Interview Schedule – Building interdisciplinary research organisations

*Adapted from Reed et al. 2014; Cvitanovic et al. 2018; Kelly et al. 2019*

**Introductory questions**

1. What is your role in the Centre for Marine Sociology (CMS)?
2. What is your primary research discipline?

**Understanding the CMS**

1. Please briefly describe the history of the CMS as you understand it, explaining **how** it was initiated, **why** it was designed and how it has evolved over time?
2. What makes CMS’ unique in its capacity to address complex social-ecological challenges?

**Experience of working within the CMS**

1. Considering that a core goal of the CMS is to undertake interdisciplinary research to support the sustainability of the marine estate, please describe:
   1. The extent to which you feel the CMS has achieved this goal.
      1. Can you provide an example(s) of where interdisciplinary research has been successfully undertaken?
      2. What about this research made it interdisciplinary?
      3. To what extent were the different disciplines critical to addressing the research question? What novel insights were generated?
      4. In regards to these examples, what do you think led to success?
   2. Considering the dual ambition of CMS is to support the sustainable management of the marine estate, to what extent do you feel this has been achieved?
      1. Do you think that the research undertaken in CMS is important for informing the management of the marine estate (if yes, please provide an example)?
      2. Do you think that the research undertaken in CMS has been used to inform decision-making processes (if yes, please give examples)?
      3. What tangible impacts to marine management do you feel have arisen from the CMS to date?
   3. Reflecting more broadly on your time in the CMS, are there any other impacts/benefits that have emerged/resulted from the Centre?
      1. Externally to stakeholders (national and international)
      2. Internally within the CMS, or more broadly throughout UTas, CSIRO or other partner organisations.
      3. Personally.

**Barriers influencing the effectiveness and impact of CMS?**

1. What, if any, barriers have you experienced that prevented the CMS from undertaking meaningful interdisciplinary marine science?

(Prompts: organisational (e.g. leadership), technical, personal, financial, etc.)

* 1. How have you try to overcome these barriers?
  2. What could have helped you to overcome these barriers more effectively?

1. What, if any, barriers have you experienced that have prevented CMS from successfully supporting (e.g. via knowledge exchange) marine management?
   1. How did you try to overcome these barriers?
   2. What could have helped you to overcome these barriers more effectively?
2. Based on your experiences working in the CMS, have there been any missed opportunities?
   1. If yes, what were they and why were they a missed opportunity?
   2. What could have helped to avoid the missed opportunity?

**Building capacity into the future**

1. If there were one lesson you would like other research organisations to learn from your experiences in the CMS in terms of working in an interdisciplinary research environment, what would it be?
2. What other generalizable lessons do you think are important for other research organisations to learn from the CMS in terms of working in an interdisciplinary research environment?
3. Based on your experience in the CMS, what capacities/resources do you think are required to build effective interdisciplinary research groups that generate impacts on policy and practice? (Prompts: i.e. - the individual, organisational, social, political, material, technical, practical and financial elements required to reach the desired outcome.)

**Conclusion**

1. Now that we have completed the formal component of the interview, are there other important issues that were not covered by our questions, or other relevant insights that you would like to share based on you experience in the CMS?

*Thank you and next steps*