

Evaluation of the Participation Process for Greenwich Bay Special Area Management Plan

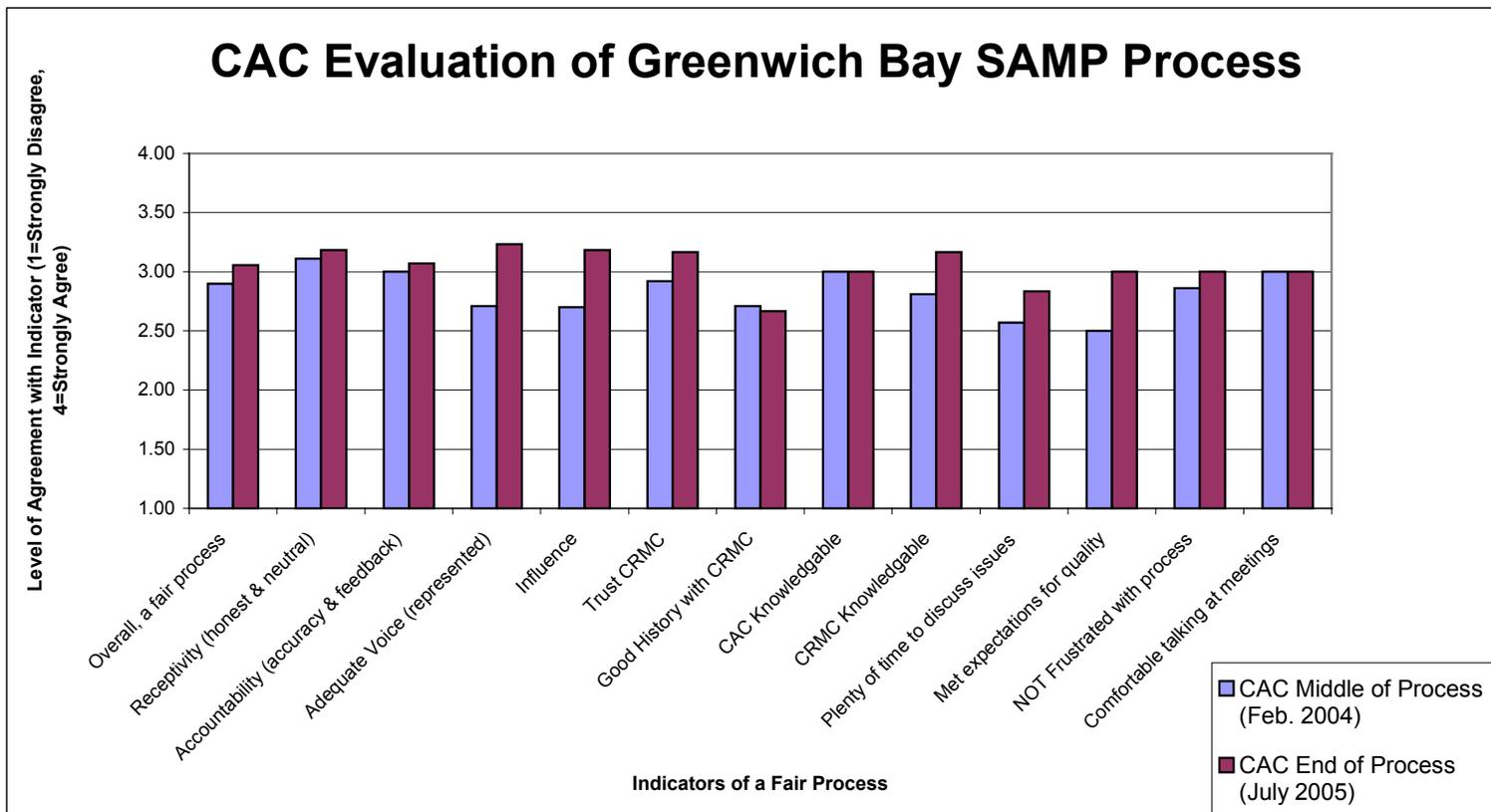
Two surveys were taken to evaluate the fairness of the GB SAMP Public Participation Process.

- ◆ The first survey was taken at a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting in the middle of the process before the outcome was decided. The survey was handed out to 14 CAC members.
- ◆ The second survey was mailed after the final outcome to 60 people who were involved in the process (CAC, public, government). There were 17 responses including 6 from CAC members.

Interest Groups completing the survey:	February, 2004	July, 2005
Neighborhood Groups	5	4
Business Groups	4	1
Recreational Groups	3	3
Commercial Fisheries	0	1
Environmental Groups	2	5
Government	0	3

Overall, the results shows that the...

- ◆ **Fairness of the process was good,**
- ◆ **local citizens had influence,** and
- ◆ **trust in CRMC increased.**



93% Agreed that establishing the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has been beneficial to getting the public effectively involved in the SAMP planning process

This chart indicates the CAC's positive feelings towards the participation process. A score of 3 reflects agreement with the indicator. The improved perceptions over time coincide with CRMC's efforts to increase citizens' influence and access to the process.



Written comments from the respondents are below.

Comments Regarding the CAC?

- ◆ Interesting group of people-each with their specific concerns
- ◆ Strong screening in the beginning limited the number of participants (CAC). This was negative in the long-run when CAC lost steam. Need more to compensate for attention.
- ◆ Next time meet with neighborhood groups first, instead of marina owners. The citizens gave more input than the business owners.
- ◆ Some people monopolized the conversations and/or were one-track minded.
- ◆ I regret that my organization, Save The Bay, was not able to devote more time and resources to this important effort
- ◆ Some big egos- many personal agendas
- ◆ Some small number of people tended to control it-caused others with quieter personalities (but good ideas) to quit coming. Needed better professional facilitator experienced with how to deal with difficult people.

How to Include the public in implementation?

- ◆ CRMC needs to carefully choose the public spokesperson who represent the CAC to the public. Being the last standing CAC person, doesn't mean they are the best representative of the spirit or effort of the CAC process.
- ◆ Moving time and places of meetings
- ◆ Updated Reports
- ◆ Quarterly updates. Bring problems/unmet needs to CAC and TAC for suggestions on how to address
- ◆ Keep it up
- ◆ Continue the listserv information on milestones of implementation
- ◆ Support building local capacity (not building CRMC staff)
- ◆ Keep the listserv active
- ◆ Newsletter, regular press releases
- ◆ Keep high level of public relations on all association activities with invitation to comment or help in P.R. spot - include radio and TV news if feasible.

How to improve the Process?

- ◆ Continue to provide info via email. Add links to papers.
- ◆ Give out printed copies of the GB SAMP
- ◆ Like to see citizens belonging to organizations/neighborhood groups and not solo!
- ◆ CRMC is beginning to gain reputation of 'special interest' actions, giving away public 'property' water rights due to both large marina extension at Greenwich Marina and now Champlin's on Block Island. Locals feel Marina owners with connections are receivers of public property "givaways"
- ◆ Have public scoping discussion at beginning of process. Make decision-making process public. Carry through open technical discussion review. Make draft documents available and consider formal public comment on them.
- ◆ Stronger moderation of CAC proceedings - sadly, vocal CAC may have alienated other more sensitive CAC and scared them off.
- ◆ Better Advertising

Data from Middle (2004) and Final (2005) Surveys. * Value of 1 = Strongly Disagree, 4 = Strongly Agree

Indicators	CAC (Feb. 2004)	CAC (July 2005)	Change	Improved?	Results of All Responses in 2005 Survey
Overall, a fair process	2.90	3.06	0.16	Yes	2.98
Receptivity (honest & neutral)	3.11	3.18	0.07	Yes	3.06
Accountability (accuracy & feedback)	3.00	3.07	0.07	Yes	2.97
Adequate Voice (represented)	2.71	3.23	0.52	Yes	3.14
Influence	2.70	3.18	0.48	Yes	3.09
Trust CRMC	2.92	3.17	0.25	Yes	3.00
Good History with CRMC	2.71	2.67	-0.04	No	3.00
CAC Knowledgeable	3.00	3.00	0.00	Same	2.87
CRMC Knowledgeable	2.81	3.17	0.36	Yes	3.09
Plenty of time to discuss issues	2.57	2.83	0.26	Yes	2.94
Met expectations for quality	2.50	3.00	0.50	Yes	2.88
NOT Frustrated with process	2.86	3.00	0.14	Yes	3.06
Comfortable talking at meetings	3.00	3.00	0.00	Same	2.82

The indicators above assist in identifying which variables people use to judge fairness of the process.

The graph to the right represents all of the results from the final survey. There is no before and after data represented in the graph, since the first survey only included the CAC. A score of 3 reflects agreement with the indicator.

