

A Defra perspective on socio- economics and marine- environmental programmes

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- Taking into account the value of nature in policy decisions
- Applying an ecosystem services approach
- Defra's Marine Programme
- How socioeconomic is used in the Marine Framework Strategy Directive and in the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009
- Uncertainty surrounding valuing the marine environment
- Useful links to guidance material

Taking the value of the services we get from nature into account in policy decisions is no longer an 'optional extra'

- Central to the Coalition Government's aim to be the 'Greenest Government ever'
- We cannot afford to ignore socioeconomics. Ecosystem services provide huge economic value, with high social and economic costs of their degradation and loss
- Part of good policy-making: In the Impact Assessment process it is now possible to make more sophisticated assessments of the previously less visible costs to society
- It helps to avoid significant costs and risks to wider Government policy objectives including public health, climate change, etc

Substantial progress has been made to value environmental impacts through an ecosystem approach but more work is still required...

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An introductory guide to valuing ecosystem services



- Ecosystem approach links scientific evidence with economic valuation to contribute to better policy decision making.
- Systematically covers a much wider range of potential impacts on the natural environment
- Challenging due to lack of both scientific evidence and robust economic valuation techniques, especially in the marine environment

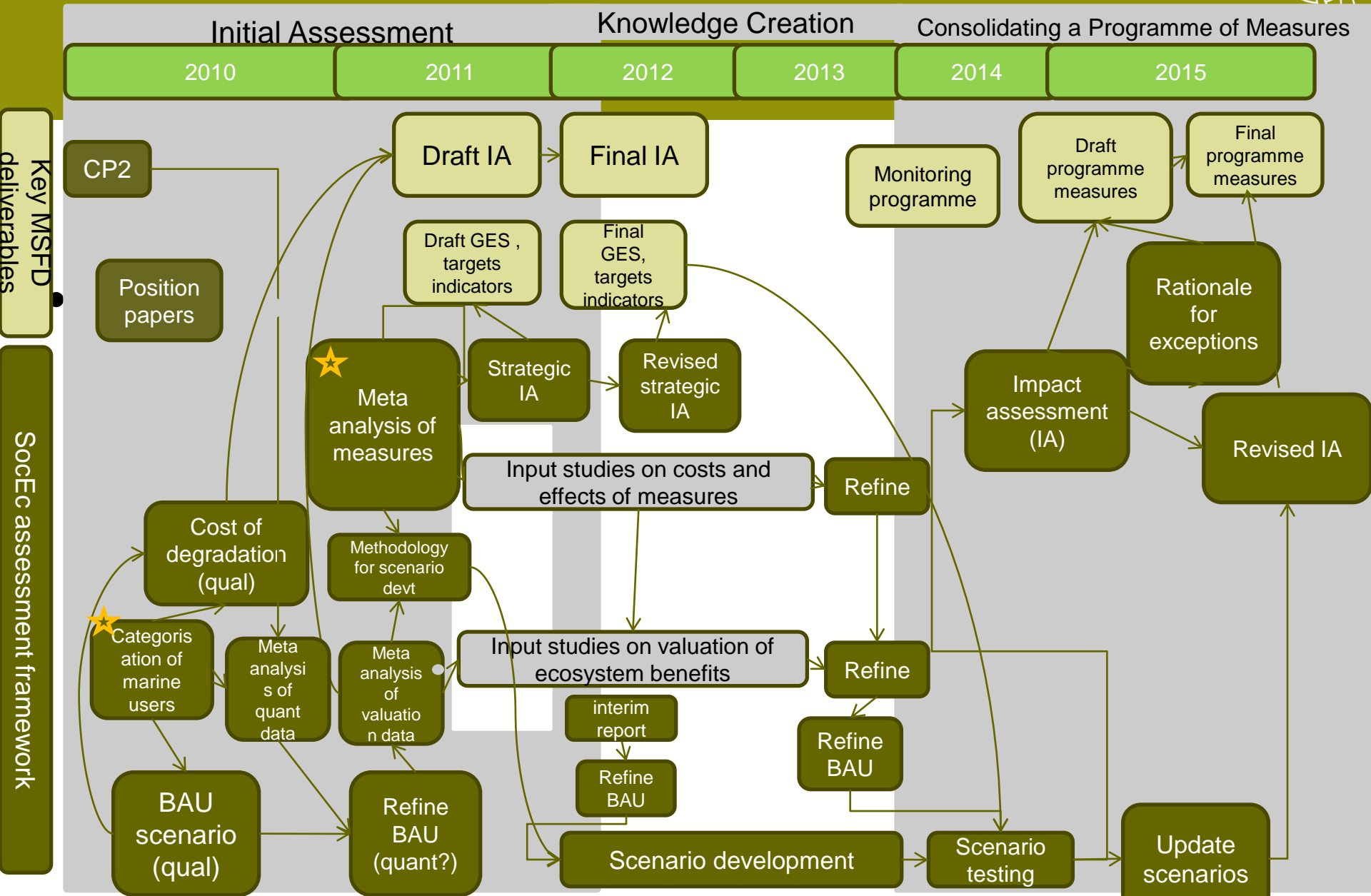
Defra's Marine Programme is underpinned by policy surrounding 'The Marine and Coastal Access Act', 2009 and the 'Marine Strategy Framework Directive'

Defra's Marine Programme aims to *'improve the state of the UK's marine and fisheries environment and achieve our vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'*

The '**Marine Strategy Framework Directive**' (MSFD) requires Defra to ensure that we are taking measures to achieve 'good environmental status' for our seas by 2020.

Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009 (MCA) will help us to achieve clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. A range of initiatives have come from the Act which include work on marine planning, marine licensing and marine protected areas.

Outputs roadmap for use of socioeconomic analysis in MSFD



★ Does not require analytical inputs (no internal dependencies)

For the MCA (2009), socioeconomic is vital for ensuring the benefits associated with the marine environment are taken into account



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- Each of the following MCA initiatives use socioeconomic to inform policy decision making:
- **Marine Planning** involves an integrated planning system for managing our seas, coasts and estuaries.
- **Marine licensing** ensures sustainable use of our marine resources. Regulation has been streamlined to improve overall efficiency. Example -using monetary incentives to change behaviour.
- **Marine protected areas** – these provide better protection for our marine environment. Socioeconomic impacts may be taken into account for marine conservation zones. Ministers need to know what choices they have and the implications of those choices.
- **Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)** - They will seek to balance the social and economic benefits of exploiting sea fisheries with the need to protect, or help recover the marine environment from past exploitation.

There is a high level of uncertainty when valuing ecosystem services, it is important to be proportionate and honest about the limits of socioeconomic analysis

- Huge number of uncertainties with economic valuation in the marine environment
- Lack of primary data. We need better understanding of the links between the science and economics – how ecosystem functions translate to services, benefits, and then values
- As economists we are concerned with maximising the present value of the stream of ecosystem services from the marine environment - this is difficult due to lack of understanding surrounding complex marine ecology .
- Constantly evolving area and we don't know all of the answers yet
- We need help with the data and science surrounding ecosystem services in the marine environment

Useful guidance documents on valuing ecosystem services, value transfer, HM Treasury Green Book environmental guidance and what nature can do for you

- Defra's introductory guide to valuing ecosystem services:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/policy/natural-environ/using/value.htm>

- Value Transfer Guidelines:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/policy/natural-environ/using/valuation/index.htm>

- HM Treasury Green Book:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/green_book_guidance_environment.htm

- What nature can do for you: a practical introduction to making the most of natural services, assets and resources in policy and decision making:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/policy/natural-environ/using/index.htm>