Evaluation Data Report
Food Web Dynamics Working Group
Meeting Two: January 11-15, 2011

Pamela Bishop
Program Evaluation Coordinator
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis
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Evaluation Design

Evaluation Questions

The evaluation of the meeting was both formative and summative in nature, in that the data collected from participants was intended to both gain feedback from participants about the quality of the current meeting and also to inform future meetings. The evaluation framework was guided by Kirkpatrick's Four Levels of Evaluation model for training and learning programs (Kirkpatrick, 1994[1]). Several questions constituted the foundation for the evaluation:

1. Were participants satisfied with the Working Group overall?
2. How do participants feel about the format of the meetings?
3. How do participants feel about the content of the meetings?
4. Do participants feel they have a good understanding about the work being done by other subgroups within the group?
5. Do participants feel they gained a better understanding of the how the work of the various subgroups will tie together to reach the Working Group's goals?
6. How do participants communicate between meetings?
7. Do participants feel they have a good idea of what their continuing contribution will be within the group?

Evaluation Procedures

The final instrument was hosted online via the University of Tennessee's online survey host mrInterview. Links to the survey were sent to four Working Group participants on January 17 2011. Reminder emails were sent to non-responding participants on January 24 and 27, 2011. By February 3, 2011, three participants had given their feedback, for a response rate of 75%.

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[1] From Kirkpatrick, D.L. (1994). *Evaluating Training Programs: The Four Levels.* San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler.

Evaluation Data

Satisfaction

Table 1. Respondent satisfaction with content and format of the working group

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I feel the Working Group was very productive.	67%	33%	-	-	-
The Working Group met my expectations.	100%	-	-	-	-
The presenters were very knowledgeable about their topics.	33%	67%	-	-	-
The presentations were useful.	33%	67%	-	-	-
The group discussions were useful.	67%	33%	-	-	-

Group Progress

Figure 1. Respondent views of group progress

This was a very effective format for achieving our goals
100%

Group Function

Table 2. Respondent understanding of group function

As a result of participating in this meeting, I have a better understanding of:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The work being accomplished by the other subgroups within the Working Group	33%	67%	-	-	-
How the work of the various subgroups will tie together for the working group's publication(s) and/or product(s)	33%	67%	-	-	-

# Most Useful Aspects of the Meeting

Comments:

Small and whole group discussions and brainstorming sessions.

Both the general discussions and the discussions within small group were beneficial.

One of the senior of the group proposed a pattern he found in some data a couple of years before and asked us to propose hypotheses to explain it. It was challenging and very exciting, numerous novel hypotheses have been proposed and we'll work on them for the next meeting.

Understanding of Expectations

Figure 2. Respondent understanding of what is expected of them before the next meeting

Expectations are not clear: 33 %

Expectations are clear: 67 %
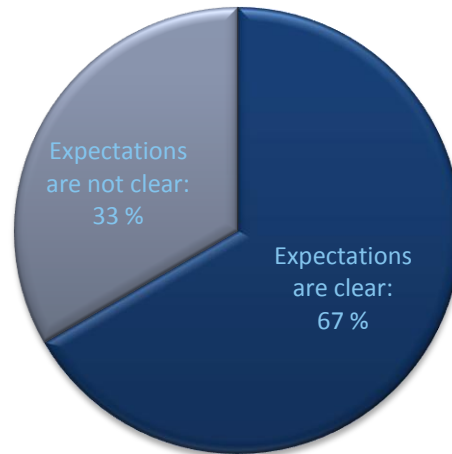
Comments about understanding what is expected of working group members:
> *…and we are continuing these discussions on Wiggio.*

Impact of the Working Group on Respondents' Research Agendas

Comments:
> *It has helped me to integrate my experimental work into a larger agenda, collecting data that can be used to test models that I might not have collected without these interactions.*

> *I have some working papers in progress, in collaboration with other members of the group.*

> *It greatly helped me to understand more the current issues in ecosystem ecology and in ecological stoichiometry. It opened me to novel research areas.*
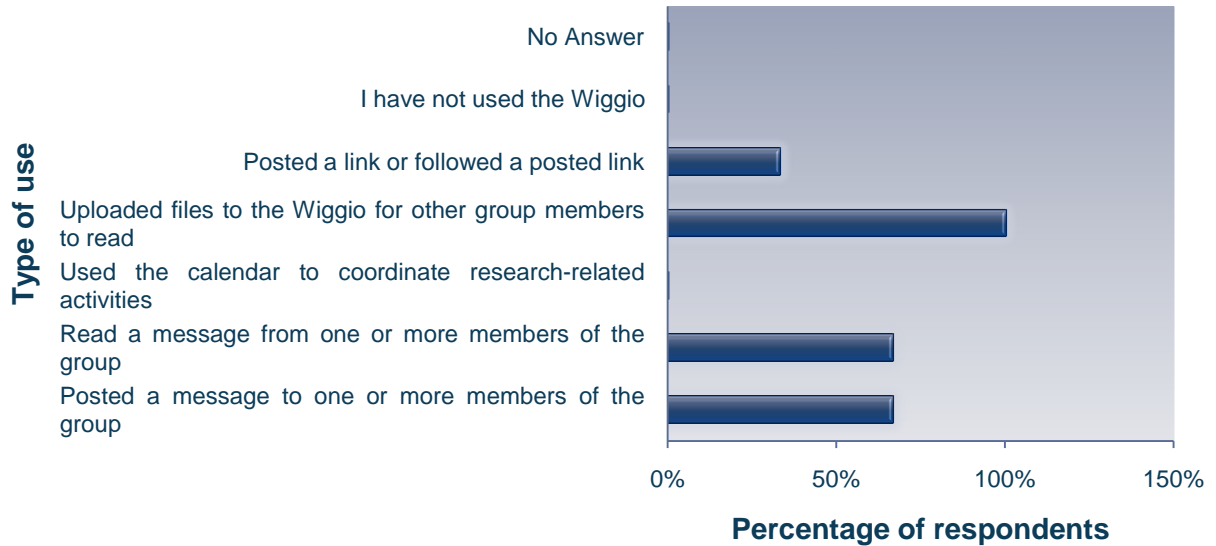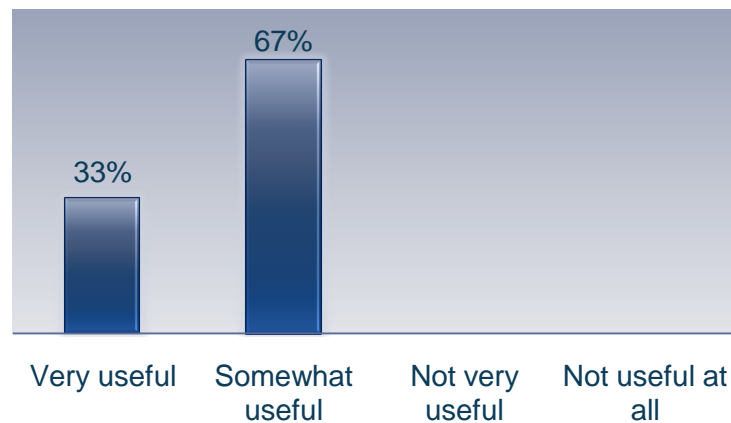
Communication

Figure 3. Wiggio use

Percentage of respondents

Figure 4. Usefulness of the Wiggio for communicating with group members

Comments about the Wiggio:

> *It doesn't always notify us by email about updates, even when it is supposed to; its conferencing feature did not work well.*

> *We had difficulties to set up a conference with one of the members that was not physically at NIMBioS.*

Suggestions for improving communication between meetings:

> *I do not see anything really.*

Suggestions for Future Meetings

Better telecommunication facilities to interact with group members who were unable to attend, better food and coffee.

I do not see anything that should really been changed.

Maybe try to stimulate a bit more the work between the meetings.

Additional Comments about Working Group

Good experience. I am looking forward to the next meeting.