
Reviewing the use and accessibility of marine data across government and industry – outcomes from a MEDAG/MDIP workshop on 5 November

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MDIP – Marine Data and Information Partnership



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Objectives
- Industry and government models of access to data
- Socio economic data
- Coordination of resources
- Recommendations



Background

- A review completed by Inter Agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology (IACMST) in 2006 suggested there could be a greater involvement of the industry sector in national marine data initiatives
- Driven forward by a committee chaired by Colin Grant (BP)
- Recognised a need to improve the use and accessibility of marine data across government and industry



Workshop Objectives

1. improve awareness of relevant marine initiatives
2. provide specific examples of projects that have improved the accessibility of data
3. identify specific applications for marine data which would benefit from an improved exchange between government and industry.
4. identify the current problems
5. propose how improvements



Representation

Industry Delegates from

BP, Shell, Port of London Authority, Fugro, ABP, BT, HR Wallingford, Metoc, Marine Space, Cable Laying Authority, and British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA).

Government Delegates from

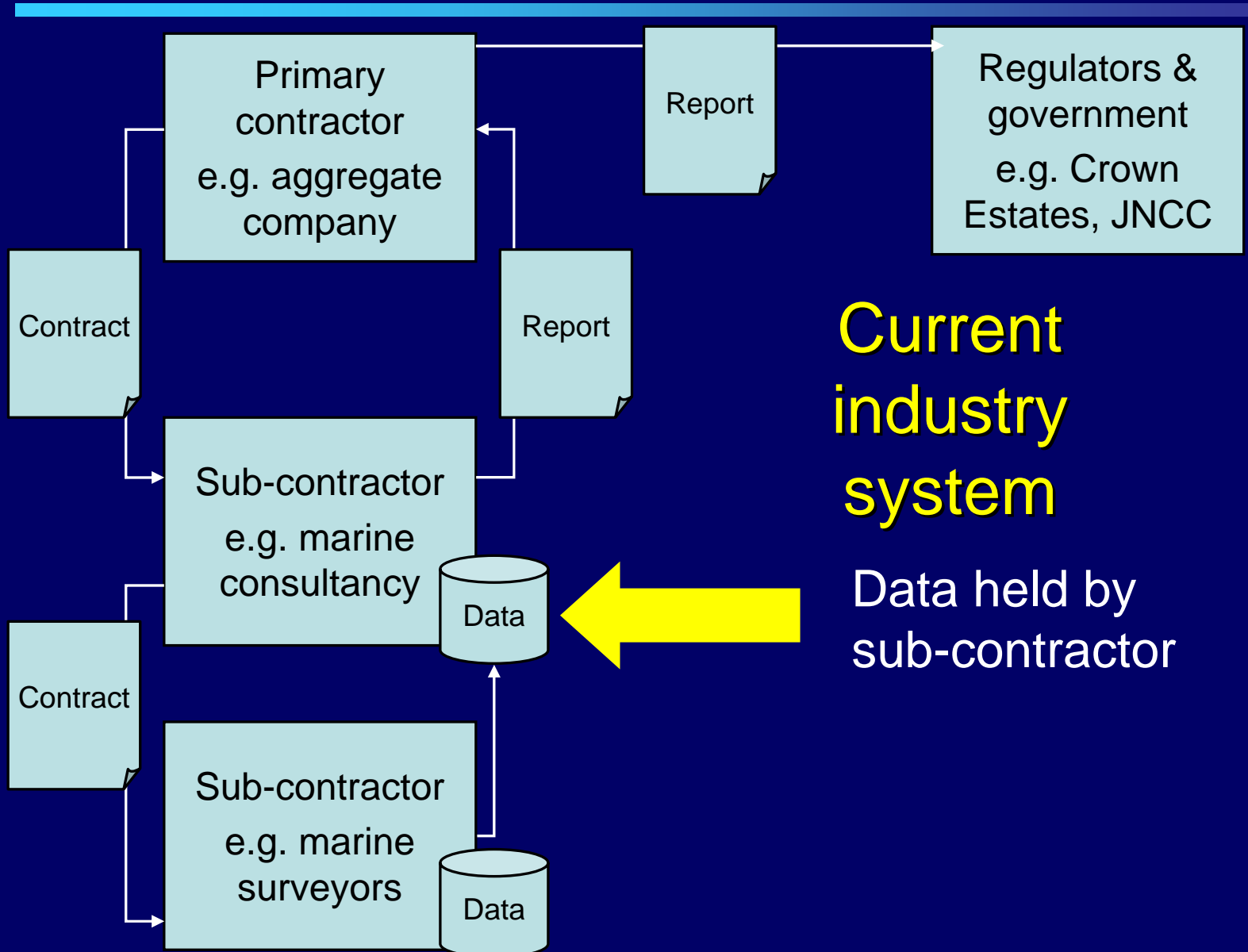
Defra, CEFAS, JNCC, SNH, NERC, The Crown Estate, MCA, UKHO, Met Office

Presentations covering existing initiatives such as UKMMAS, MDIP, Industry views on needs for marine data and more specific projects such as MESH (Mapping European Seabed Habitats), SIMORC (System of Industry Metocean data for the Offshore and Research Communities)

Covered both environmental monitoring and socio economic data



Access to data



2 Industry body
e.g. BMAPA

Primary contractor
e.g. aggregate company

Regulators & government
e.g. Crown Estates, JNCC

Contract

Report

Report

1 Sub-contractor
e.g. marine consultancy

Contract

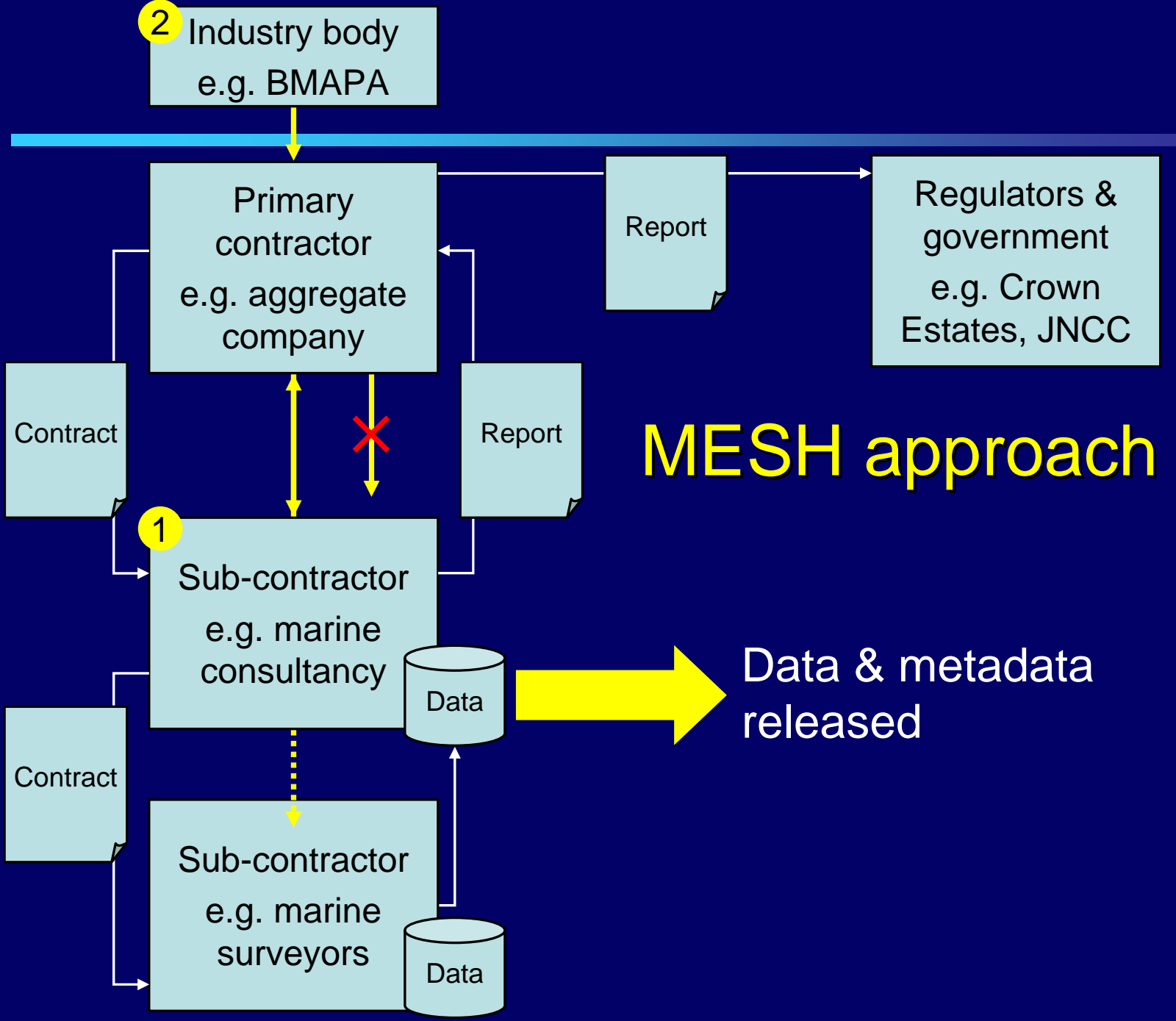
Data

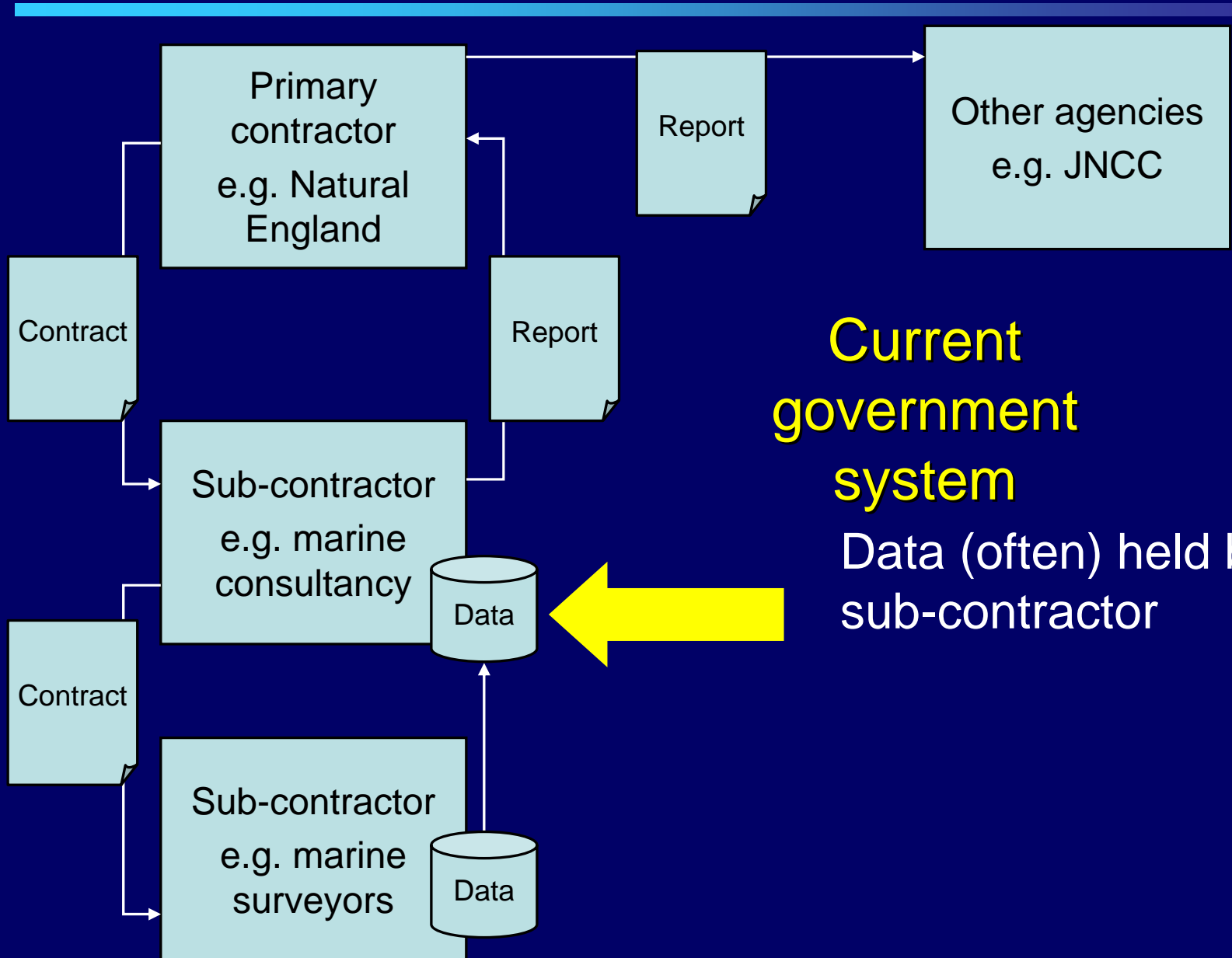
Sub-contractor
e.g. marine surveyors

Data

MESH approach

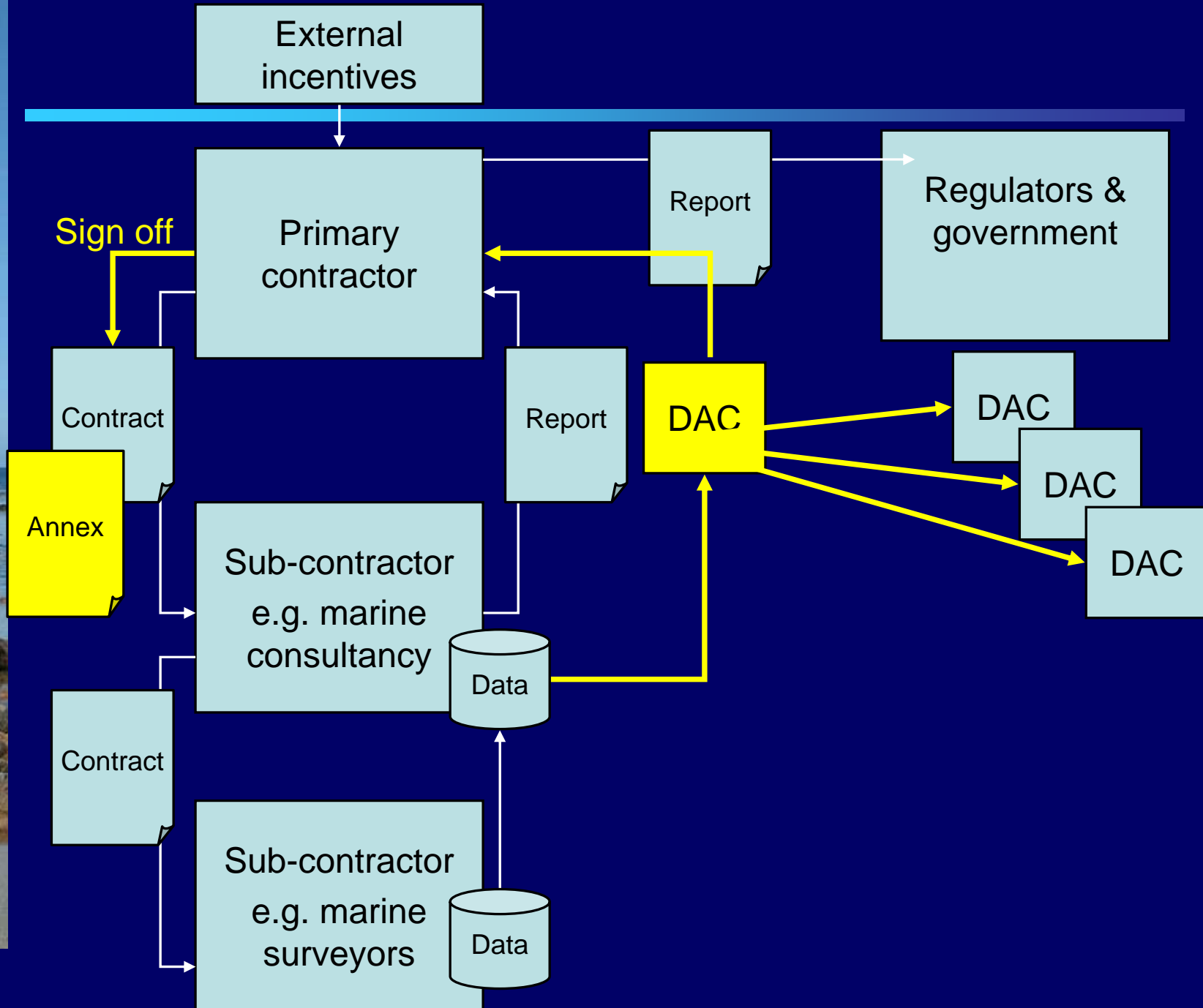
Data & metadata released





Current government system

Data (often) held by sub-contractor



Accessibility of data from industry

Industry data types:

1. Data taken to satisfy government legislation (eg. Food and Environmental Protection Act)
2. Health and Safety/Environmental data taken for 'in-house' requirements which may be released under agreement/licence

SIMORC

Restriction \ Users	Scientific Users	Non-Scientific Users
Data sets labelled: LI = Available under licence	Direct access	Request forwarded to owner
Data sets labelled: RS = Restricted	Request forwarded to owner	Request forwarded to owner

3. Exploratory information that is commercially sensitive but may become available in time



Other issues raised by industry sector

Lack of clear publicised standards and formats a critical barrier to sharing and accessing data both within industry and government.

Industry wants guidelines on how to collect, manage and archive data regardless of if the data is taken to satisfy government licence conditions or for in-house requirements.

The detail of formats, standards for new data should be derived by people involved both in industry and government.



Access to government data and information

Confusion on different data access policies across different government departments.

Trading Fund model (UKHO, Met Office) restrictive and although acknowledged that funding is required to manage and update the information.

Some minority instances where industry having to pay and agree licenses to use the same datasets at a frequency less than the datasets are updated.

Using Freedom of Information Act does work



How an industry values data

Contribution - *What impact the data have on solving the problem.*

Metadata

Location - *Where the measurements have been taken and at what time.*

GIS and Metadata

Price/cost - *What the data costs.* **Clear licence conditions at minimal cost**

Delivery - *Can the data be supplied in time?*

On-line catalogues and data download

Attributes - *Fitness for purpose.* **Metadata**

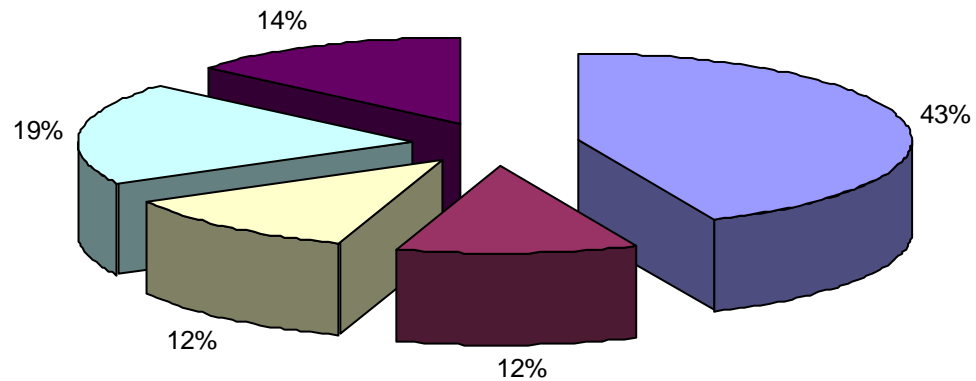
Usability - *How easy is it to use the data.* **Standard Format**

Socio economic uses of the seas

Estimated in 2000 direct marine activities contribute 4.9% of UK GDP. Updated study this year funded by The Crown Estate, Oil and Gas UK and ABP broke down activities into 18 categories to calculate contribution to economy and also subjectively assessed the accessibility of the economic data



Relative accessibility of marine related economic statistics



- ***** (readily accessible official statistics)
- ****
- ***
- **
- * (indirect estimates)

Socio economic uses of the seas

UKMMAS Draft Contributory Objectives – Human Use (4)

- Achieve and maintain the **sustainable and productive use of the marine environment with respect to the provision of goods & services** to meet national needs.

Includes:

Transport and Ports; Leisure and Tourism; Construction; Disposal; Defence; Carbon sequestration; Scientific Archaeological interests (Wrecks); etc.

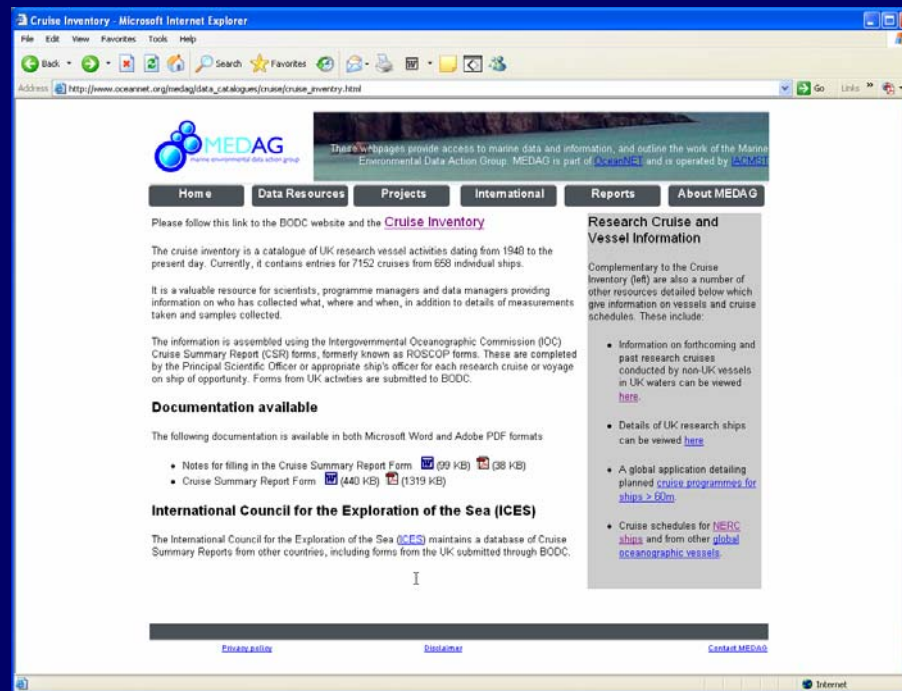
Office of National Statistics new categorisation will go some way towards improving the accessibility of some of this marine economic data. Economic activity data may be revisited with a view to improving accessibility within certain themes.



Coordination of resources (ship time)

Recognised that across government and industry specific sectors or groups were coordinating

Committee on Shipping Hydrography (COSH) meeting in Feb 2008 to integrate hydrographic work programmes (seabed surveys) with the MCA and so provide efficiency savings



http://www.oceannet.org/medag/data_catalogues/cruise/cruise_inventory.html

BUT - no overall responsibility – MEDAG/MDIP to develop further?

Conclusions

MDIP is the established framework for UK and further enthusiasm and 'buy-in' was gained throughout both sectors

Industry sectors want further instruction on standards, management and archiving of data. Need to involve industry in defining standards and formats.

Need for a unified data policy across government (eg BERR and DEFRA)

No centralised industry voice but coordination in sectors and associations eg. Aggregates sector, Oil & Gas sector (ShellNet now WebNet)

Promote benefits of sharing data directly through to the industry associations and government groups (eg BMAPA/UKMMAS)

Further role for resource coordination within MEDAG/MDIP



Recommendations

Specific recommendations to be taken to IACMST plenary

Outcomes will feed into MDIP/MEDAG plans to ensure they meet both industry and government needs

Already further interest by industry sectors to become involved

Potential for some further spin-off projects



The presentations and a summary from the workshop will appear on the MEDAG website in due course –

<http://www.oceannet.org/medag/index.html>

Thankyou to MESH, HR Wallingford, Crown Estate, SIMORC and David Pugh for use of slides.



