

HOSTED BY ROOKERY BAY ON OCTOBER 21 & 22

# Creating Conceptual Models to Systematically Think about Ecosystem Services



**Learn how ecosystem services can be used to investigate and communicate the benefits of managing natural coastal areas.**



### Course details:

Ecosystem services, or the benefits that people receive from nature, act as a linkage between the environment and human systems. Mapping out the specifics of *how* those linkages exist can be a useful way to organize multi-disciplinary scientific information or communicate about ecosystem services to those unfamiliar with the ecosystem services concept.

The [National Ecosystem Services Partnership](#) (NESP) created a set of resources for the natural resource management community meant to establish an ecosystem services framework that is flexible, while being standardized, intuitive, and credible. These resources are centered on a set of **Ecosystem Services Conceptual Models (ESCMs)**. These ESCMs offer an entry point for incorporating a suite of ecosystem services considerations into a program, project, or communication strategy. The models illustrate the way that a management intervention or external driver cascades through an ecological system and results in ecosystem services and other human welfare impacts.

This workshop is meant to introduce participants to ESCMs and explain how they can be used in a coastal management context. It will focus on exploring how ESCMs can work as a facilitation tool to achieve a variety of management, research, and outreach goals.

## Workshop goals and objectives:

- Introduce participants to ecosystem services conceptual models (ESCMs)
- Learn about the ways ESCMs can be used in environmental management or outreach contexts
- Provide a tour of online National Ecosystem Services Partnership (NESP) resources, with specific focus on the coastal management facilitation guide
- Learn about how to use an ESCM as a facilitation tool and explore building a facilitation session relevant to your work
- Hear from coastal managers who have used ESCMs and how they have been helpful for achieving different types of management and outreach goals