



Evaluation Summary Report

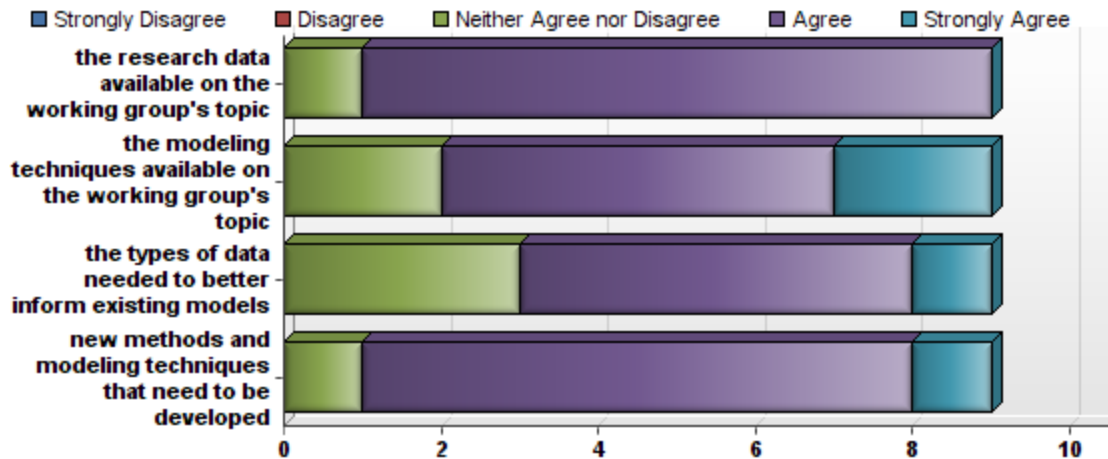
Working Group: *Organisms to Ecosystems*

November 16-20, 2015

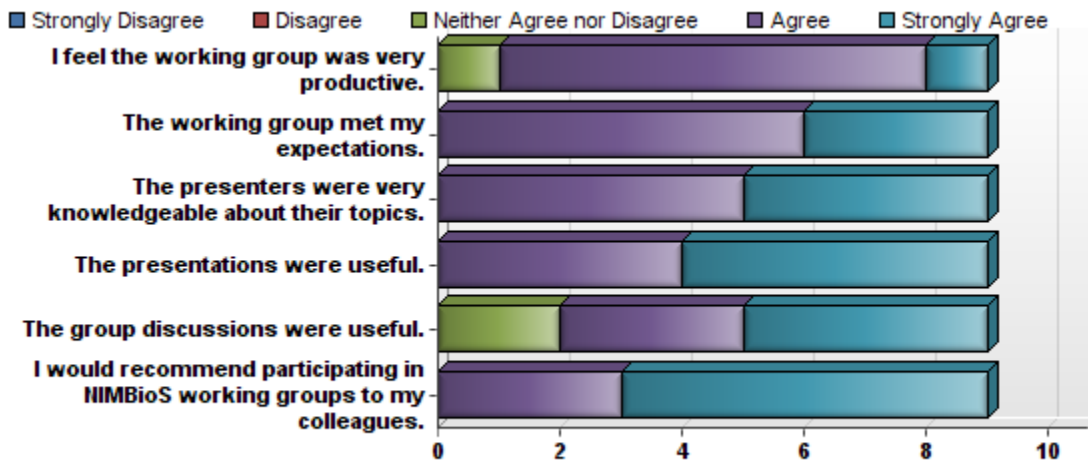
Pamela Bishop
Associate Director for STEM Evaluation
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis
January, 2016

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

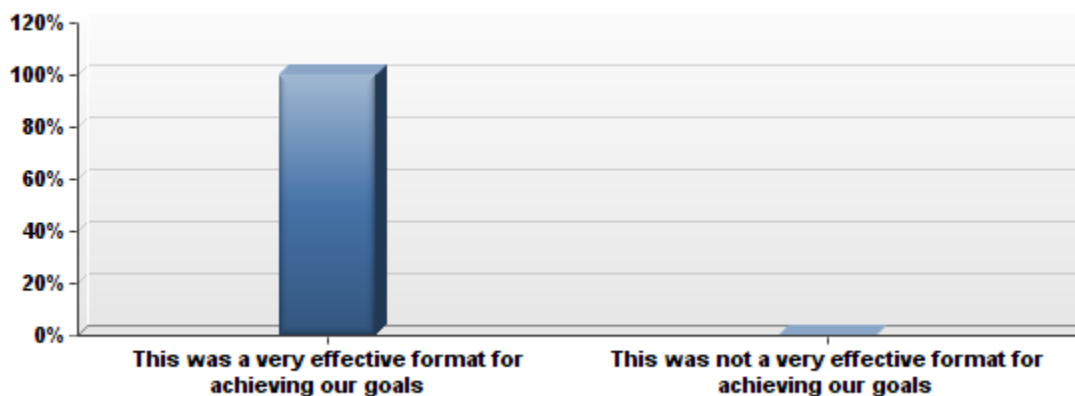
As a result of participating in this working group, I have a better understanding of:



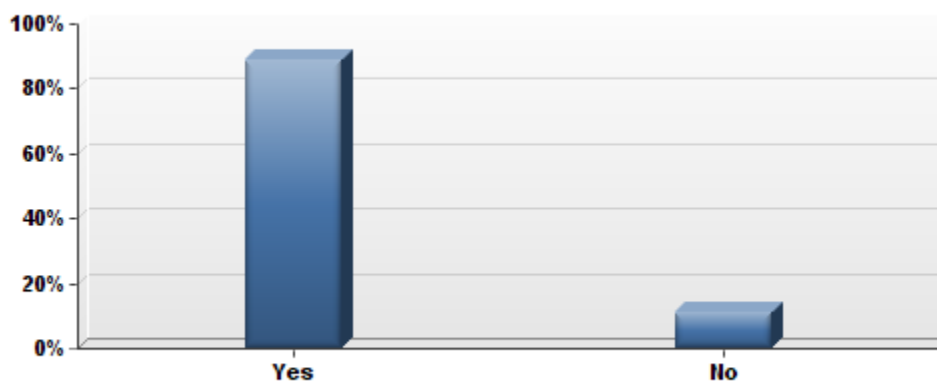
2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this working group:



3. How do you feel about the format of the working group?



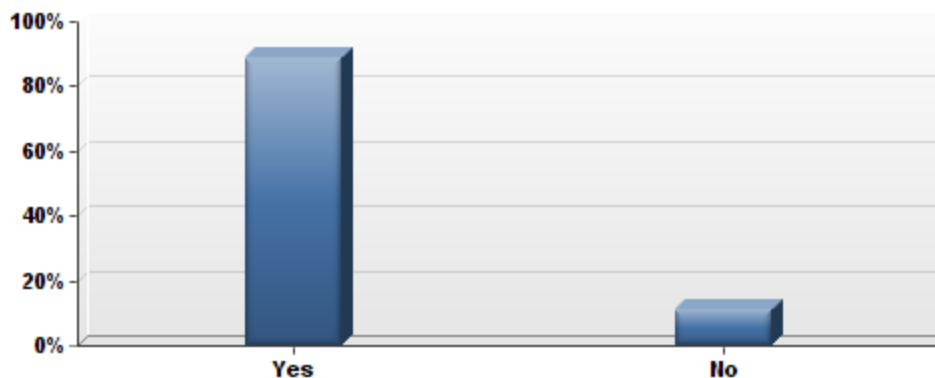
4. Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area?



Comments:

No comments.

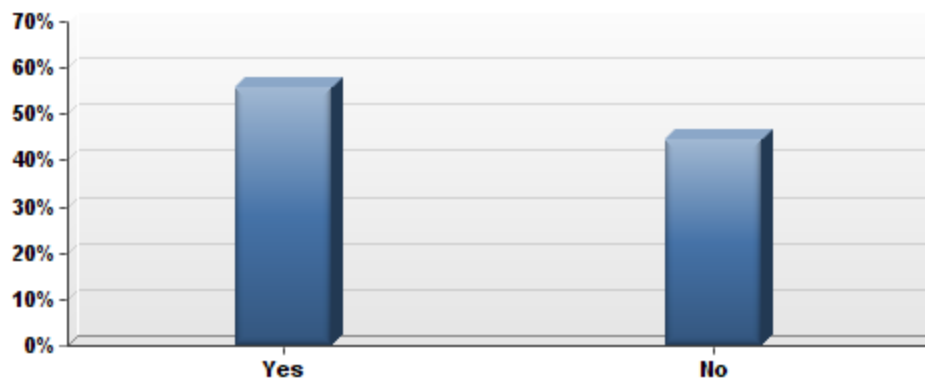
5. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?



Please explain:

The group is strong on the organismal to pop. modeling, relatively weak in resource economics and/or ecosystem services. Valery may add someone in the latter category.

6. Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?



Please explain:

We may be able to use data from a previous unpublished hedonic modeling effort that quantified value (activity days) associated with trout richness. Andrew Kanarek is potentially interested in working with one

of my sturgeon models to evaluate new chemicals, so i'll present to his group on my next visit to DC in December.

I am not seeking more research plans--too many obligations already.

7. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research?



Comments:

The group was largely not familiar with ecosystem services and valuation terminology. However, despite this we reached consensus on two paths forward and an outline for a joint paper involving all participants.

The group leaders were very good at both allowing discussion and keeping the group focused on the task at hand.

8. Do you feel the expectations for the next working group are clear (in the sense that you are leaving this meeting with a good idea of what your contribution will be at the next meeting)?



Comments:

No comments.

9. What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the working group?

Interactions

Getting different stakeholder groups together to discuss how to progress.

Sharing expertise with people with very different backgrounds.

Having people with expertise across the range of topics we addressed, from molecular biology to energetics to ecology.

The opportunity to hear from people in various disciplines how they would approach the problem of modeling from molecules to ecosystem services.

The smaller (3-4 person) meetings

The overview that participants gained.

Identifying common interests, language and research needs

Meeting in person rather than telecommunicating

10. What, if anything, would you change about the working group?

Meeting upstairs (larger room) tended to keep us together as a larger group and away from whiteboards - less visual brainstorming, more talking.

Nothing, I thought it worked really well.

As usual with such groups, there are a very few members who seem to want to steer the group to topics that are of interest to them but not related to the group's primary purpose.

The group was very well organized. I wish I had more time before the meeting to do the background reading.

At some point the two subgroups might want to meet and work together.

Nothing as of the moment

11. Please provide any additional comments about your overall experience with the working group:

I had high expectations to the workshop and they were met.

Thanks for this opportunity.

Overall the organization by NIMBioS staff was great - very pleasant, professional, and efficient! The meals provided were excellent and sufficiently varied. The reception organized by NIMBioS was rather disappointing compared to previous. If funds are tight I would suggest to skip this and let participants organize their own get together.

NIMBioS is a very nice place to work.

NIMBioS staff was outstanding! Our working group was more successful than I thought we would be after our first meeting. The NIMBioS atmosphere, staff and support was a key to our success.