

**A CMS Conference**

**Socio-Economics in the Marine Environment**

***Reconciling Social and Economic issues  
with Environment Programmes in Practice***

**December 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 London**

*The aim of this meeting is to explore how social and economic information is being used in practice to reconcile and inform environmental programmes and to understand the range of issues that this is raising and highlight possible solutions; the meeting will focus on practical delivery issues.*

**Sponsors:      ABPmer      Cefas      effec      The Crown Estate**

For details of the standard sponsorship package contact Bob Earll on 01531 890415 or bob.earll@coastms.co.uk

**Socio-Economics in the Marine Environment  
Reconciling Social and Economic issues with Environment Programmes in Practice  
December 1<sup>st</sup> London**

**Introduction**

The main reason social and economic issues are being more routinely in marine work is due to the routine application of sustainability in practice which considers social, economic and environmental issues together. More pressingly the use of the term *socio-economics* to *qualify* environmental programmes and user development arises from the major legislative drivers including MCZs, MSP, The Marine Strategy Framework Directive, The Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.

The main method people use to apply sustainability in the marine environment is the Ecosystems Approach and socio-economics is prominent in this context. Human activity is clearly an integral part of the environment and the recent elaboration of ecosystem services extends this idea to a wide variety of natural capital as well and societal interests. The conference will hear from a very wide range of practitioners who will be asked to highlight the key practical lessons from their work to help inform a more systematic approach to socio-economics in the future.

The aim of this meeting is to explore how social and economic information is being used in practice to reconcile environmental programmes and to understand the range of issues that this is raising and highlight possible solutions; the meeting will focus on practical delivery issues. The objectives of the meeting are:

- To provide an overview of social and economic tools and their application in the marine environment
- To clarify what 'social' means in the marine environment
- To look at the practicalities and guidance needed in relation to the use social science tools and their application
- To look at how 'socio-economics' and in particular how economic decision support tools such as impact assessment, cost benefit analysis and ecosystem services are being applied

- To focus on the practical lessons from the current work on the application and interpretation of socio-economic conditions in the Directives [Habitats, WFD, MSFD, EIA Directives] and Marine Act [MCZs and MSP] to the marine environment.

## Programme

**Format** Time allocations: A balance between 50% presentation and 50% discussion is being sought

9.00 Registration and refreshments

### 9.40 **Session 1: Context and Social issues:**

Chairman:

9.40 **Introduction to the day – putting things in context**

**Bob Earll** CMS

*Delivering sustainability is at the heart of the conference and this presentation will put the day in context.*

9.45 **An introduction to socio-economics in practice**

**Ian Dickie** effec

30 mins 15 presentation – 15 mins discussion

*This presentations will provide an overview of the way socio-economic considerations are being routinely applied to marine policy and projects.*

10.15 **What is 'social' in the marine environment?**

**Clive Gilbert** Consultant & **Tom Appleby** UWE

30 mins (2 x 15 mins) presentation and 30 mins discussion)

*Traditionally the 'socio' has been applied to the major industries operating in the marine environment such as oil and gas and fishing. There are now a growing range of societal interests whose views are being represented through the societal values, cultural, media, awareness campaigns, ecosystems services and participative processes. This session will explore this developing picture.*

11.15 **Social science tools in practice**

**Steve Freeman** EMU Ltd

15 mins presentation – 20 mins discussion

*Social science methodologies and tools are now being widely applied to marine projects. This presentation will look at the range of these methods and developments in this area including the need for guidance and capacity building.*

11.50 Break and refreshments

### 12.30 **Session 2: Socio-economics in practice I - Key lessons**

Chairman: **Kathy Kennedy** Cefas

15 minute presentations – no questions: 30 minute discussion / points from the audience on the key lessons

12.30 **The National Ecosystem Assessment project – Lessons from the marine work** **Mel Austen** PML

*The NEA Project is a major project to look into the broad picture of ecosystem services and their important to the UK. This project also includes the marine environment and this presentation will describe some of the main lessons to emerge from this work.*

12.45 **A Defra perspective on socio-economics and marine environmental programmes** **Sarah Baxter** Defra

*A key challenge facing the adoption of socio-economic analysis in the field of marine policy must lie in developing a common understanding of this discipline, its value and "how to do it". Even more so than marine science, the conclusions of socio-economic analysis will be contestable and perhaps even contradictory, but it is imperative that we do not shy away from using these techniques to take bold decisions on policy. This talk would endeavour to highlight the limitations of socio-economics in a constructive manner, demonstrating the kind of policy conclusions we can reach even in the presence of great uncertainty.*

13.00 **Valuing change in the marine environment – The Crown Estate Project**

*This major project is developing an assessment framework against which we can predict the change in value of marine ecosystem goods and services as a result of policy options, such as those being considered under a system marine spatial planning. It is important to highlight that this is not about estimating an absolute value of the marine environment which is very difficult to do in practise; as resources become more scarce their value increases. It's about finding robust indicator variables that will highlight the relevant impacts of policy options for the marine environment and allow us to understand what the trade offs might be under a system of MSP. It also needs to consider the sustainability of fisheries for example, and the long-term decrease in oil and gas stocks*

**13.15 Lyme Bay and Socio-Economics: lessons from practice**      **Sian Rees**, Marine Institute, University of Plymouth

*Twenty two years of debate has eventually seen the designation of Lyme Bay as a marine protected area and in the later stages this process socio-economic studies came to play a significant part in this process. This presentation will look at the lessons to emerge from this protracted experience.*

13.30 Discussion – Panel – picking up on the lessons .... points from the audience

14.00 Break and refreshments

**14.40 Session 3: Socio-economics in practice II - Key lessons**

Chairman: **Steve Hull** ABPmer

15 minute presentations – no questions: 30 minute discussion / points from the audience on the key lessons

**14.40 Socio -economics and ecology: application to MSFD, Renewables and fishing**      **Peter Kershaw** Cefas

*There are lessons that can be taken from the Knowseas project. My perspective will be of a natural scientist trying to understand how to communicate with social scientists and take account of social and economic factors in assessing impacts of human activities.*

**14.55 The application of 'socio-economics in practice' an issue of consistency and guidance?**

**Peter Barham** Sea Bed Users Developers Group

*Socio-economic clauses now apply to virtually every piece of recent environmental legislation (Habitats, EIA, MSFD and WFD) as well as the MCZ programme and MSP. This presentation will look at the issues arising that affect the way developers respond to these requirements.*

**15.10 Initial feedback on using socio-economic tools for Marine Spatial Planning**

**Ness Smith** Dorset Coast Forum

*It is clear that socio-economic considerations will play an important part in marine spatial planning how this will be done in practice is unclear. This presentation will reflect on initial work being undertaken by the C-Scope project on using socio-economic tools in the MSP process*

**15.25 Socio-Economics and Marine Conservation Zones**

**Rupert Haines** Finding Sanctuary and  
**Francesca Moore** Irish Sea Conservation Zones

*The Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) planning process is designed to take socioeconomic into account when recommending locations for MCZs, so long as key ecological criteria are satisfied first. This presentation will outline the mechanisms by which socioeconomic information and data is being presented to stakeholders and how an iterative approach to the formal impact assessment is being taken forward.*

15.40 Discussion – Panel – Key lessons

4.15 END

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December 1<sup>st</sup> SOAS London**

**Coastal Futures™** The Coastal Futures™ series of conferences is run by Communications and Management for Sustainability (CMS) in conjunction with a wide range of sponsoring organisations. The conference series is based on assessing the coastal and marine constituencies' views and then organising events which appeal to multi-sectoral audiences. CMS have been running this type of event since 1993 supported by a wide range of organisations.

**The Venue:** The venue is the Brunei Gallery lecture theatre, The School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a newly refurbished air-conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists. Accommodation: There is a very wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

**Conference fee:** £135 + VAT £23.62 = £158.62  
**Group Rate** (3 or more people booking together) £ 120 + VAT £21.00 = £141.00  
**Concession rate\*** £ 95 + VAT £16.62 = £111.62  
**Post-graduate Student rate** (Full time) & Retired rate: £ 45 + VAT £7.87 = £52.87

**Group rate:** A group is 3 or more people booking together; the rate is £120/person + VAT £21.00 = £141.00

\*Concession rate: Our aim is to make the conferences as inclusive as possible. The concession rate applies to individuals and organisations that clearly work from limited budgets in the academic / research or voluntary sector. We will review this on a case by case basis and place individuals and organisations on a register for future reference. Please contact us first, **before booking** by email to [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk) if you think you qualify.

- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

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**Further details from Bob Earll: Phone / Fax 01531 890415 Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk) or Email: [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk)**

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