
Valuing Marine Ecosystem Services -

Taking into account the value of ecosystem benefits in the Blue Economy

03.04.2019, 08:30 - 10:30
European Parliament Brussels
ASP 3G2

There is a growing attention for the impact of the ocean economy in the European landscape. In order to plan for a sustainable Blue Growth, to manage ocean and coastal ecosystems, and to deal with the effects of climate change; ocean management and planning decisions need to better incorporate the value of marine ecosystem services and natural capital. By evaluating the impacts of human activity on ecosystem services and their social and economic consequences, outcomes of ecosystem valuation studies can highlight the trade-offs between actions to reverse the declining states of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and possible competing economic interests.

The European Marine Board has published a Future Science Brief highlighting current thinking in ecosystem service valuation for the marine environment. This document provides some recommendations on how to incorporate outputs from valuation studies into the traditional analyses used in resource and environmental economics and into the European marine policy landscape and related management and decision making choices. The Searica Intergroup has taken the initiative to organise this conference together with the European Marine Board to discuss with representatives from the research community, policy makers, and ecosystem valuation practitioners about what is needed to assess the long-term sustainability of blue growth, support ecosystem based policy development and marine management decisions, and raise awareness of the importance of the marine environment to society and in the economy.

*Participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible on www.searica.eu in order to guaranty and organise the access to the EP. The day of the conference, participants are kindly requested to present themselves at **08:00** in order to avoid delays.*

08:30 - 08:40 Welcome

Gessine Meissner, MEP, President of the European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (SEARICA)

08:40 - 08:50 Setting the Scene

Taking into account the value of ecosystem benefits in the Blue Economy

Prof Melanie Austen, Head of Science - Sea and Society, Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)

08:50 - 09:20 Ecosystem valuation in practise: Innovative Case Studies

This session will provide success stories and best practices in applying valuation methods in the marine environment for provisioning, cultural and regulating ecosystem services. The focus of these sessions is why these case studies were so successful and how they were used in policy making.

- *Ecosystem valuation informing national and regional marine policies in the Baltic Sea region – Soile Oinonen, SYKE Finland*
- *Linking monetary and non-monetary valuation to promote sustainable governance of the EU's fisheries as cultural heritage - Simone Martino, PERICLES Project, University of York, UK*
- *Applying the ecosystem services concept in marine and estuarine environments, Patrick Meire, University of Antwerp*

09:20 – 09:30 Key issues in the valuation of ecosystem services for ecosystem accounting

- *Natural Capital Accounting - Jakub Wejchert, DG Environment*

09:30 – 9:50 Next steps towards implementation

The session will discuss a number of issues at the science-policy nexus on which indicators are useful to inform what policy decisions, what the enabling conditions are to mainstream the valuation exercises within ecosystem assessments, how to best take into account non-market valuation, and best ways to communicate the results of valuation studies.

- *An economist's perspective - Peder Andersen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
- *A user's perspective - Luc van Hoof, EFARO*

9:50-10:25 Q&A and Panel discussion

How do we implement ecosystem valuation in the marine domain?

10:25 - 10:30 Conclusion

Mr Ricardo SERRÃO SANTOS, MEP, Searica Vice-Chair in charge of Marine Knowledge