Consensus Statement 1: The WG-SFP agreed that proponents should discuss their success criteria with benchmark steps, scientific and operational risks, and mitigation strategies from the pre-proposal stage onwards by answering the following prompts:

- Define your minimum criteria for achieving both scientific and operational success.
- What are the primary risks to achieving your scientific and operational success?
- What factors in your proposal (e.g., operational and scientific alternate sites) mitigate these risks?

Outlining these elements, in particular risks and potential mitigation strategies, will require proponents to communicate with the operator(s) at an early stage of the proposal writing process. The WG-SFP also acknowledged that while it is important to define success criteria before an expedition, unexpected discoveries could also define
an expedition’s success. Such discoveries need to be captured in post-expedition reports and promoted by a future scientific ocean drilling program.