Report on the Environment 2022 Vision Workshop
STPC Briefing
December 10, 2020

EPA

Purpose of Briefing

- Present ROE workshop takeaways
- Present next steps
- Discuss strategic directions
  - ROE & Evidence Act
  - Long-term engagement process

Workshop and Breakout Group Highlights

- 3 plenary sessions with ~65 participants from 10 offices and 8 regions
  - Office participants: OCFO, OITA, OAR, OCSPP, OLEM, OW, OP, ORD, OCHP, OEJ
  - Regions: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9
- 4 breakout groups met a total of 15 times over 4 weeks
  - New questions and indicators
  - Cross-media issues
  - Trends analysis
  - User experience and communications
- 50+ breakout group participants provided input through Mural, comments, and discussions

Breakout Group Goals

Subgroup	Goals and Outputs
ROE Questions & New Indicators	• Brainstorm new indicators and questions for the ROE of the future (looking out 5-10 years) • Confirm existing, or develop new, ROE questions • Develop prioritized list of new and revised indicators
Cross-Media Issues	• Brainstorm approaches for how cross-media issues might be addressed by the ROE • Develop prioritized list of cross-media issues
Trends	• Develop list of potential methods/approaches for interpretation • Develop list of potential areas for interpretation
User Experience & Communications	• Workshop ideas on improving user experience for an internal and external user • Discuss a communications strategy/plan

Key Takeaways & Next Steps

Key Takeaway	Next Step
NARS-based water indicators remain high priority	Initiate NARS-based water indicator development with OW
Emerging priority 1 – pesticides in drinking water	Initiate discussions on pesticides in drinking water
Emerging priority 2 – extreme events	Explore existing and new extreme events indicators and analyses
Agency high profile issues: PFAS, HABs/biotoxins, Lead, and emerging risks	Explore high profile issues in coordination with Agency leads
Interest in collaborating on indicator trends analysis as part of program evaluation	Develop trends analyses in coordination with program offices

Key Takeaways & Next Steps

Key Takeaway	Next Step
Improvements to communications plan to expand audiences	Move forward with communications plan to include expanded focus on internal partners and targeted outreach to external scientific communities
Expand spatial scale of ROE and indicators to include sub-national level information	Continue development of regional ROE versions with R2, R3 (FY21/22 RESES project)
Can leverage existing ROE data as foundation to build content around high priority issues	Dig deeper into near-term ROE capabilities at the nexus of high priority issues and existing ROE content
Build on current ROE indicator selection criteria to apply to trends and cross-media issues	Further develop selection criteria for trends and cross-media issues and present to STPC

Strategic Direction: ROE & Evidence Act

- Continue building connections with Evidence Act Officials
  - Workshop participants articulated importance of measuring effectiveness and program evaluation
  - Find synergies between ROE resources and their mandate
  - Strengthen alignment with Learning Agenda for Evidence Act
  - ROE can be example of data sharing and evidence building
  - Specific connections include
    - Build on process and approaches: data and indicator criteria, peer review, data transparency
    - Use existing indicators to assess program effectiveness
    - Develop new indicators to assess additional evidence

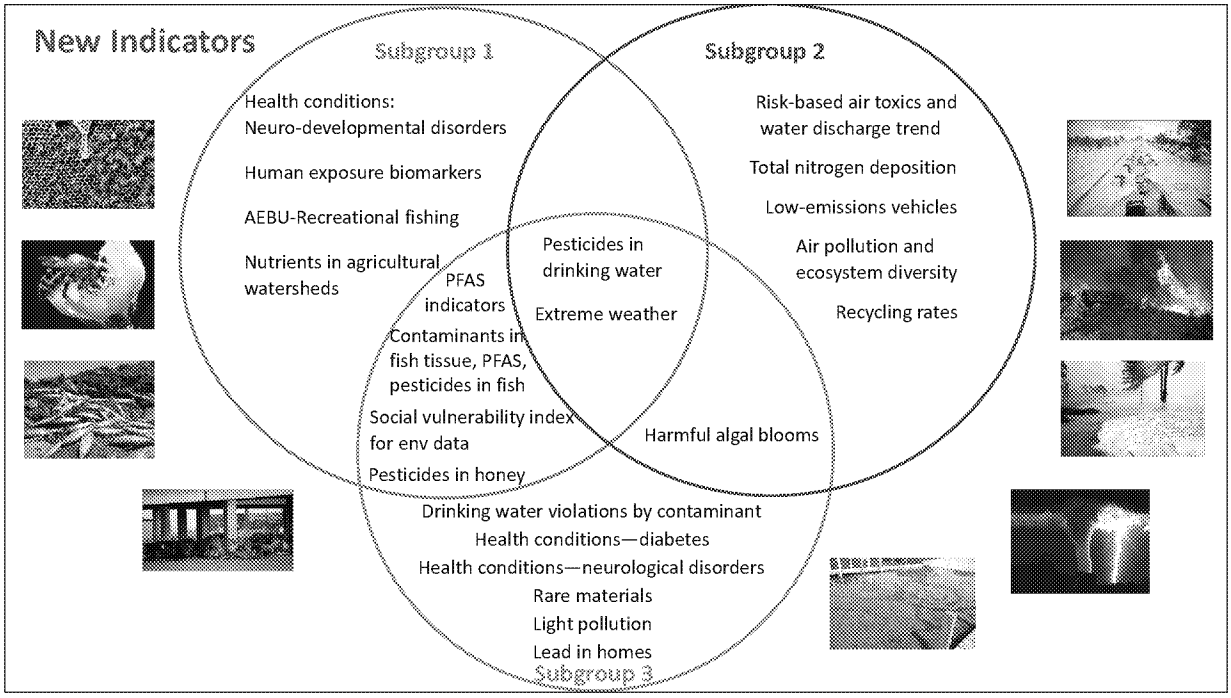
Strategic Direction: Long-term engagement process

- Request to STPC to work with SSP to get their input on a proposal for continual program office engagement
  - Iterate with SSP on proposal during next quarter
  - In addition to program offices, would include engaging with EJ Office, PFAS and Lead teams to explore new indicator development, trends analysis, and cross-media issues

- ROE Team will continue coordination with program offices on current indicator updates and development

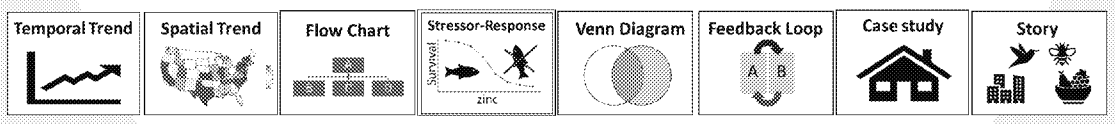
Appendix

Extra slides as FYI


New Indicators
Subgroup 1
Subgroup 2
Subgroup 3
Health conditions:
Neuro-developmental disorders
Human exposure biomarkers
AEBU-Recreational fishing
Nutrients in agricultural watersheds
Risk-based air toxics and water discharge trend
Total nitrogen deposition
Low-emissions vehicles
Air pollution and ecosystem diversity
Recycling rates
Pesticides in drinking water
PFAS indicators
Extreme weather
Contaminants in fish tissue, PFAS, pesticides in fish
Social vulnerability index for env data
Pesticides in honey
Harmful algal blooms
Drinking water violations by contaminant
Health conditions—diabetes
Health conditions—neurological disorders
Rare materials
Light pollution
Lead in homes

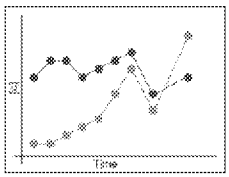
Cross-Media Priorities & Recommendations

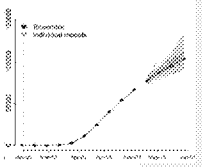
- Start with high priority issue where indicators in ROE or elsewhere already exist
- CM issues valuable because multiple programs can contribute
- Connect with other groups to develop cross media issues stories
  - Use human-centered design principles for iterative development

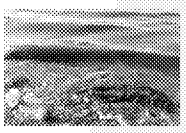


Trends Investigation Recommendations

- Maintain partner involvement
- Develop selection criteria for trends to investigate
- Explore potential methods/approaches
  - **Analyses**: time series, correlations, before-after-control-impact (BACI), causal
  - **Modeling**: develop projections, use scenarios, explore other strategic foresight methods







User Experience & Comms: What We Learned

- There is a lot of internal interest in using the ROE, but many internal users aren't familiar with the ROE's content and how it can be used. This is an important hurdle / opportunity for the ROE communication plan.

- There is interest in using the ROE at spatial scales that are not currently covered by the ROE: e.g., to better understand impacts on EJ communities, tribal peoples, and regional issues.