

- **Extent of the Problem**
 - How significant is the threat?
 - Relative importance of sound vs other threats
 - Impact on populations
 - Degree of scientific uncertainty and use of extrapolation
 - How to characterize acoustic energy – sound vs noise

- **Relationship between Stranding and Sound**
 - Level of relationship: cause/effect, correlated, associated
 - Number of relevant stranding or mortality events
 - Range of species involved: beaked whales, other?
 - Range of sound sources involved: sonar, airguns
 - Mechanisms of injury: auditory, behavioral, non-auditory

- **Effectiveness of Current Management / Mitigation**
 - What are best practices?
 - Cost effectiveness and practicality/practicability
 - Assignment of burden of proof: sound producers vs regulators
 - Precautionary approach –addressing the uncertainty
 - International or multi-lateral approach

- **Priorities and Conduct of Research**
 - What are priority research areas?
 - Relative importance of research and mitigation efforts
 - Diversification and distribution of research funding
 - Permitting and authorization for research
 - Animal Welfare aspects of research – CEE, ABR
 - Safeguards against bias in research