

APNEP Survey of the SAV Action Team and SAV Monitoring & Assessment Team

Results presented at the February 7, 2018 workshop
NERR First Floor Classroom
Beaufort, NC



Review of APNEP AT and MAT

13 Action Teams

- 8 active
 - Decision Support Tools
 - Ecological Flows
 - Engagement & Stewardship
 - FW Hab. & Fish Passage
 - Invasives
 - Living Shorelines*
 - Oyster Habitat Restoration*
 - **SAV**
- 5 pending
 - Contaminant Management
 - Nat. Res. Policy & Economics
 - Public Access
 - Restoration Strategies
 - Water Quality Improvements

7 Mon. & Asmt. Teams

- 5 active
 - Air Resources
 - Aquatic Fauna
 - **SAV**
 - Water Resources
 - Wetland Resources
- 2 pending (snow delay)
 - Human Dimensions
 - Terrestrial Resources

As facilitator, APNEP always looking to improve efficiency and efficacy of its workgroups



APNEP SAV Survey

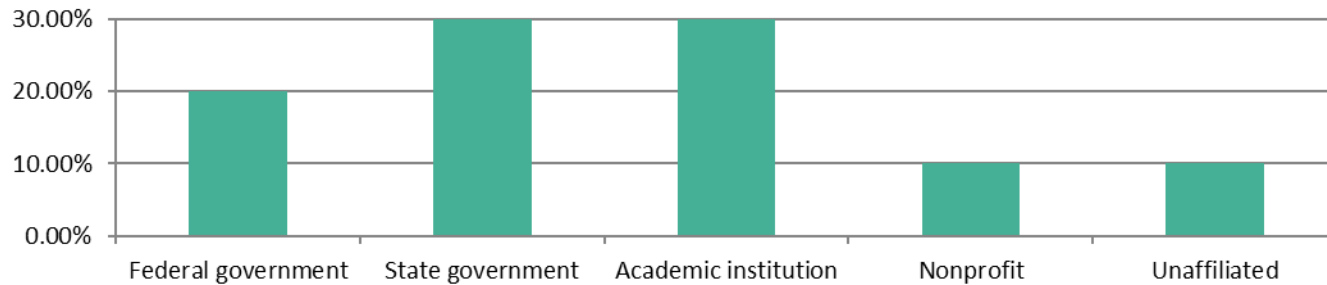
Purpose:

- Obtain feedback on the format and focus of team meetings going forward
- Intended to be a systematic way to:
 1. Analyze the priority concerns and requirements of our partner organizations represented on the APNEP SAV teams,
 2. Evaluate the current two-team format for meeting the needs of APNEP and its partners regarding SAV, and
 3. Solicit input from team members for developing a plan to implement the SAV Actions of the APNEP CCMP



APNEP SAV Survey: Participation

- All members of AT and MAT invited (17 total)
- 10/17 participated \approx 59%



- Which team members participated?
 - AT = 1 (10%) (4 members didn't participate)
 - MAT = 3 (30%)
 - Both = 6 (60%) (3 members didn't participate)



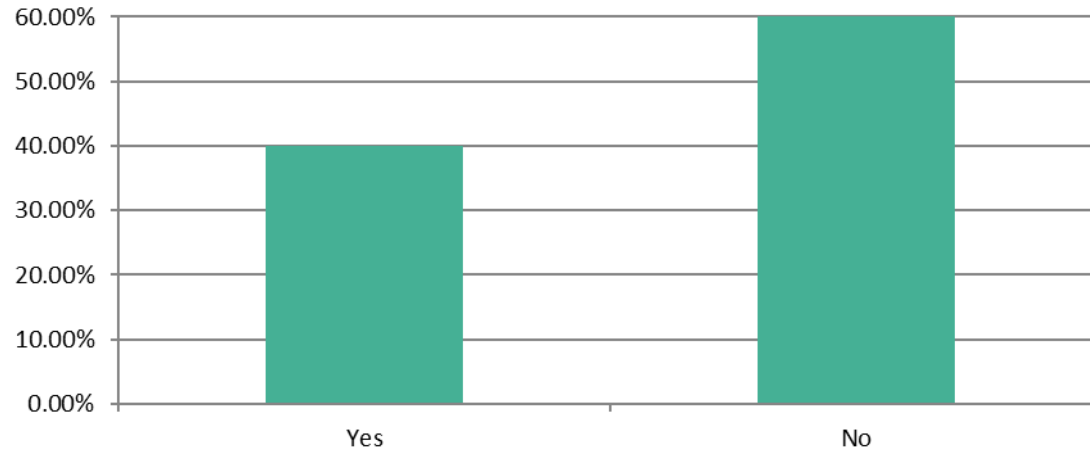
APNEP SAV Survey: Participation

- Are AT members interested in participating on MAT?
 - 1/1 (100%) said 'yes'
- Are MAT members interested in participating on AT?
 - 2/3 (67%) said 'yes'
- Are SAV partners a member of other APNEP teams?
 - 5/10 (50%) said 'yes'
 - AT = 1/1 said 'yes'; 5 other teams
 - MAT = 3/3 said 'no'
 - Both = 4/6 said 'yes'; 1-2 other teams



APNEP SAV Survey: SAV Partnership

- Did member participate in the 'SAV Partnership'?



- If 'yes', how long?
 - 3 members for 'all years'
 - 1 member for '2009-2012'

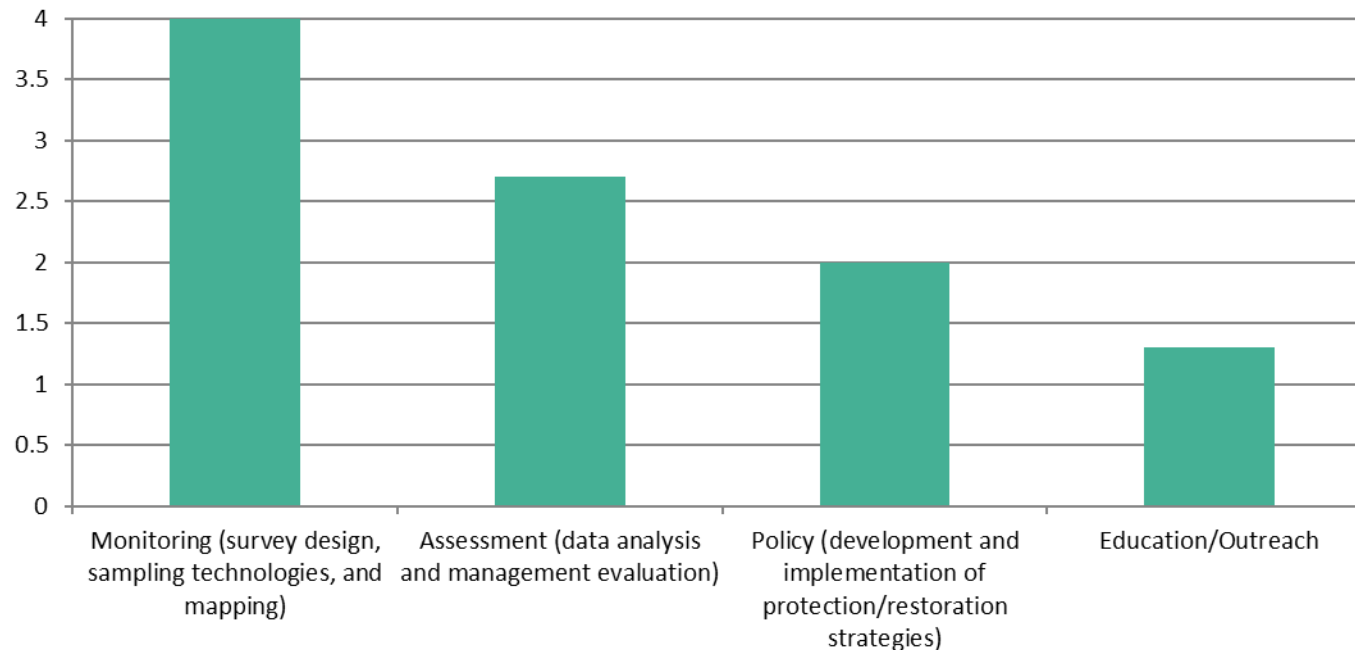
APNEP SAV Survey: SAV Partnership

- What were strengths of 'SAV Partnership'?
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration
 - Information sharing
 - Pooling of resources
 - Development and implementation of a state-wide SAV mapping and monitoring program
- What were weaknesses of 'SAV Partnership'?
 - Needed strong leadership and clear goals
 - Insufficient regard for species composition in SAV mapping
 - Lack of funding
 - Sometimes met too frequently
 - Limited time outside of meetings for members to work on subcommittee assignments
 - Repetitive information slowed progress



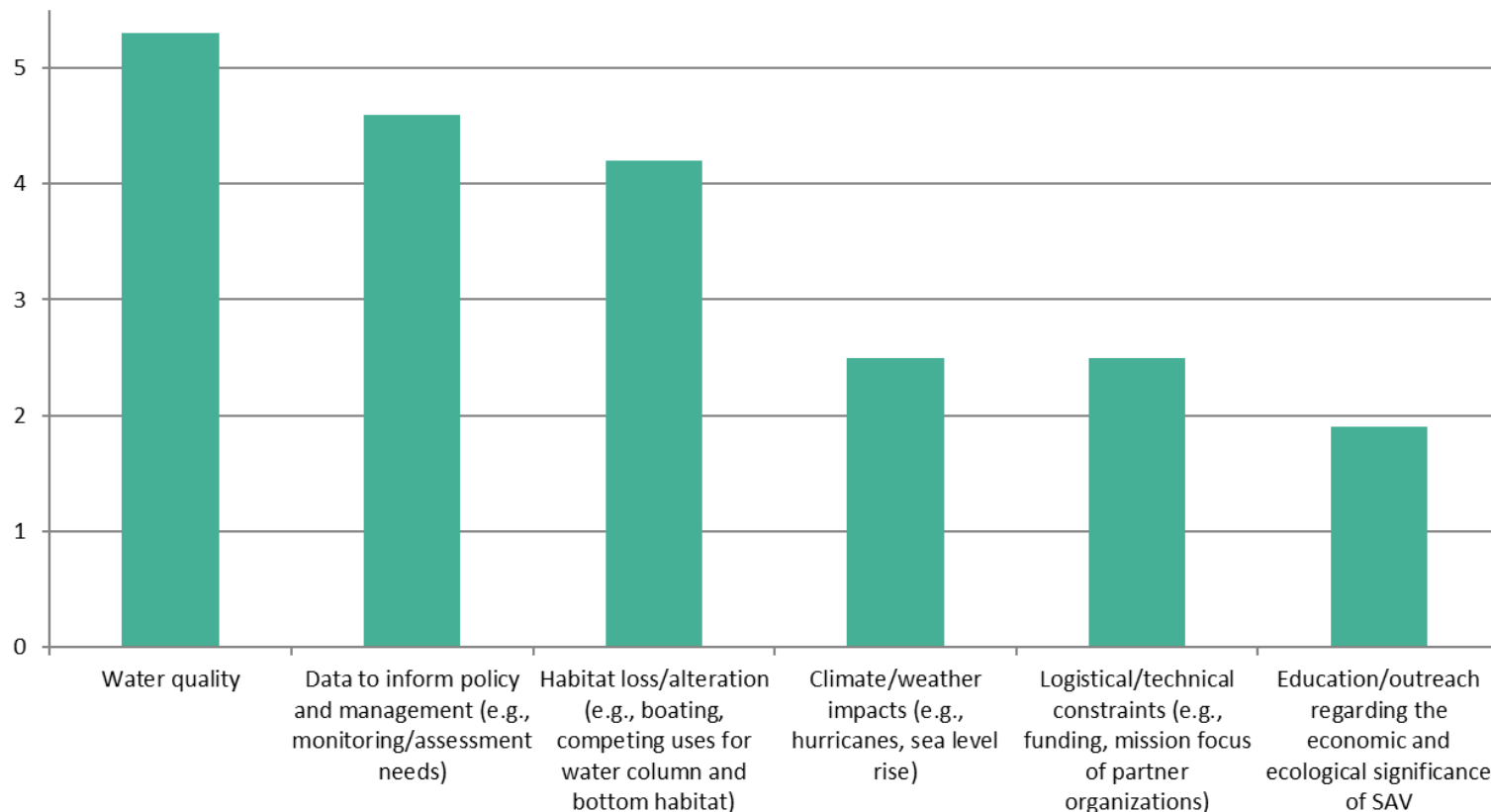
APNEP SAV Survey: Interests

Please rank your level of personal interest in the following SAV-related topics:



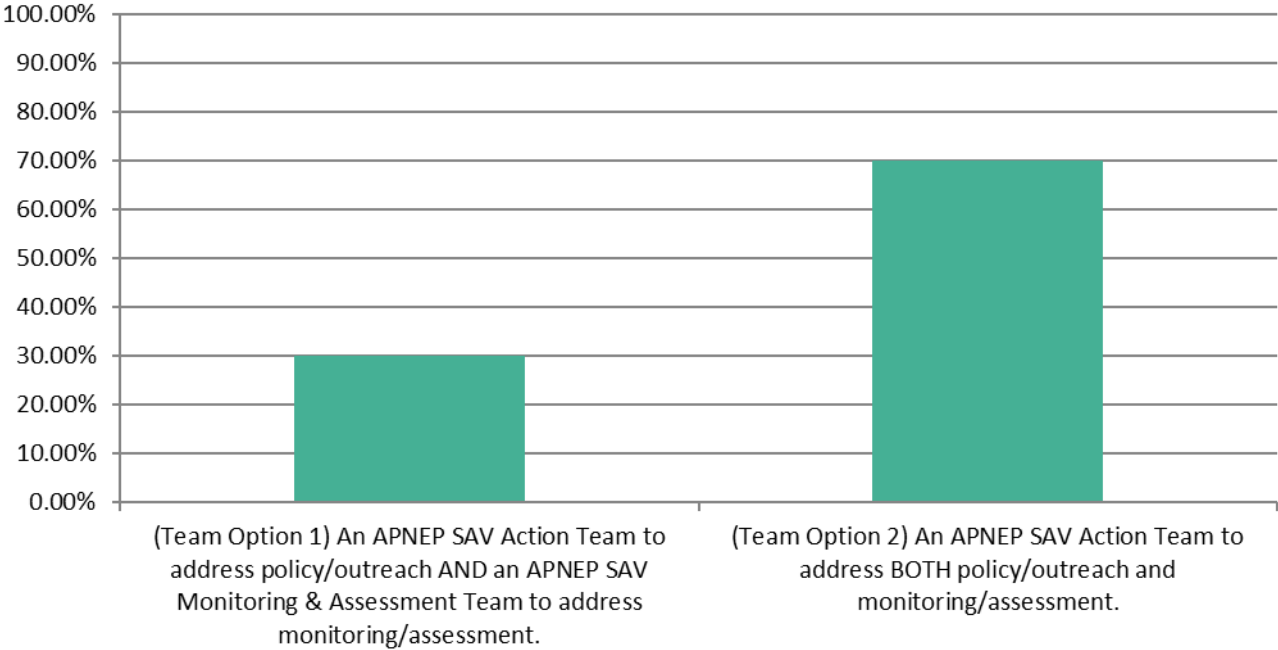
APNEP SAV Survey: Importance

Please rank the following topics by level of importance to SAV protection and restoration in the A-P estuarine system:



APNEP SAV Survey: Team Format

Which option do you prefer regarding the team format to address both SAV policy/outreach needs and SAV monitoring/assessment needs?



APNEP SAV Survey: Team Format

- Why Team Option #1 (two separate teams)?
 - No strong preference but would like focused meeting agendas and manageable meeting lengths (MAT member)
 - Uninterested in and/or unqualified to address policy and outreach issues (MAT member and AT/MAT member)
- How can APNEP staff and/or SAV partners improve coordination and communication between the AT and MAT to better support the unified goal of identifying, protecting, and restoring the SAV resources of the A-P estuarine system?
 - Distribute all meeting materials with members of both teams, including an invitation for all to attend (MAT member)
 - No suggestions (MAT member and AT/MAT member)



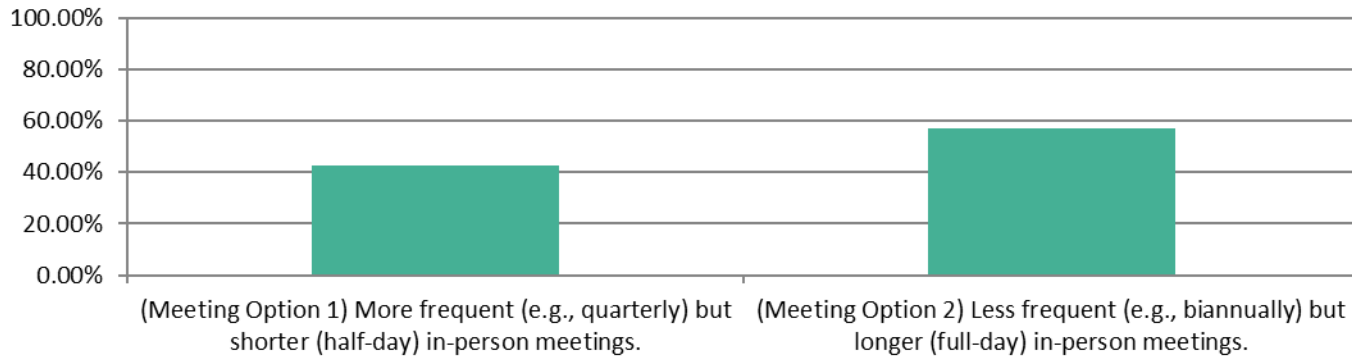
APNEP SAV Survey: Team Format

- Why Team Option #2 (one Team)?
 - “The two areas need to be **tightly coordinated** to maximize effectiveness.” (MAT member)
 - “There is **significant overlap** between monitoring and policy” (AT member)
 - “Ultimately these two teams need to talk and **work together**, so why not eliminate the need for two teams.” (AT/MAT member)
 - “Monitoring and assessment are **necessary to** develop policy and inform outreach. Having one group that discusses all aspects takes away the **‘middle-man’** and reduces any potential information loss between the two groups.” (AT/MAT member)
 - “I think option #2 provides a more **collaborative** model whereby MAT and Actions are **decided in concert**. Managers on the Action team are involved in decisions relevant to the science. I also think this would provide the combined team a chance to meet twice per year (with business from both teams covered at each meeting) to sustain momentum.” (AT/MAT member)
 - “I think that having two separate groups may lead to **duplicate effort** or different aims. I think a global group can address issues considering different perspectives.” (AT/MAT member)
 - “Membership **overlaps**, you need to have the updated information from M&A to drive policy and outreach.” (AT/MAT member)

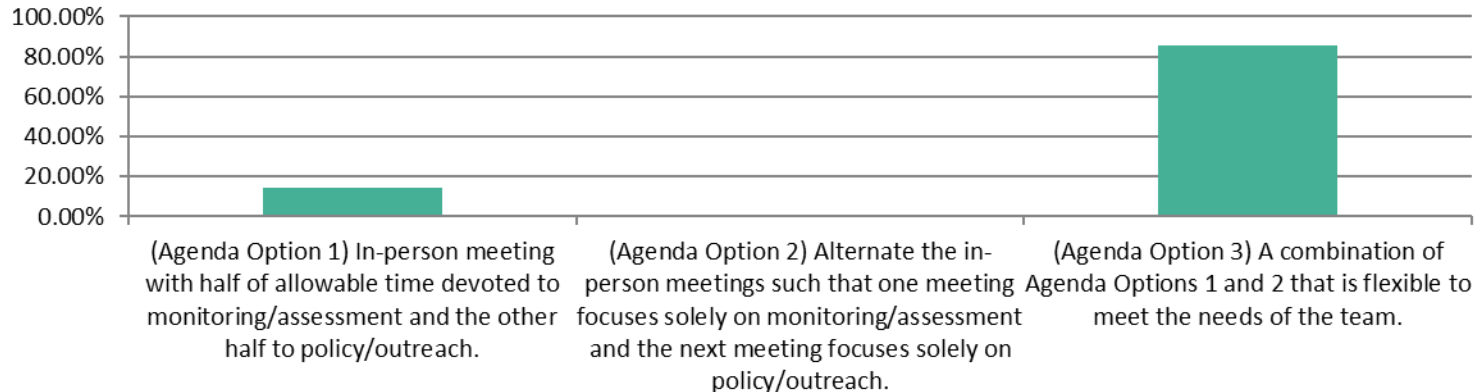


APNEP SAV Survey: Meetings

- You have selected a preference for Team Option #2: One SAV Team to address BOTH policy/outreach and monitoring/assessment. Which option do you prefer for meeting schedules?

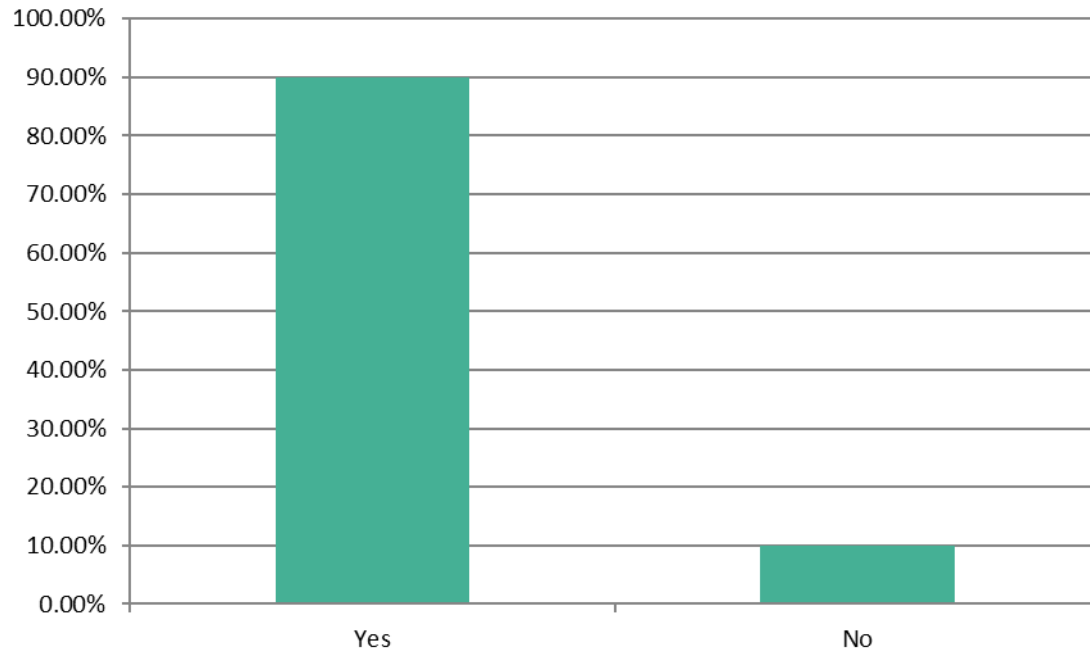


- Which option do you prefer for meeting agendas?



APNEP SAV Survey: Meetings

Are you interested in participating in teleconferences in between in-person meetings to address time-sensitive or emerging issues regarding SAV?



APNEP SAV Survey: MOU

- **Would an updated MOU for SAV facilitate greater participation by you (or your organization)?**
 - YES x 2
 - Help justify time taken away from regular duties
 - Help clarify expectations and capabilities
 - MAYBE x 3
 - Need to review and determine who will really contribute
 - NO x 5
 - Not needed – will stay engaged regardless
 - Too much time and hassle to update

- **Would an updated MOU improve collaboration among partners?**
 - YES x 3
 - Formalizes commitment
 - Easier sharing of funds among partners
 - MAYBE x 4
 - Need to review and determine if improvements can be made
 - Could garner more state-level support for SAV mgmt.
 - NO x 3
 - Same reasons as before



APNEP SAV Survey: Who's Missing?

- Are there other organizations not currently represented on the APNEP SAV team(s) that you are a member of and should be invited to participate? If so, please list them and their expertise or expected contribution to the team(s).
 - “Don't know” x 2
 - “No” x 4
 - “N/A” x 2
 - “Sound Rivers”
 - “We should have a brief but comprehensive discussion about this at our next meeting after we evaluate who may be missing and why.”



APNEP SAV Survey: CCMP Actions

APNEP has **two** Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Actions that broadly address the needs of SAV, which include the development and implementation of a **1) protection strategy** and **2) restoration strategy**. Please rank these Actions in order of importance regarding additional resources, programs, or projects needed to fill gaps for SAV in the A-P estuarine system.

- **10/10 (100%)** for:
 - **#1 – Action B2.2**: Develop and implement a submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) protection strategy. APNEP will work with its partners in protecting SAV habitats through mapping efforts, examination of permitting requirements, water quality and habitat issues, and education for boaters.
 - **#2 – Action C3.3**: Develop and implement a submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration strategy. In conjunction with strategies to protect SAV (see Action B2.2), APNEP will work to restore areas capable of supporting SAV. This work will require study of effective restoration techniques, bathymetric mapping, water quality monitoring, and other efforts.



APNEP SAV Survey: Protection

- **Please provide at least two ideas for project development that you think are most needed in support of Action B2.2: SAV Protection Strategy**
 - Work with competing groups (e.g., aquaculture) to ensure SAV protection
- Monitoring/Mapping
 - Statewide survey of spatially articulated data on species composition
 - Secure funding so that mapping can be on a routine schedule
 - Increase spatiotemporal coverage of mapping
 - Ground truthing of aerial surveys
 - Sentinel Site development
 - Secure funding for routine monitoring
 - For low- and high-salinity areas – focus on deep water edge of dense beds along OBX
 - Water quality monitoring
 - Comprehensive and coupled with SAV monitoring
 - Link water quality to SAV health – minimum criteria for SAV species
 - Develop a habitat suitability map
- Assessment
 - Change-detection analysis and report on trends
- Permitting requirements
 - For shorelines adjacent to SAV beds – reduce stormwater runoff
 - Stop analyzing this – agencies are already doing it



APNEP SAV Survey: Restoration

- **Please provide at least two ideas for project development that you think are most needed in support of Action C3.3: SAV Restoration Strategy**
 - Is it needed – where and why?
 - Review Chesapeake Bay efforts
 - Not a fan of restoration in NC
 - Restoration without information from B2.2 can be costly and ineffective

Monitoring/Mapping/Modeling

- Use maps to identify potential areas for restoration
- Coupled SAV/Water Quality monitoring to identify areas of likely success
- Bathymetric mapping
- Hydrodynamic modeling of seed dispersal
- Subaqueous soil sampling

Research

- Investigate the role of species diversity in restoration success
- SAV propagation and planting in different areas of NC

Strategies

- Appropriate seed source development
- Spread seed in areas where seed bank has been depleted



APNEP SAV Survey: Other Feedback

- **Please provide any additional feedback that you have on related SAV issues not already covered in this survey and that you think would assist APNEP staff and/or our partners as we continue to identify, protect, and restore the SAV resources of the A-P estuarine system.**
 - *“Results from the mapping and monitoring efforts in low salinity SAV systems needs to be compiled and reviewed to determine whether this is the best method to use. My primary concern is the limitation to a minimum of 1 m water depth. Would low flying drones be faster and more comprehensive?”*
 - *“Increase public awareness of the linkage between SAV and healthy, productive fish habitat.”*
 - *“We need to make sure that the work group meets regularly enough to be able to work together on these important issues. I like the idea of more frequent web conference calls. This will allow us to respond more quickly to any problems that may arise.”*
 - *“Thank you for...” x 2*



APNEP SAV Survey: Summary

- Main strength of SAV Partnership was **monitoring**
- Priorities of APNEP teams still **monitoring**
 - Most are interested in **monitoring** and then **assessment**
 - Water quality then **data needs** ranked as most important
 - Project ideas for B2.2 and C3.3 mostly **monitoring/assessment**
- Majority prefer to combine the AT and MAT
 - Overwhelming opinion that the two teams are interdependent
 - Of members not on both teams, most want to participate on both
- Slight preference for current (6-month/all day) meeting schedule
 - Strong preference for a flexible agenda
- High interest in teleconferences along with in-person meetings
- Mixed opinions on updating MOU
 - Most 'no' for participation but 'maybe/unsure' for collaboration
- 100% priority for B2.2 (protection) over C3.3 (restoration)

