon storage (ecological); 3) artisanal fishing opportunities and sense of place (social); 4) livelihoods & economies, and tourism & recreation (economic)

Duration: 1—hr.

Resources required:

- Notepad
- Pens
- Flip-boards
- Markers

Description of activity:

Leader will ask each group to break into small discussion groups and to begin brainstorming (30 minutes):

- What information is needed for each goal (e.g. indicators, data layers, policies, mandates, management objectives, laws, regional and/or national plans etc.)
- What information currently exists?

Adapted from “Training Module: Introduction to Capacity Building for Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development” - Copyright 2004 UNEP

ACTIVITY 3 (CONT.)

Each group fills the following table:

	What do we have?	What do we need?	How would it be measured and by whom?
Positive (favorable resources and items)			
Negative (challenges, institutional limitations, human resources, etc.)			

Groups will discuss amongst their table, creating a list of what is needed and potentially information currently available.

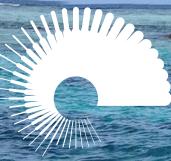
Discussion questions will be written separately on flip chart pages around the room.

Each group will nominate an ambassador to write down their key points under each discussion question (5 – 10 minutes)

The group will reconvene and discuss (20 minutes)

Note: leader or assistant will record answers and themes developed from discussions

Adapted from “Training Module: Introduction to Capacity Building for Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development” - Copyright 2004 UNEP



AGENDA

Day 2: Planning An OHI+ Assessment

Objective:	Planning and establishing a “road map” and/or work plan to conduct an OHI+ assessment, including tasking next steps and identifying a technical team
8:00 – 8:30	Welcome
8:30 – 9:00	Review Day 1: OHI+ overview
9:00 – 9:30	Presentation: practical considerations for planning and conducting an OHI+ assessment
9:30 – 10:00	Presentation: key local speakers introduce marine planning context, current ocean and coastal management initiatives, and determine the need and purpose for an OHI+ assessment
10:00 – 10:15	Q & A
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation: informing decision-making and communicating
11:00 – 12:30	Activity 4: Initial OHI+ strategy
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 3:00	Activity 5: OHI+ short-term work plan: Who, What, When
3:00 – 3:15	Coffee Break
3:15 – 4:00	Discussion, follow-up, and short-term activities



ACTIVITY 4

Aim: Identify and evaluate core strategy for developing OHI+

Group size: All participants as a group

Duration: 1.5—hrs.

Resources required:

Notepad

Pens

Flip board

Markers

Description of activity:

Leader will ask each group to break into small discussion group to brainstorm (1 hour):

- What is the purpose of your assessment?
- What are general and specific objectives for the assessment?
- What spatial boundaries could be appropriate for the Assessment Area and any containing Regions? (think about both the the spatial scale where information is collected and the spatial scale where calculated scores would be most useful?)
- Which key individuals or institutions should be involved as goal keepers or advisors? Create a Working Group that will coordinate future planning efforts and will execute short-term tasks
- What stakeholder groups will need to be involved? Categorize by OHI goal. Stakeholder groups include: government agencies, scientific and academic institutions, NGOs, civil societies (resource users), and private sector.
- What are potential challenges?

Leader will bring groups together and lead discussion (30 minutes)

Note: trainer or assistant will record and consolidate group responses into single document to share post-workshop.

ACTIVITY 5

Title: OHI+ work plan: Who, What, When

Aim: Create a working document to carry out future steps in conducting an OHI+ assessment

Group size: All participants as a group

Duration: 1.5-hrs.

Resources required:

Notepad

Pens

Flip-boards

Markers

OHI+ work plan hand-out

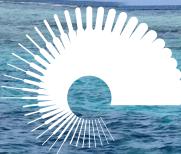
Description of activity:

Leader will lead the group to create a road map identifying next steps, assigning tasks, identifying lead groups, setting target dates etc. in alignment with the OHI+ phases. This document will serve as a blueprint for activities to be carried out after workshop to build upon strategies developed and momentum gained during the workshop.

During this activity, groups will define the core structure of the OHI+ strategy, including:

- **What:** activities to be carried out in the short-term ex. Finalize creation of work group and planning document, identify resources needed, etc.
- **When:** create timeline to set target dates for tasks to be completed and to measure progress
- **Who:** assign individuals/groups to carry out specific tasks

Note: Trainer will consolidate outcomes from activities



OCEAN
HEALTH
INDEX+

+ = Independent Assessment

Key Action Steps	Timeline	Expected Outcomes	Person/Area Responsible	Comments
<i>Define each action step on its own row. Define as many actions as necessary by adding rows to the table</i>	<i>An expected completion date (month & year) must be defined for each action step</i>	<i>An expected outcome must be defined for each action step</i>	<i>A responsible person must be identified for each action step</i>	<i>Comments are optional</i>