

BRIDGING DATA GAPS THROUGH INTERAGENCY COORDINATION



***Ally Lane**
Fish Biologist
NOAA Fisheries
California Central Valley Office*

A little about me...

- Was drawn into Aquatic Biology as a kid by cute baby sea turtles
 - Undergraduate double major in Marine Biology and Zoology with a minor in Scientific Diving
 - Agencies:
 - CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
 - Private Consulting
 - US Forest Service (USFS)
 - US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)
 - NOAA Fisheries
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Interagency Coordination

- Current position is nothing but interagency coordination!
- Started working in permitting in 2014
- Project coordination to reduce effects on species

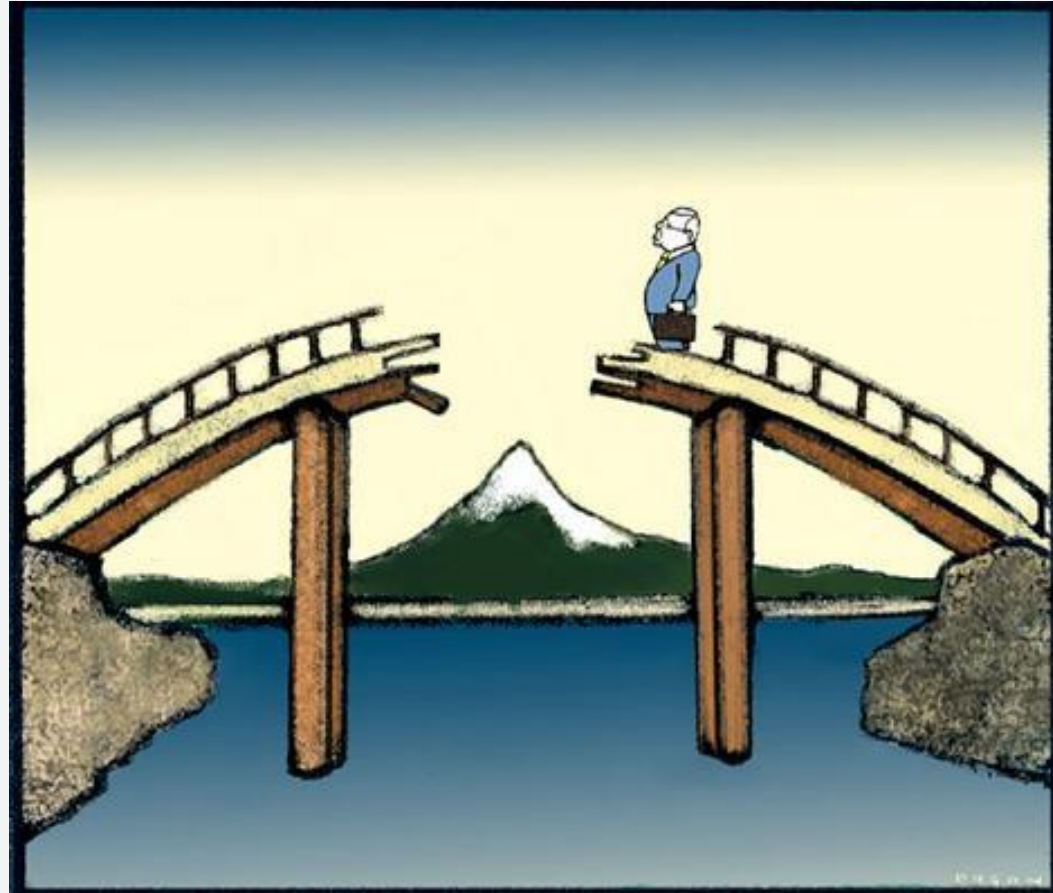


The problem with Science and Scientists

- Data hoarding
 - Lack of communication
 - Data repetition
 - Data gaps
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Realizing the gap



How this seed got planted

- A casual discussion on a site visit
- Realizing I could actually be able to help
- Personal history with this work
- An agency that supports growth opportunities



A Proposal...

- Regional call for proposals for funding
- A whopping 4 hours til deadline



Getting that response email...

I'm writing to let you know that your proposal, "The Biology of Modeling - A Forum to Bridge Our Data Gaps" was not chosen for funding in FY 2019.

- So, I failed, and they said no to my proposal
- Apparently 4 hours was not quite enough time to relay my plan...

THE 5 STAGES OF GRIEF



Quick Poll

What does your office do
to make you feel
supported in your work
and career?

Raise your hand to share

How do you deal
with failure at work?

Share in the Chat Box

The unicorn in the room...



The Revival

- Career Coaching session
- Discussions on what I want my job to be
- WAAAAAY more support than I expected




- Permission to continue on with my idea ANYWAYS
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Moving Forward

- First thing I needed: HELP!
 - I recruited a coworker with similar experience
 - To do list
 - List all agencies we needed
 - Find all contacts for those Biologists
 - Draft intro email
 - Name our group
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Potential Problems

- Talking to Biologists about changing their work can be risky...
 - Starting an interagency group can be like herding cats
 - I still need to manage my regular workload
 - Time is short to get this group started!
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Response


- Initial project proposal went out to 4 agencies, federal, state, and NGO
 - ALL 4 agencies have responded (all were positive!)
 - Lots of intrigue
 - A little skepticism
 - Lots of positive attitudes!
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Ready, Set, GO!



- All of a sudden, it was MAY!
 - Many systems stop sampling in May or June and we had to try to schedule 13 trap visits in 4-8 weeks!
 - Scheduling... well, was like herding cats
 - Adaptations were made
 - Visits were scheduled!
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Phase 1 is a go

- So, the site visits are happening currently
 - I have officially started an interagency effort
 - I have taken the lead on a project of my own making for my agency
 - Now, to keep the steam going!
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Phase 2 planning

- The large scale interagency meeting...
 - Any recommendations for scheduling?
 - What were some of your good experiences with interagency efforts that made them feel successful to you?
 - Should I try to plan the talks? Or make a vague schedule and let it flow naturally?
 - I am open to your suggestions, this is a program in the making!
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