

RESULTS OF EXERCISE; 12 RESPONSES (see notes in last column)

MATRIX OF GOVERNANCE OPTIONS: REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEMS

VARIABLES	OPTIONS (SELECT ONE OPTION FROM EACH ROW)				
Addressing multiple sub-regions	Regard as one overall region with single legal structure	Formally recognize sub-regions within context of a single legal structure	Formally recognize sub-regions, each with own legal structure, joined in a partnership arrangement		<i>Participants were split 50-50 on these two options</i>
Organizational approach (if different sub-regions have own legal structure, choose separately for each)	Single (new or existing) legal entity	Alliance of existing legal entities agreeing to share authority or divide roles	Informal entity (i.e., without legal authority of its own) hosted by an existing legal entity as fiscal agent and staff		<i>2/3 favored the option of a single legal entity</i>
Legal structure	Loose MOA (few obligations on signatories)	Strong MOA (specific financial and other obligations on signatories)	Limited membership non-profit corporation	Open membership non-profit corporation	<i>80% chose one of these 2 options, but were split on which</i>
Membership type	Organizations only	Organizations and governmental agencies	Organizations, governmental agencies, and individuals		<i>2/3 favored orgs and gov'tal entities</i>
Membership classes	Single class of voting members	Two classes: voting members (organizations, including willing-and-able governmental agencies) and non-voting (individuals)	Two classes: voting members (organizations) and non-voting affiliates (governmental agencies unable to formally join)	Three classes: voting members (organizations), non-voting affiliate governmental agencies, and non-voting individuals	<i>3/4 favored a single class of voting members</i>
Governing board	Self-selected governing committee	Elected board of directors by membership	Board of directors elected based on knowledge, skills, experience and must be independent of interests in the Regional Assoc.		<i>Nearly 60% favored a board elected by membership</i>

Issue of financial self-interest on governing board	Board's role is explicitly recognized as allocating resources among providers, and board serves as a negotiating venue for this purpose	Individuals with financial interest at stake disclose possible conflicts and recuse themselves in cases of conflict of interest	Individuals with financial stake in board decisions not eligible to serve on board	Individuals with financial stake in board decisions not eligible to serve on board but form a Systems Oversight Panel to review and endorse Annual Work Plan	<i>80% favored the recusal option</i>
Allocation of governing board seats	One per member	Open election from membership nominations, no allocations	Even division among providers (academic, private), users, and agencies	Majority or plurality to providers	Majority or plurality to users
...continue Allocation of governing board seats	Open election from inside or outside of membership				<i>Half favored the even division option; others were split between one per member and open election w/out allocations</i>