Environmental Report Cards

Ekaterina "Katya" Altman
Research Assistant
Carolinas Integrated Sciences & Assessments
Ph.D. student, Environmental Health Sciences
Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina, Columbia
March 21, 2018



Arnold School of Public Health

• Environmental Health Sciences' philosophy:

healthy environments enhance the health and wellbeing of individuals and the communities in which they live.

Source: Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Handbook for Graduate Students 2016-2017, Arnold School of Public Health.



- Scientific understanding of climate processes and impacts
- Decision support through of targeted information
- Advance climate adaptation in the region
- Climate information networks

September 17-19, 2018 in Columbia, SC Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference





Graduate Civic Scholars Program

"Innovative professional development opportunity for master's and doctoral students who are interested in community and public engagement and action-based research."

Dissertation Research Ideas

- Identification of resource management needs*:
- Environmental assessments
- Evaluation of assessments by the stakeholders

- Community engagement, stakeholder collaboration, and applied research?

YES! Report Card Process

^{*} ENHS 775: Resource Management and Environmental Impact Assessment Lecture slides.

Ecosystem Health Report Cards



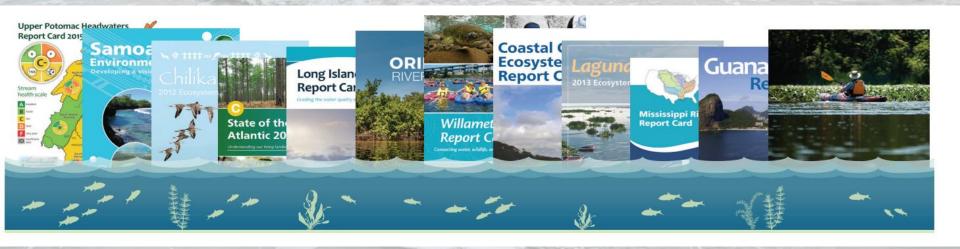




Report Card

"assessment and communication products that compare **ecological**, **social**, **and/or economic** information against predefined goals or objectives" (Costanzo et al., 2017)





Methodology





Practitioner's Guide to Developing River Basin Report Cards



What is the big picture?



IDENTIFYING BASIN VALUES AND THREATS

What do we measure?



CHOOSING INDICATOR

What is healthy?



DEFINING THRESHOLDS FOR INDICATORS





CALCULATING SCORES AND DETERMINING GRADES





COMMUNICATING RESULTS

Costanzo, S.D., Blancard, C., Davidson, S., Dennison, W.C., Escurra, J., Freeman, S., Fries, A., Kelsey, R.H., Krchnak, K., Sherman, J., Thieme, M. Vargas-Nguyen, V. 2017. Practitioner's Guide to Developing River Basin Report Cards. IAN Press. Cambridge MD USA.

Enabling Conditions

• 5 Step Process

- Transparency
- Holistic approach
- Transdisciplinary
- Stakeholder driven



Goals and Objectives:

Develop a shared understanding and vision about current conditions and future development

Next Steps

Issue of Scale: River Basin vs. Community

- Scoping
- Identify decision-makers
- Resources to conduct the project
- Develop project timeline

Important to think about **issues** and **data sources** before the 1st stakeholder engagement workshop.

