

Including social and cultural aspects in regulatory standards for SDG 14 and marine planning

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Why are social and cultural aspects important in marine and ocean planning?

Attachments between people and the sea or:

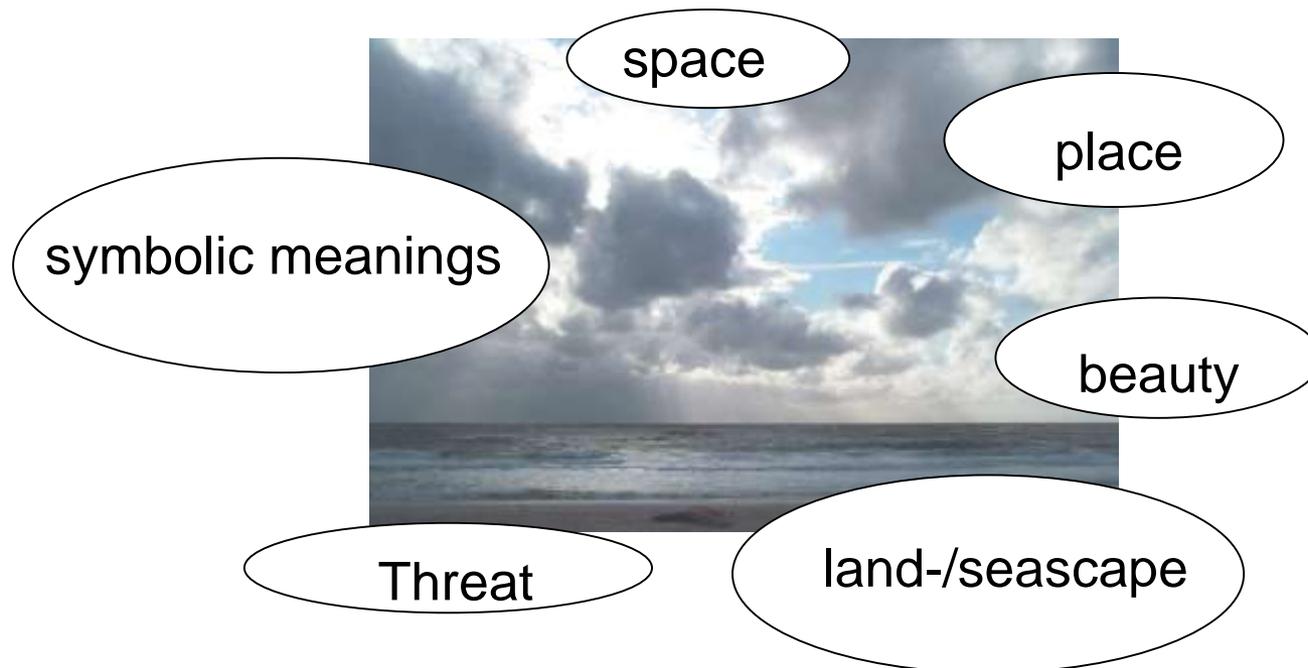
What the sea means to local residents

- “The wide horizon influences the soul and physical health. Makes me feel good, away from hectic life.”
- “The sea is life. It is shipping, boats and infinity. It is creation, and unpredictable, but also a calming sense of comfort.”
- “The murmur of the water, the sun glittering on the water, storms and waves crashing on the shore.”
- “Salty air, recuperation, nature, fish, tourism, untamed force of nature.”

(North Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein, survey by Kira Gee, see Gee 2010, 2013)

Why are social and cultural aspects relevant?

- The sea is a place of multiple meanings...
- The sea is a personal and social construct...
- Intangible values are relevant for people



A space of human perceptions...

What do you see?

Less CO₂?

Spoilt
view?

Killed
Birds?

Nature
destruction?

Less
Tourists?

Money?

Bright
Future?

Colliding
ships?

Jobs?

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... and emotions!!

And what do you feel?

Just awful!

The end
of the
world!

A future
for my
kids

A miracle of
technology

Disaster!

Great!

Not nice, but
necessary

Nice!

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Why are social and cultural aspects important in oceans management?

- people have an attachment to the areas they live in and also to the sea
- people have perceptions and emotions on what happens in their area and adjacent seas
- people are sensitive to changes in their environment
- people are sensitive to missing transparency and processes perceived as unjust and unfair

- missing acceptance for content of a management PLAN, specific MEASURES and/or regulatory STANDARDS
- failure in PROCESS
 - e.g. seen as unfair -> missing transparency of why specific decisions where taken and/or unclear roles



mistrust
ignorance
resistance against implementation

Embedding social and cultural aspects
in process design
using MSP as an example

Definition of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP):

“a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and **social objectives** that have been specified through a political process.“

(UNESCO-IOC)

Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs:

- Regulatory standards set in a political process (along different national interpretations, interests and risk attitudes - ecologically, economic and societal)
 - (Partly) implemented through public (marine) planning and management processes, e.g. becoming objectives for MSP, EU CFP etc.
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Option:

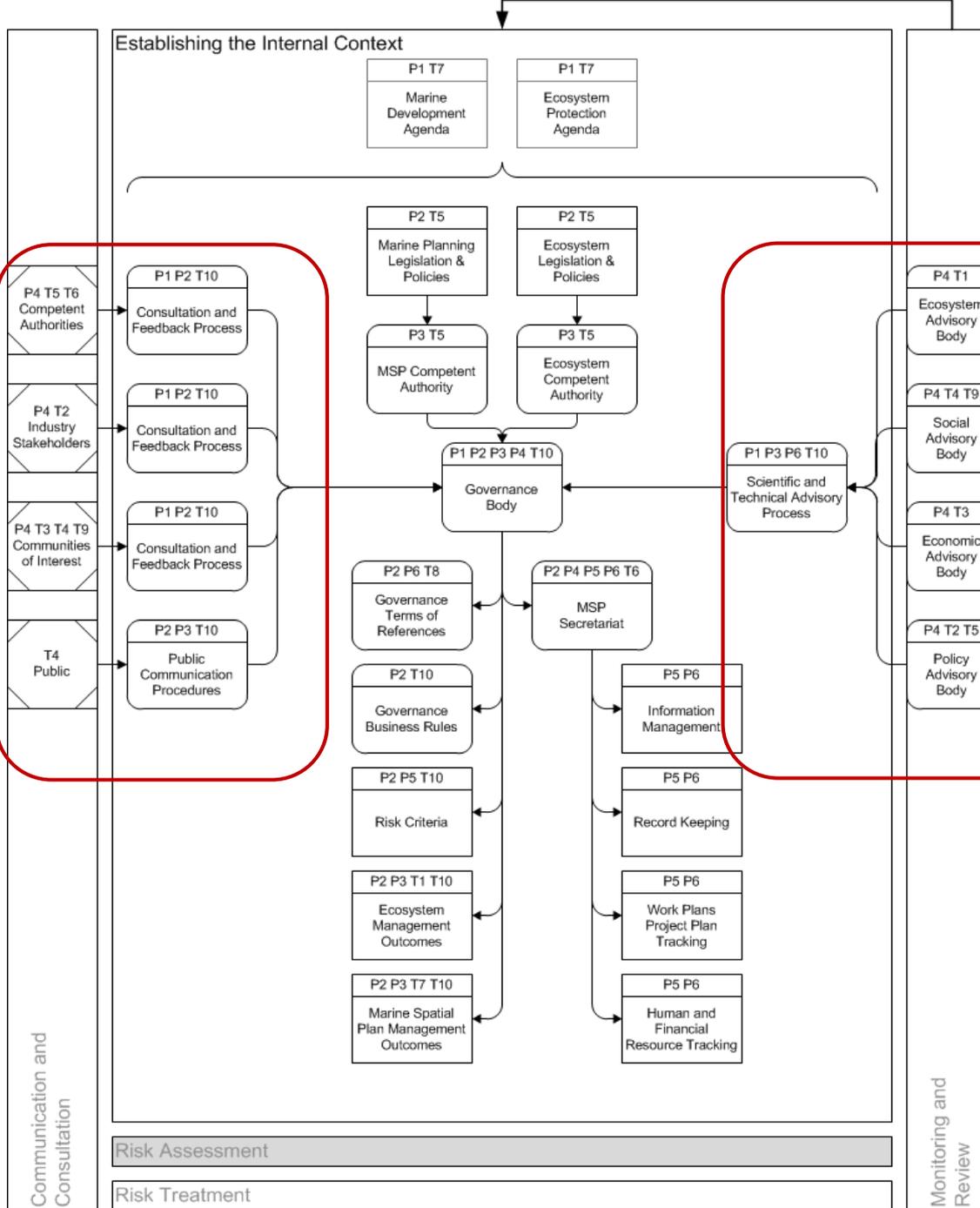
Use a Quality Management Approach to MSP

Cormier, R., Kannen, A., Elliott, M. and, Hall, P. (2015):
Marine Spatial Planning Quality Management System.
ICES Cooperative Research Report 327

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Cooperative%20Research%20Report%20%28CRR%29/crr327/Marine%20Spatial%20Planning%20Quality%20Management%20System%20CRR%20327.pdf>

based on WKQAMSP in 2012

Participation/
Involvement
component in
the planning
process



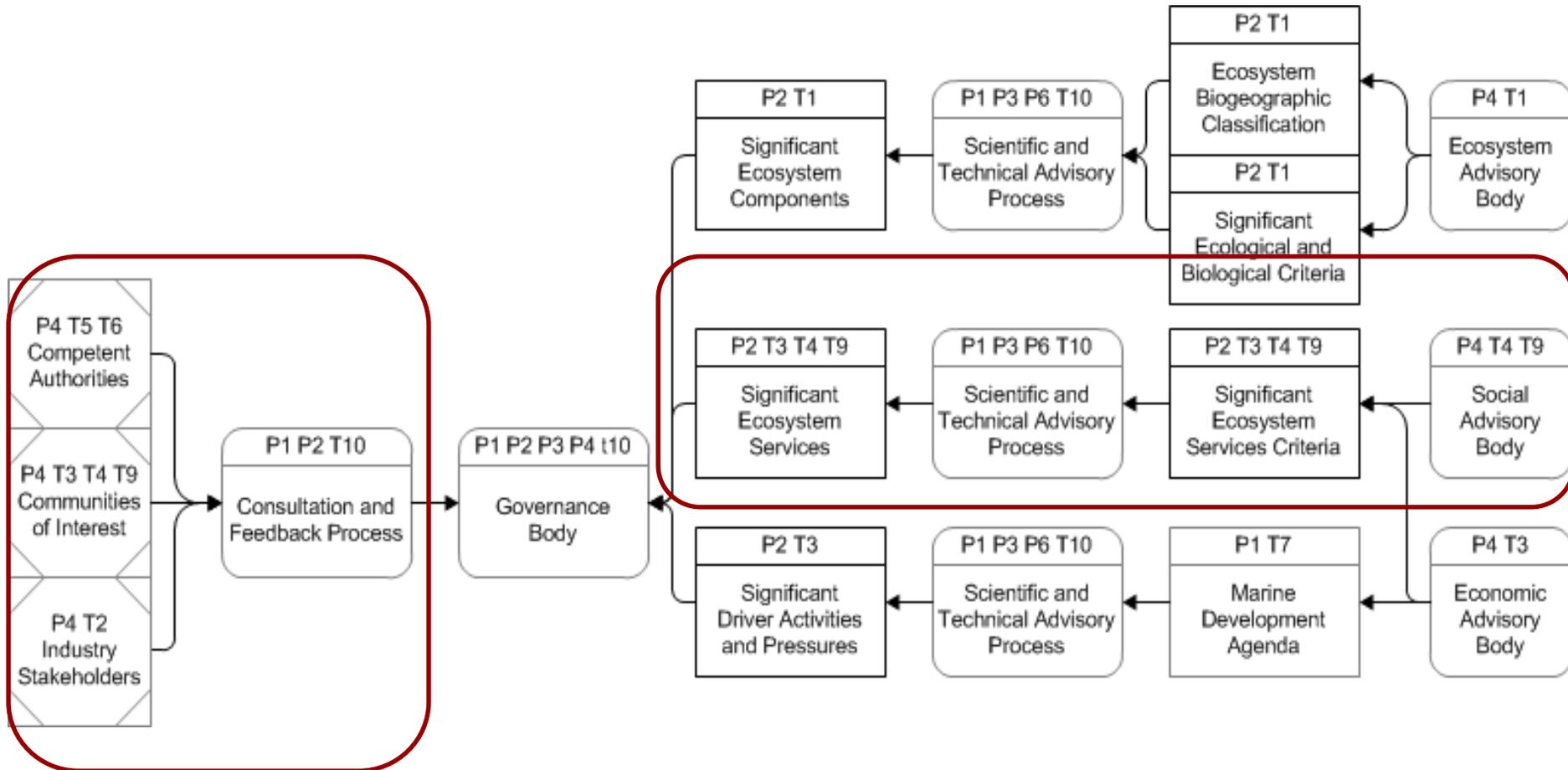
Advice
component
on social and
cultural issues

Expert Advice
component in
the planning
process

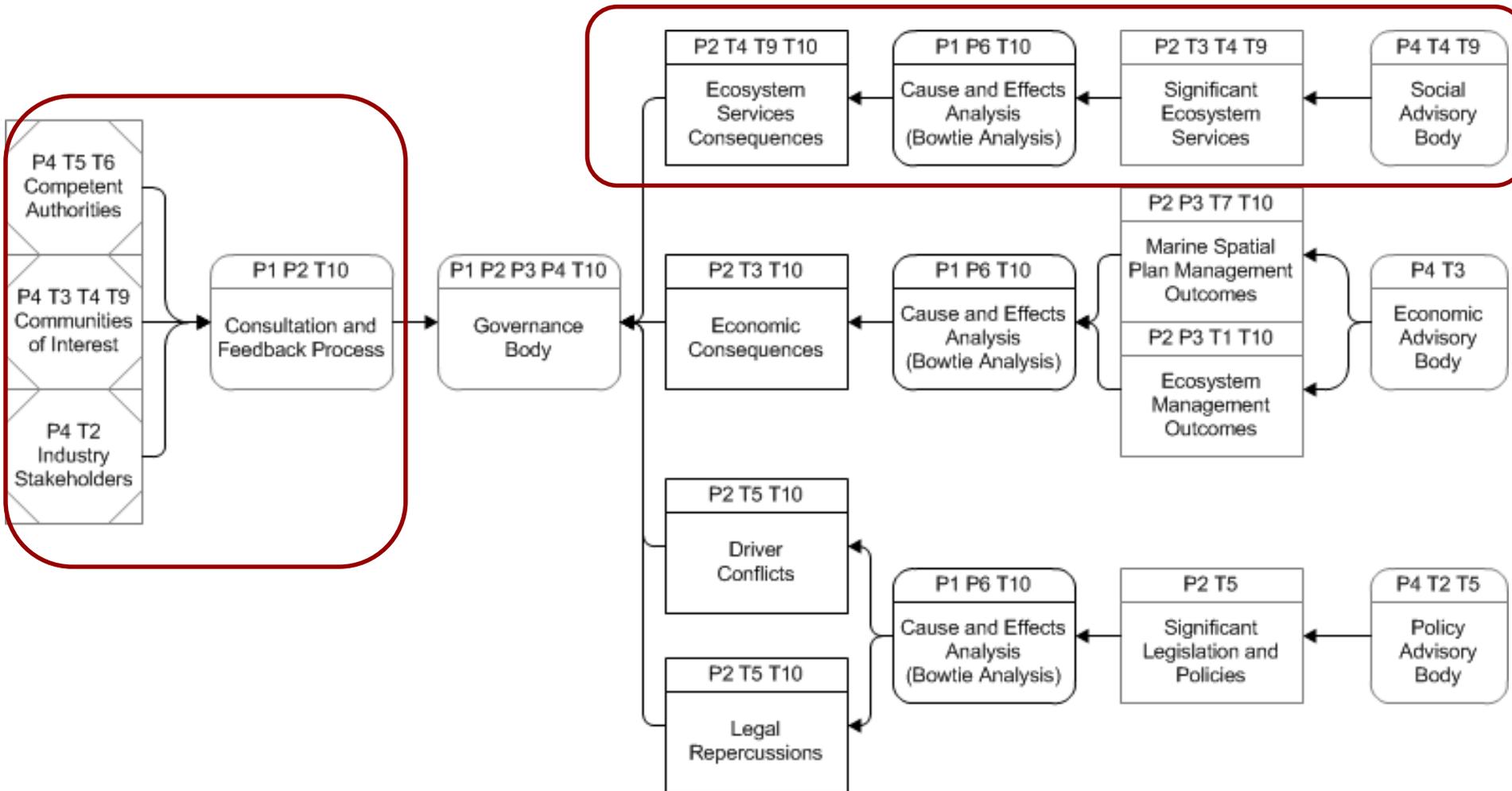
Choke points concerning fairness in the overall planning process and its subprocesses:

- clarity on mandate and roles of all groups involved and affected;
- openness for different views allowing people to be heard and taken seriously;
- appropriate language;
- publicly available documents;

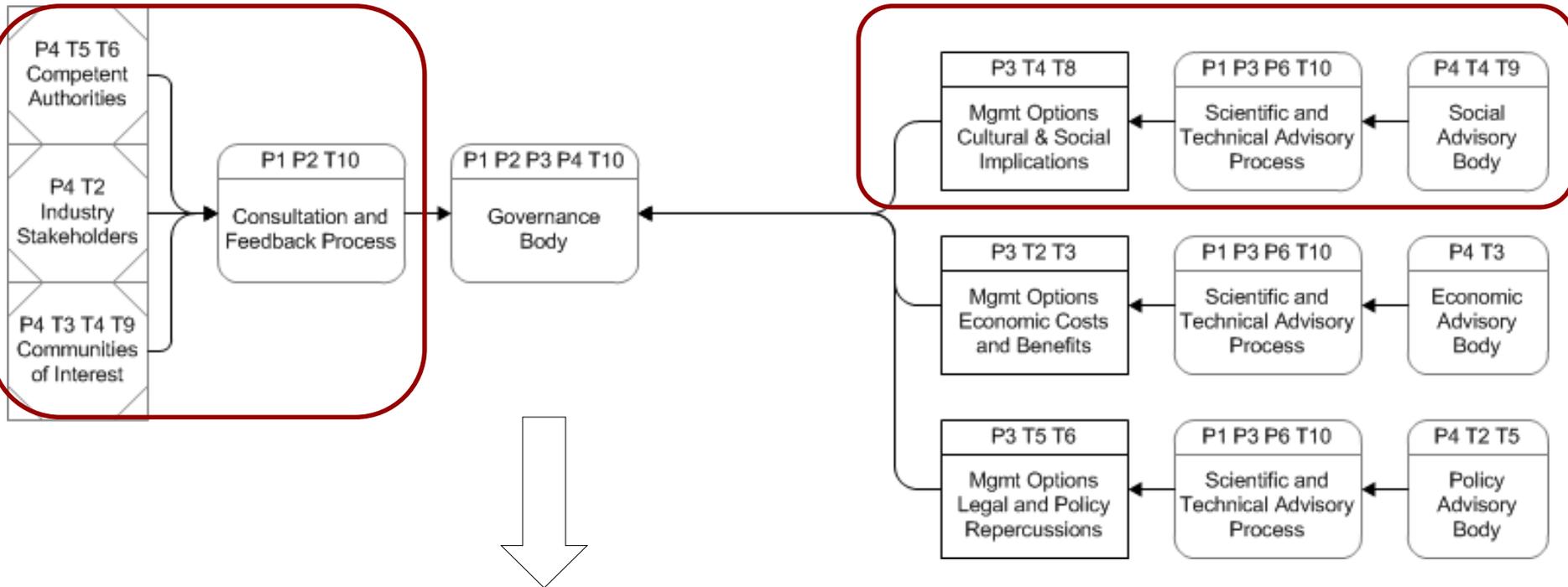
Recognising socio-cultural issues in risk identification



Recognising socio-cultural issues in risk analysis



Recognising socio-cultural issues in risk treatment

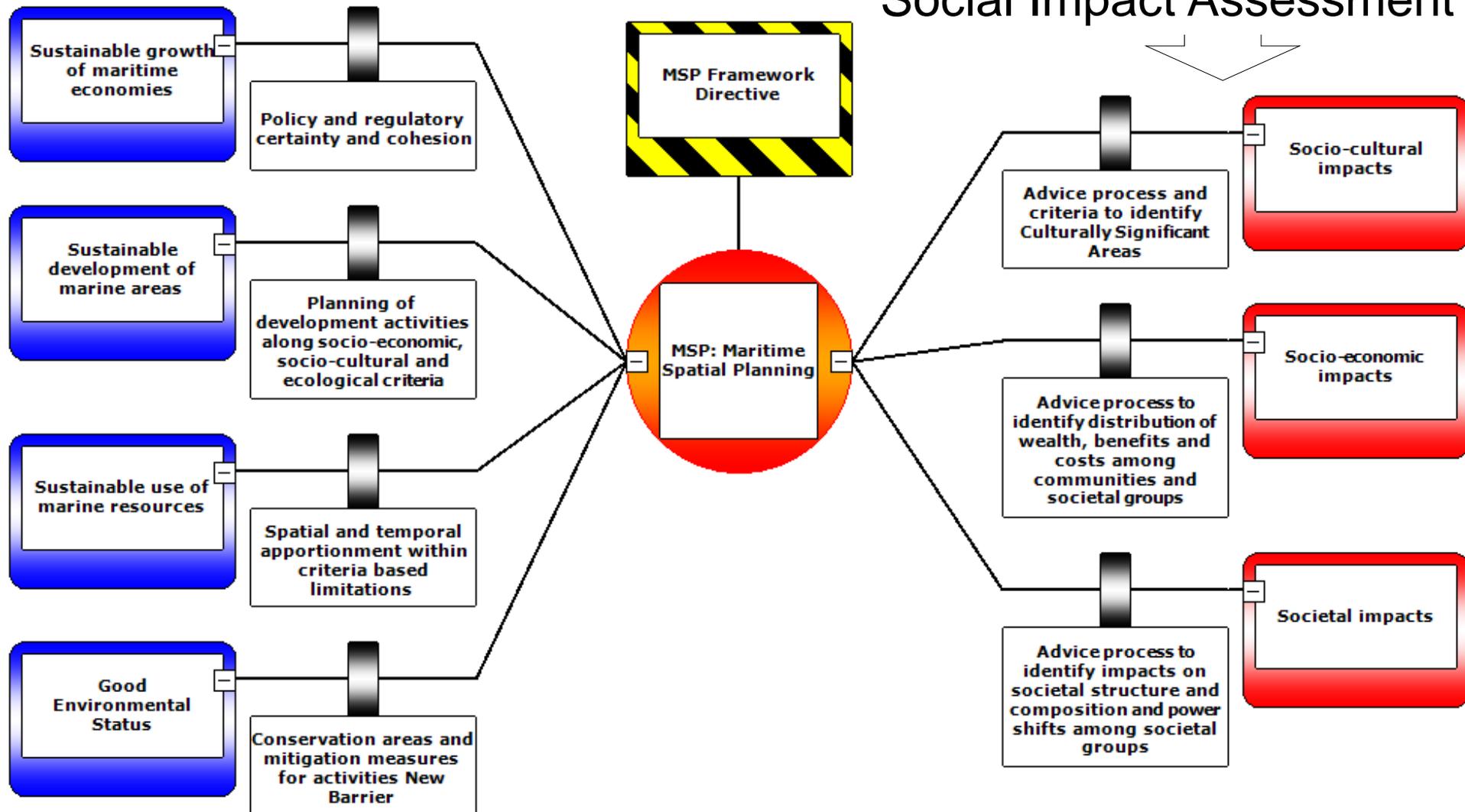


Plan, Measures
referring to agreed regulatory standards

The socio-cultural advisory process as a
Social Impact Assessment (SIA)?

Towards socio-cultural impact assessment

Social Impact Assessment



- is in essence a scientific and technical advisory process, similar to an EIA / SEA;
- expected to provide factual information not biased by a particular stakeholder group for the decision making body;
- requires involvement of experts with social science training;
- advice process should be separated from stakeholder involvement process even though there should be interactions between these;
- if results and reports are publicly available, transparency and credibility are increased;

Towards criteria for socio-cultural aspects

ICES WKCES proposal: Culturally Significant Areas

*“An area containing a culturally significant feature,
or a feature in its own right.”*

-> Identifying places of cultural importance

-> Need to establish a baseline of cultural features of importance

What is valued by people and **where** is it?

When is it relevant and to **whom** is it important?

What qualities are needed to sustain it?

ICES WKCES criteria for determining cultural significance

- Cultural uniqueness
- Broad cultural/community reliance
- Importance of the feature to the resilience of the social-ecological system
- Degree of tradition
- Dramatic cultural change

ICES Expert Group Report WKCES2013:

<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/SSGHIE/2013/WKCES13.pdf>

Identifying places of cultural importance

<p>Cultural Uniqueness <i>(Do we have many or few?)</i></p>	<p>Extent to which the feature/place/activity is unique within the region or to which the same or similar features exist in the same region</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Each instance of it is irreplaceable and distinct (e.g. burial ground, sacred site, historical or archaeological site);2) It belongs to a culture that is distinct/cultural diversity (unique historical sub-cultures, indigenous cultures in most places);3) It is unique in a global context though abundant locally (e.g., special type of landscape), or unique in a local context though abundant globally (e.g. a city park or recreation area)
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Towards risk evaluation

Criteria for rating the risk from impacting on cultural significant areas: A scale of five from Extreme to Negligible

Severity	Criteria
Extreme	<p>A permanent or long-term damage to a cultural ecosystem service that would undermine the cultural integrity of the community.</p> <p>The result of which would create long term loss of trust accompanied by a significant unwillingness to cooperate on marine planning issues.</p>
Very High	<p>An impact to a cultural ecosystem service that would require extensive additional management measures to mitigate the consequences to the cultural integrity of the community.</p> <p>The result of which would create significant loss of trust and strong resistance to collaborate. Agreements would not be achievable and negative impacts on other marine planning activities.</p>

Some problems with mapping culturally significant areas

- Some cultural ecosystem services or cultural features are easier to map than others.
 - The significance of the service is not related to the ease with which a service can be mapped.
 - Short term variability, seasonality, spatial interdependencies, scales (societal vs community significance)
-

Some constraints in real-life planning

Including social and cultural aspects in ocean planning and management

- is time consuming, in particular if no baseline exists
- requires field work and / or extensive participatory approaches, e.g. using focus groups
- requires funding for experts (social scientists) to do the assessment

Final Remarks 1

Including social and cultural aspects in ocean planning and management (and along implementation of SDG 14 targets)

- does not prescribe that social and cultural aspects are valued higher in decision making than economic or ecological considerations
- provides an additional layer of information in the decision making process
- supports fairness and transparency
- may support community engagement in the process



may increase support for implementation of policy objectives, identified measures and reduce resistance

From a social-cultural perspective standards for SDG 14 should refer to

- generally: recognition and structured documentation of socio-cultural and socio-economic issues in all types of ocean planning and management
- specifically: inclusion of social advice bodies and processes into all types of (ocean) planning and management
- methodologically: agreed criteria for Social Impact Assessment procedures including the spatial dimension / distribution of socio-cultural issues and distribution of benefits and costs
- agreed criteria for development of transparent decision-making processes including advisory and participatory components

Contact

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