Next Steps for Science Needs and Science Delivery – Proposed 2017 Process

Typical process for considering science needs for North Atlantic LCC
- In winter / spring, convene Technical Committee to consider science needs. Technical Committee consists of scientists whose roles vary from developing science products to using them in applied conservation projects.
- Bring recommended science needs to Steering Committee at spring meeting
- Develop science projects for needs approved by Steering Committee

Alternative approach used in 2016
- Technical Committee was invited to join Regional Conservation Opportunity Areas (RCOAs) project
- New science projects were exclusively devoted to supporting RCOA project
- Primarily supported work by UMass on RCOAs (created terrestrial and aquatic core-connector design)
- Also supported work on RCOAs by Chesapeake Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and others

Proposed modification in approach for 2017 – taking stock of progress to date and future strategic directions.

Rationale:
- ❖ Need for more concerted effort to review current needs of users
- ❖ Reflect last several years of work on science delivery and conservation design
- ❖ Reflect call for National Academy of Sciences to reinforce work with partners, and in particular 1) joint ventures and fish habitat partnerships, and 2) state wildlife agencies
- ❖ Incorporate needs of major initiatives such as Chesapeake Bay and Gulf of Maine

Approach
- Building upon the work of the science delivery team to learn what limits the ability of conservation practitioners to apply science to support their work, systematically evaluate the relationships between major users and the current assemblage of LCC-sponsored tools. One product could be a strategic planning matrix of organizations, initiatives, and implementation programs, current decision making processes, and potential opportunities of LCC tools to contribute. This work will inform a *unified process for developing new science and science delivery needs* for 2017.
- Engage a forum of users in a process to simultaneously consider needs in science delivery (e.g., trainings, guidance materials on using existing tools, awareness building etc.) and science products (e.g., need to update existing foundational data, refine existing science tools, address science problems that to date have been intractable). Users will be comprised of representatives of key organizations, initiatives, and implementation programs.
- Use findings to recommend how allocations for science projects and science delivery should be divided and chart a course for future effort.
- For priority needs identified through this process, engage Technical Committee and Science Delivery Committee in prioritizing, refining, and scoping the needs for consideration by Steering Committee.
- Bring science priorities (and science delivery priorities) to Steering Committee meeting for consideration in April meeting, and after feedback and approval proceed to develop relevant projects.