

Study/Workshop: Guidance for Future Decadals

- SSB hosts a workshop in the even years. In November 2012 the workshop will focus on providing guidance for future decadals based on lessons learned from the last set.
- By next fall we will have completed three decadals in 2010 and 2011. In addition the completion of the midterm program assessment of the ESAS decadal will mark the completion of the full set of such studies.
- To provide conclusions and recommendations the workshop will have to be conducted by an ad-hoc study committee.
- We have discussed at ExCom meeting that we should allow the committee time for deliberations and possible other data gathering meetings in order to tease out the complex issues involved.

Issues we have discussed at SSB

- The decadal reviews have a lifetime of 10 years. The longest lived we have on the books is ESAS, but the charges of the most recent three were quite different.
- How do we assess the lessons learned and provide guidance for the future while teasing out the impact of the following:
 - The changes in the charges – the request to form recommendations within budget scenarios and based on independent assessments of cost and technical readiness.
 - The Cost and Technical Evaluation (CATE) – all three CATE's have had differences.
 - The difficulty of understanding possible future budget scenarios in the formulation of decision rules.
 - The fiscal constraints in the policy environment into which the recent decadal reviews have emerged. (Would we be having a different set of conversations if we were in different fiscal times?)
 - The process and schedule mismatches with international collaborators.
 - The increasing cost of “flagships” which has resulted in a breakdown of the stove piped flagship funding.
 - The challenge of maintaining balance within the decadal review process between flagship class missions and smaller-scale priority setting.
 - Increased outreach to the community.