

## Bay Planning Activity

The bay you live near means a lot of different things to different people. For fishermen it is their place of work, for coastal land owners it is their view which adds to their value of their property, for scientists it is where they do their field work and learn about the effects that different human activities can have on the water and its habitats.

When the Maine government makes laws about the bay, it tries to get input from all the different groups that would be affected. These people are called **stakeholders**, or people who have an interest or concern about something. In this case, the stakeholders are people who fish or do business in the bay, are concerned with the future of the bay, or would be affected by any new activities on the bay. Input is gathered through public hearings where the different groups often voice opposing viewpoints.

There is a method of planning which helps different stakeholder groups come to agreements and work together toward common goals for their area. This method is used by the Nature Conservancy and other groups around the globe. It is called **Conservation Action Planning**, and its steps are shown in the diagram below. Identifying common goals and coming to agreements on habitat of concern and threats to those habitats are important first steps before entering a debate about strategies.

In this bay planning activity, you will be doing steps 1: define scope, vision, targets and identify critical threats, and 2: develop goals, strategies, and objectives. But you will be doing this while acting as different stakeholder groups in the bay.

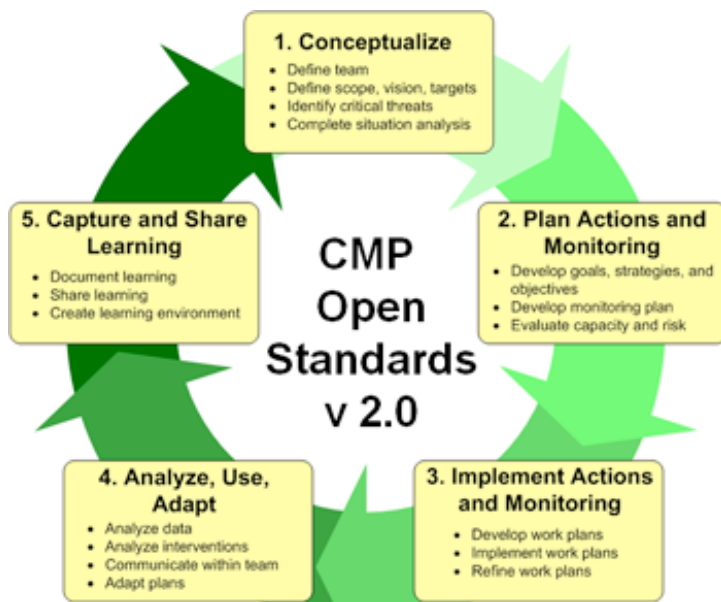


Image from Conservation Measures Partnership's Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, Version 2.0

Before the activity, research the stakeholder group you were assigned to so you will be able to represent their particular insights and concerns!

During the activity, you will meet in small groups with students representing other stakeholder groups. You will come to agreements on ecosystems, habitats, resources or species that will be the focus of your conservation actions in the bay, list threats to those habitats or species, and contributing factors to those threats. For example, if the conservation target is a fish species, the threat might be over-fishing, and a contributing

factor could be that people do not get paid enough for the fish they catch so they have to catch more. You will then think of strategies to deal with these threats.

Finally, you will present your plan to the whole group. Lets see what ideas you come up with!