

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

2B – Making Socio-cultural Values Count: Opportunities and Challenges for Marine Spatial Planning (Part One)

Chair: Kira Gee, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht

Maritime perceptions and representations: Stakeholders discourse on the maritime economy and planning in Cabo Verde

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Abstract:

Blue economy and Blue growth concepts capture different views of the relationship between oceans ecosystems and human societies. In Europe the Blue Growth discourse is technologically optimistic and highlights opportunities for reduced energy use, fuel efficient shipping, better efficiency and management of fisheries based value chains. In Cabo Verde, poverty reduction and employment creation are key objectives of the economic development strategy; the challenge is to identify the contribution of maritime and ocean-based activities to this development agenda. Drawing on structured interviews with public and private stakeholders, this paper presents perceptions of the role of maritime and ocean based activities in a development strategy. Stakeholder's views are explored on a set of statements regarding the role of government, NGO and foreign investors in promoting blue growth and how they perceive blue growth role in promoting economic activities, creating jobs and using ocean resources in a sustainable way. A pro-growth and business opportunities discourse emerged as dominant. The identification of investment opportunities for foreign investors is seen as a priority for government agencies. Blue growth is perceived as a government promoted agenda with public policies being their main driver. A second subordinate discourse highlights the opportunity to bring a small-livelihoods agenda centred on artisanal fisheries and marine conservation to public discussion. The preliminary results support the Silver et al.(2015) hypothesis of a Blue Growth concept that captures multiple agendas and where the conservation and sustainability vector of a blue growth strategy is mainly promoted by NGOs and international organisations supporting local conservation projects. The view on the governance framework identifies government as the key actor for this strategy which should promote international investment and deal with the trade-off between blue growth and employment as well as environmental sustainability.

Identifying and assessing social impacts and interactions for marine planning

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Abstract:

Statutory systems of marine planning introduced in the UK under the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009 and devolved administration legislation aim to contribute to the sustainable development of UK seas. This requires plan makers to balance environmental, social and economic factors in developing marine plan policies. Marine plans constitute 'plans and programmes under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and are therefore subject to strategic environmental assessment. They are also subject to the Public Participation Directive and thus follow formal stakeholder engagement and consultation processes. As a matter of UK policy such plans may also require Regulatory Impact Assessment in line with HM Treasury and devolved administration guidance. The requirement to balance policies to support the achievement of sustainable development combined with associated formal assessment processes have highlighted the need for better information on social values associated with

the marine environment and how they might be affected by marine plan policies. This continues to be a challenging area but one in which it is important to improve the evidence base and assessment processes if the UK is to demonstrate progress towards achieving sustainable development in the marine environment. The presentation will present a number of case studies from the UK illustrating progress that has been made in improving the social evidence base and using such information within formal assessment processes.

Fishers' values in MSP on the Polish coast

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Abstract:

This paper aims at a more in-depth examination of the attitudes of Polish fishermen towards maritime spatial planning (MSP). Fishermen are considered to be the sea users that benefit least from the new ways of marine management and the spatial development of marine areas. Their integration into MSP processes therefore poses a challenge. 50 interviews were conducted with Polish fishermen between July and December 2016 to reconstruct their views, opinions and conceptualizations concerning various dimensions of integration in MSP. Particular focus was on the reasons (roots) of conflict(s) related to the fishery sector, the ways MSP is framed within the fishing sector, and the interplay between these narratives and current distribution of power; different knowledge systems and their role in MSP processes in Poland, and the constraints for the fishers to actively and efficiently participate in MSP processes. Results show that fishers believe MSP to be a tool to support the expansion of other sectors (in particular offshore energy); therefore, they often consider MSP as threatening their interests. They also view themselves as “left behind” and not properly consulted when actions influencing their well-being are undertaken. Furthermore, fishers believe that science does not properly focus on their problems and fails to provide answers to important questions. Fishers’ knowledge is not commonly incorporated into managerial and planning processes; however, there is no real reason for this. Last not least, many problems related to the management of the sector or other management regimes were attributed to MSP. The paper will illustrate these issues in more detail and highlight key conflicts that were identified.