OCEAN HEALTH INDEX+™

+ = independent assessment

Practical considerations for planning an assessment

Updated Dec 2015. For updated information visit ohi-science.org

Getting Started: Phases of An OHI+ Assessment

1. Learn about OHI+	2. Plan an OHI+	3. Conduct an OHI+	4. Inform

Understand OHI framework and philosophy

Develop and implement a strategy to inform decision making through outreach and communications

Determine the need and purpose of the assessment

Plan and partner with decision makers and key stakeholders

Assemble a skilled team & develop a strategic plan and timeline

Data discovery and acquisition

Set reference points and modify goal models

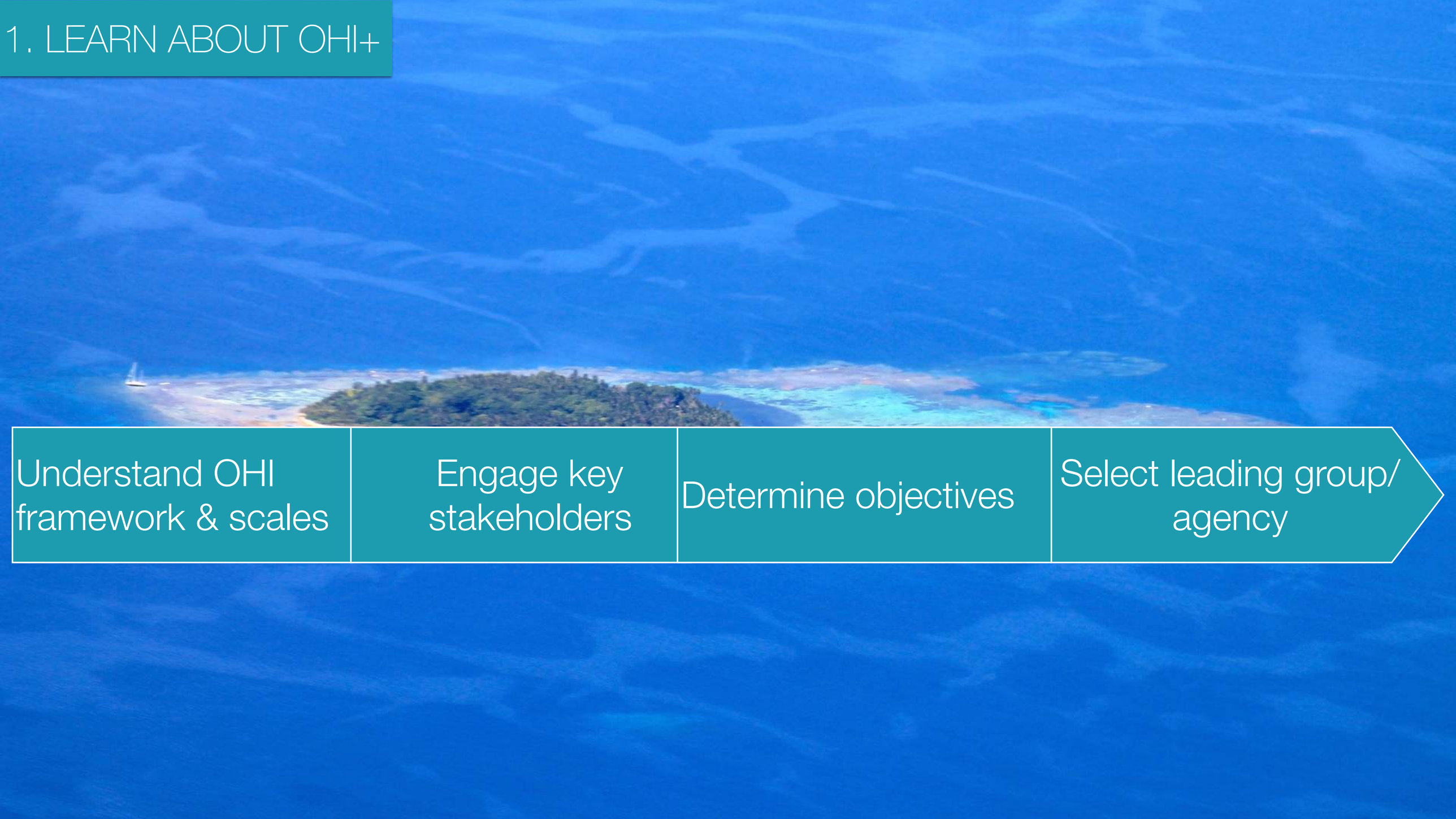
Use OHI Toolbox

Interpret Scores and publish findings

Develop and implement policies

Document all decision

1. LEARN ABOUT OHI+



Understand OHI framework & scales	Engage key stakeholders	Determine objectives	Select leading group/ agency

2. PLAN AN OHI+

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement	Meet Requirements	Strategic planning

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders Involved in OHI+ Assessments

Academic & Scientific Institutions

NGOs, civil society, and private sector

Government agencies and decision makers

Working group + Technical Team

Team Structure

Working Group:
objectives, guidance, coordination

Technical Team

R Programmer
process data, goal models, coding

Information

Scientific Analysts (Goal keepers)
Gather data, develop goal models. establish reference points

Information

Spatial Analyst
works with ArcGIS or other spatial analysis software

OHI Toolbox
Github repositories
WebApps

Assemble a Qualified Team

SKILLS OF THE ENTIRE TEAM:

Having broad scientific understanding and experience with environmental policy

Thinking creatively about the data

Collaborating well in a multidisciplinary team, remotely and in person

Data

Goal Status (environmental, social, and economic indicators)

Ecological and Social Pressures

Ecological and Social Resilience

Time series for data layers (5 years)

Funding

Funds needed for: team, workshops and meetings, communications, policy engagement, and operating costs

Costs depend on the local context

Follow a familiar planning process

3. CONDUCT AN OHI+

Determine priorities & goals to assess

Understand OHI+ & WebApp

Data Discovery: status, pressures, resilience

spatial regions, reference points, goal models

Prepare data layers using Github

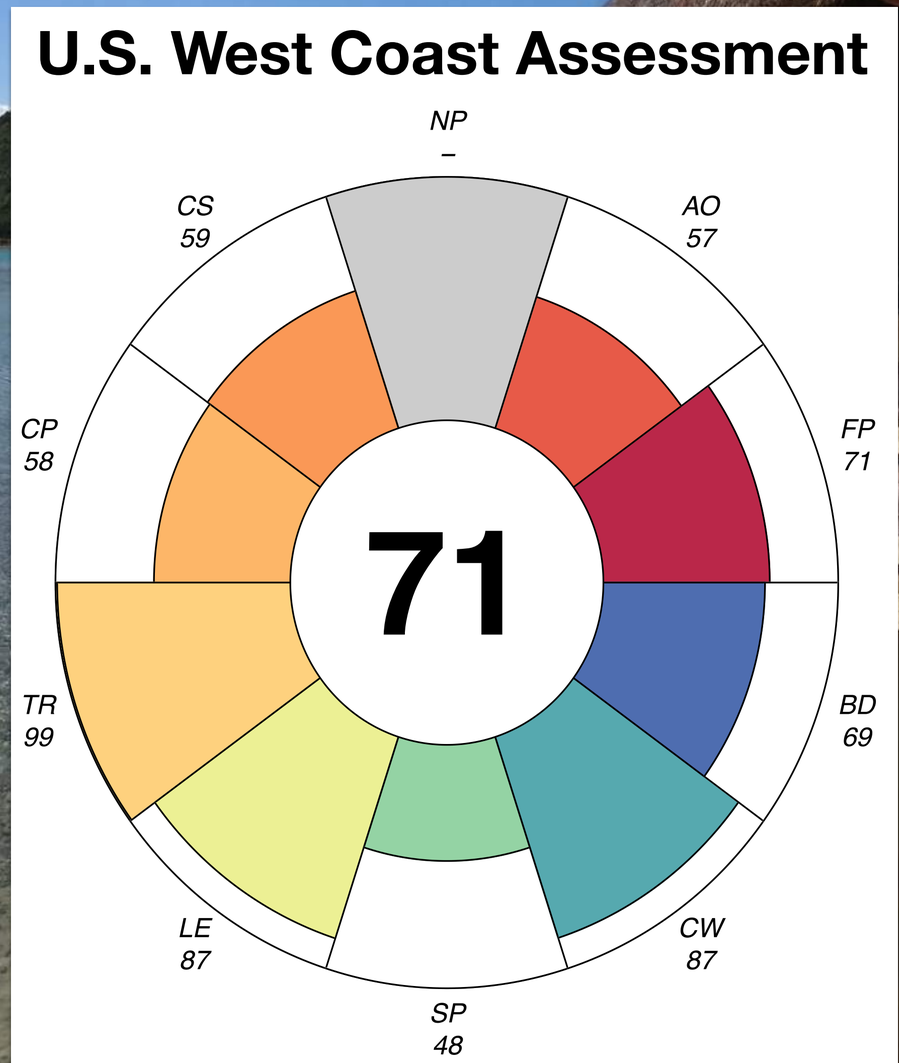
Using R: calculate scores

Decisions About the Goals

Confirm which goals should be included

Decisions about goal weighting

Only evaluate the goals relevant to the local context



Reporting Units

At which spatial scales will the assessment be the most useful?

Study Area: Country

Regions: States

Reporting Units

The assessments should match political and environmental scales of decision-making

Data availability can help determine spatial scales to assess

Appropriate & Available Data

Data availability is perhaps the most important element

Data Quality = Assessment Quality

Use existing data

Appropriate & Available Data

Data requirements:

Relevant to ocean health

Potential to establish a reference point

At the adequate/desired spatial scales

At the adequate temporal scale

Establishing Reference Points

Indicates a score of 100, so goal scores are comparable. Based on:

- Data availability (spatial, temporal, functional)
- Management/Policy targets (established)

Establishing Reference Points

Informed choices — highly subjective

- Important that decisions are transparent and based on the best information available

Appropriate & Available Data

Appropriate spatial scales
Appropriate temporal scales

Data for every region part of the assessment

Data for all elements for at least five years — for trend (33% of score)

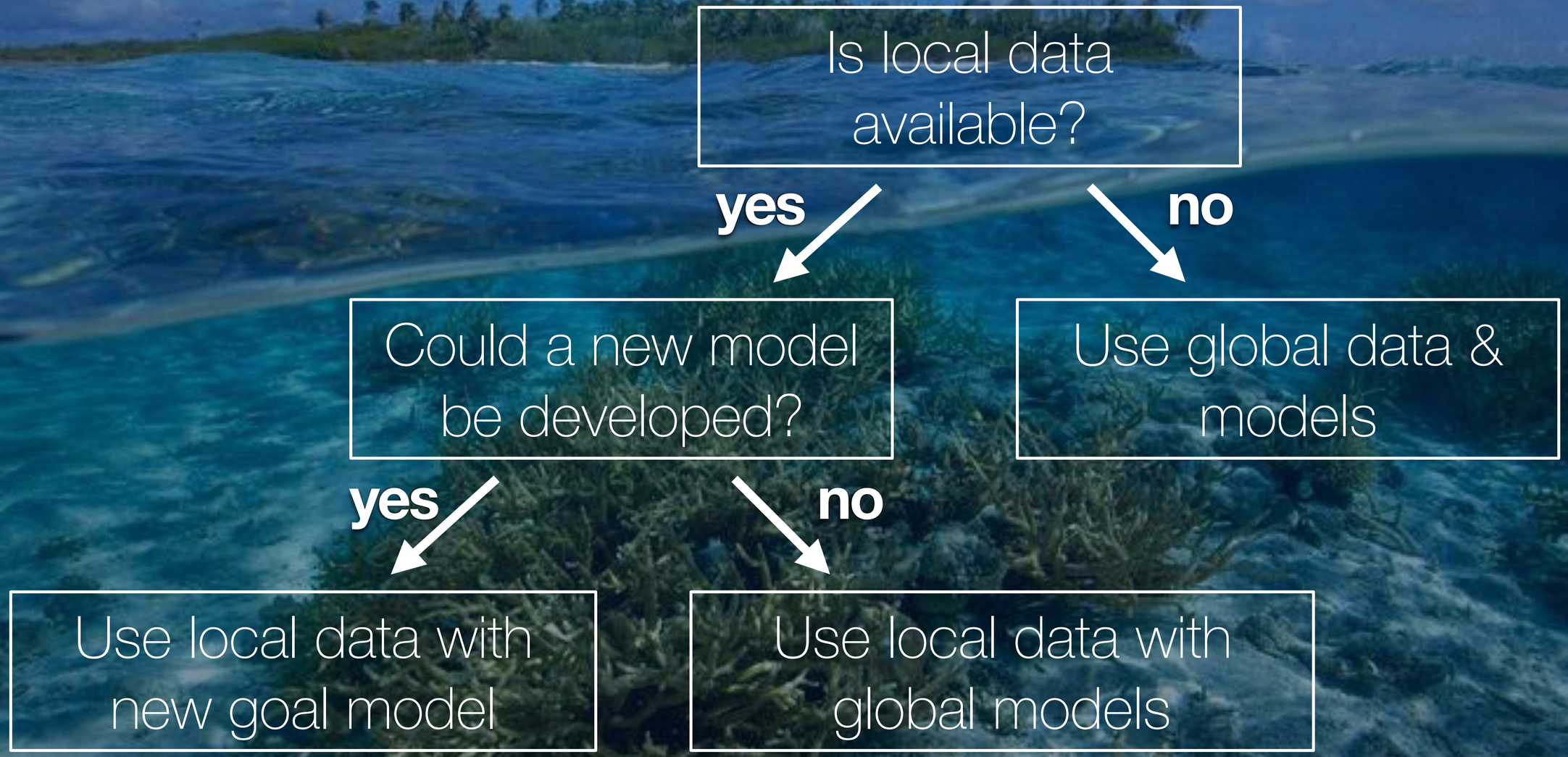
Appropriate & Available Data

Data from the global assessment

Spatial data are best all goal's pressures & present state of some goals

Local data best for present state, trends of most goals, and resilience for all goals

Data & Models Considerations



Data & Models Considerations

LOCAL DATA AND IMPROVED GOAL MODELS ALLOW:

A more accurate portrayal of the health of coastal oceans

Establish reference points with national and local priorities/preferences —> track performance —> adaptive management

4. INFORM DECISION-MAKING

Explore results with scientific and policy partners	Develop and implement policies	Monitor, reevaluate determine effectiveness	Set new priorities and reevaluate regularly

Understand Decision-making Context

Begin with end goal in mind

Models, reference points, and weights align with national priorities

Understand Decision-making Context

Integrate findings into policy + management

↓

Assess at regular intervals

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Implement adaptive management principles

Thank You!
Questions?

GROUP ACTIVITY:

- Get back with your groups
- Discuss and answer the following questions (45 minutes)
- Each group presents back (30 minutes)
- Participants identify trends (15 minutes)

1. Who should be involved at the national level? Separate into categories (science/academic, government agencies, and NGOs, civil society, private sector)

2. What national/local policies, mandates, or initiatives could OHI+ complement?

3. What are some of the main strengths of conducting an assessment and what are some challenges to overcome?

4. Identify main trends from the group presentations in all the activities