

Socio-Economics in the Marine Environment



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

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Seabed User & Developer Group



- Loose affiliation of common interests
- Participants all pursuing sustainable development
- 7 Sectors:-



Oil & Gas

Ports

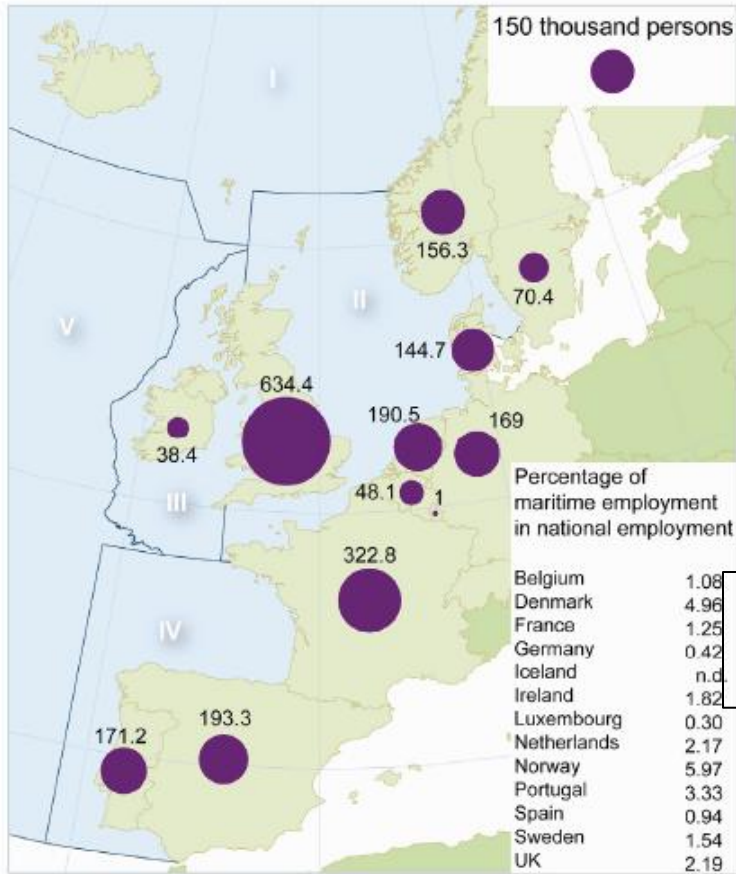
Recreational boating

Carbon capture and storage

Renewable energy

Aggregates

Submarine cables



OSPAR: Draft QSR 2010, Ch2

Figure 2.1: Employment in all sea-related areas for the EU and Norway. Source: Policy Research Corporation, EU maritime clusters study 2008.

- 890,000 jobs
- 2.9% of total
- 4.2% GDP
- £46bn
- Direct + Indirect 6.0% - 6.8% contribution to UK economy

* Pugh 2008



Economic importance of SUDG Industries

The Social aspects of Sustainable Development.

UK Government view:-



- **Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society**
 - meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities
 - promoting personal well being, social cohesion and inclusion
 - creating equal opportunities for all.

Economic development is critical in the current economic climate

Social Aspects of Marine Industry



Marine industries

- Create wealth and jobs
 - Nearly twice the Government savings targets from Oil and Gas alone
- Provide essential services
- Central to climate change policies
- Critical to low carbon transport systems
- Major contribution to marine recreation
- Vital to communication

Socio-economic Issues and sustainable development

Marine and Coastal Access Act MSFD, WFD and EIA Directives.

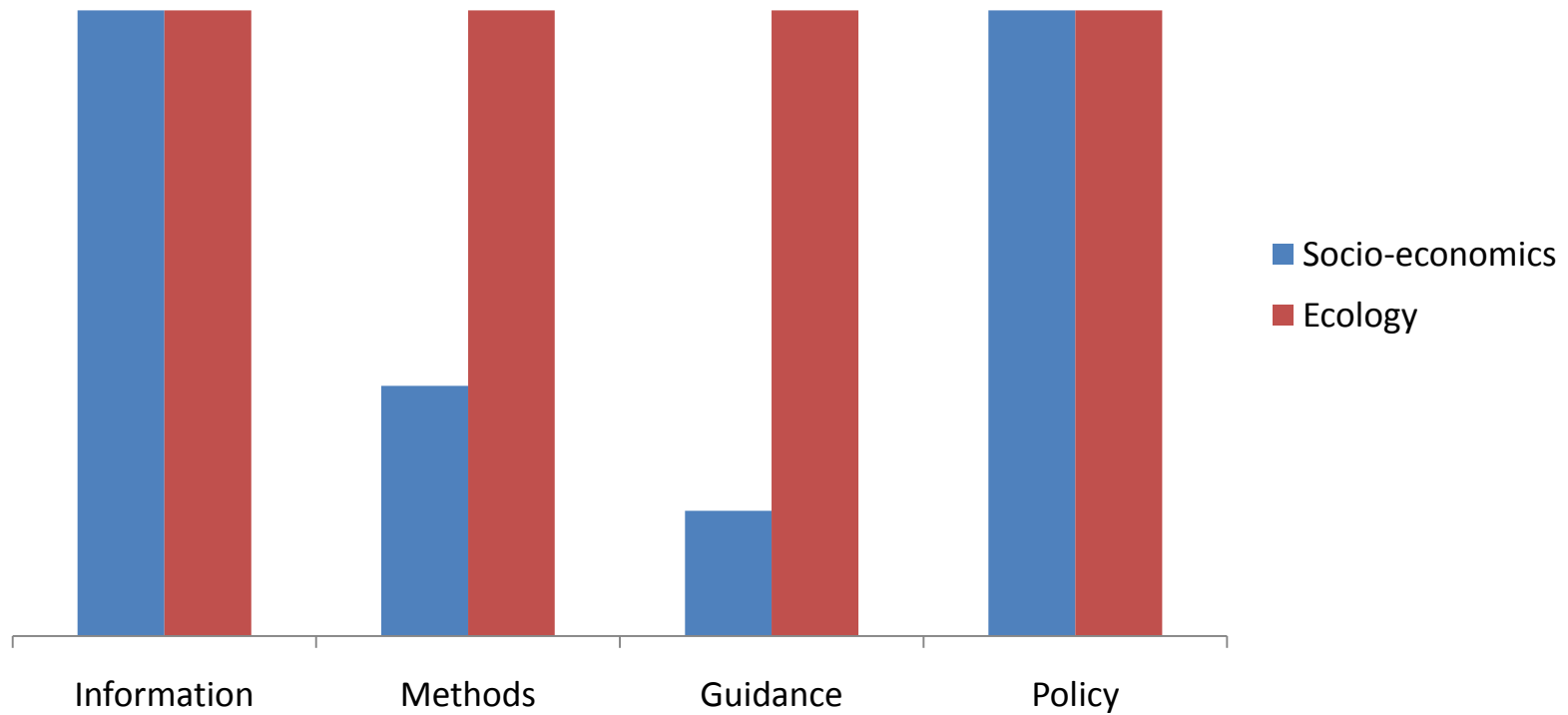
- Importance of creating a network of MCZs
- Importance of ensuring ecological requirements
- Welcome socio-economic consideration
- Increasingly lots of information about different sectors

But...



- Do we know what to do with it?
- How do we use socio-economics to resolve conflict
- Do different people see socio-economic issues differently?
- Should they be applied consistently across differing legislation?

Socio-economic and ecological management



An Ecologically Coherent Network Of MPAs



1. OSPAR Advice
2. Ecological Network Guidance
3. Defra Guidance Note 1
4. Natural England JNCC –
Project Delivery Guidance
5. Science Advisory Panel



Socio-economic Aspects



Defra Guidance Note 1

Natural England/JNCC
Project Delivery Guidance



SUDG position:

- What mechanisms exist to examine socio-economic considerations?
- Do we have a clear understanding of how any socio-economic mechanisms will be applied to decision making?
- Do we have a clear understanding of the timescales associated with applying socio-economic considerations to decision making?
- Is consistency of approach across differing legislation an issue?
- What are the priorities for action if all the above cannot be answered fully?

SUDG Socio-economic workshop.

Sponsored by The Crown Estate

Aims:-

- To examine the questions
- To gain an understanding of key people and organisation views
- To see if there is a common understanding of issues
- To see if there is a common understanding of priorities



SUDG Socio-economic workshop.

Sponsored by The Crown Estate

Approach:-

- Representatives from
 - Industry
 - Regulators
 - Consultants
 - Conservation NGOs
- Participative
 - Identification of issues
 - Discussion
 - Potential solutions
 - Discussion



Key issues in order of priority:-



- Co-location could provide win-win solutions in the designation and prioritisation of MCZs
- Need for formal guidance on socio-economic assessment which must be proportionate and appropriate
- Need for a clear defined approach how this will be fed into decision making process
- Guidance on both needed now

Other Issues:

- How do we value the importance of the marine environment to coastal communities
- The need to distinguish between social and economic issues but capture both in any assessment
- The need for Government to make decisions in the absence of consensus of approach
- The need to distinguish between proportionate and disproportionate impacts
- Need to communicate how Impact Assessment will be used to inform decisions and be 'fit for purpose'



However...



- Government are re-working the Impact Assessment (IA) template to reflect their policy – imminent
- Defra preparing further MCZ Project specific guidance to clarify the scope of the IAs
- Government are keen to stream line existing regulation and minimise new regulation and..
- Encouraging regulatory authorities to identify “non statutory regulation” measures to achieve the conservation objectives of MCZ s where possible. These could include education, codes of conduct etc

Meanwhile...

- work on management pressures
- sensitivity of habitats and species to different activities
- starting point in understanding what management may be required for a feature
- SNCBs providing advice to stakeholders on how to meet conservation objectives
- lessons can be learnt at each iteration

Conclusions



- A lot going on but no real clarity on the application of socio-economics
- If socio-economics consideration is applied to decision making, it must be a tool to help ensure sustainable development
- It must not become a millstone around the neck of development through excessive workload or imprecise application