Australian Government ocean accounts program

National Strategy and Action Plan for Environmental-Economic Accounting - 2018
- Collaboratively developed by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, and the ABS
- $22.8 million over 5 years
- Land, waste and ecosystems

High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy
- $600,000 over 3 years (ocean accounts)
- Domestic – Geographe Marine Park pilot
- International capacity building – Samoa ocean waste pilot
Australian Government role in account development

Broker and facilitate

- Coordinate and establish partnerships between account compilers, data providers and end users supported by strong governance
  - Interjurisdictional Steering Committee (IJSC)
  - Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) and oversight board
- Scope and finance account development through co-design with users

Lead national and regional account development

- Partner with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to produce experimental accounts
- Compile experimental accounts
Current ocean accounting examples - domestic

Geographe Marine Park ocean accounting pilot – November 2020

- **Extent**
  - Seagrass
  - Rocky reef
  - Sandy bottom
  - Kelp

- **Condition**
  - Seagrass meadow density
  - Fish biomass (> 20cm), abundance & species diversity

- **Services**
  - Nursery
  - Fishing (commercial & rec)
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Whale tourism
  - Vessel use & visitor numbers

✓ Over 100 global, national and local data sources assessed
✓ Documentation of account development process and methods
✓ Advice about scaling up extent and ecosystem service accounts
✓ Produce accounts and analysis to inform park management, national compliance monitoring risk assessments and understanding of baseline values and pressures
Current ocean accounting examples – international

Samoa ocean waste accounting pilot – December 2020

• Sponsor extension of ESCAP ocean accounting pilot program
  o Builds on Samoan tourism satellite accounts and waste account

• Examines waste generated by local residents and tourists, waste flows to the local marine environment and key marine ecosystem assets.

• Potential uses:
  o Inform Samoan government decisions
  o Inform regional ocean litter projects
  o Advance waste accounting capability
Australian ocean accounting next steps

Implementation of HLPO commitments

• ‘Transformation framework’ - ocean accounts component
• Participation in ocean accounts ‘action coalition’ and Global Ocean Accounts Partnership
  o Efficiencies from building on others lessons
  o Technical guidance in application, modelling, condition indicators etc.
  o Strong communication of use case examples
• Continue to broker and facilitate ocean account development

Potential future ocean account users

• High value, growing and recovering marine industries
• State of the Environment
• Blue carbon policy and management
• Marine restoration investments, and protected area policy and management