



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment**

# Ocean accounts - Development and use in Australia

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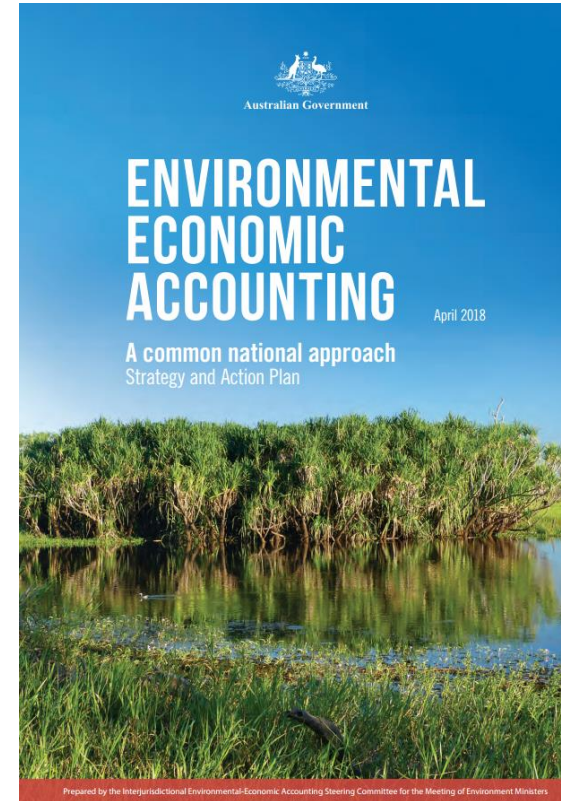
# Australian Government ocean accounts program

## 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



HIGH LEVEL PANEL for  
**A SUSTAINABLE  
OCEAN ECONOMY**



# 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

## Geopraphe Marine Park ocean accounting pilot – November 2020

### ❖ Extent

- Seagrass
- Rocky reef
- Sandy bottom
- Kelp

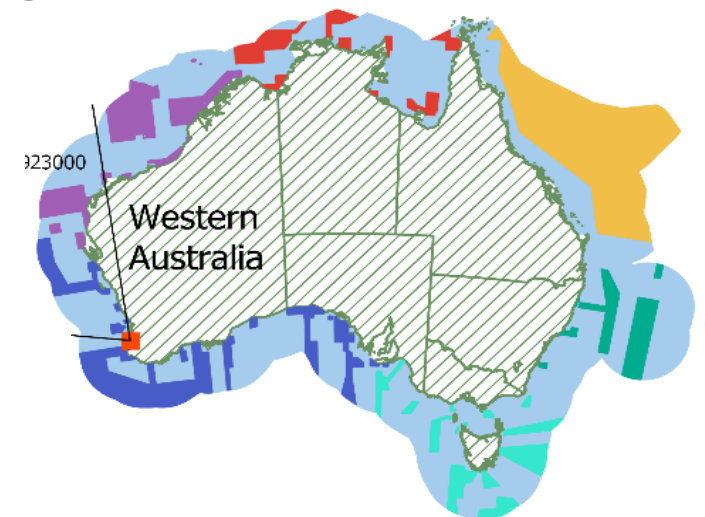
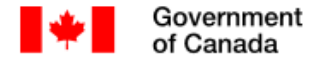
### ❖ Condition

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

### ❖ Services

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

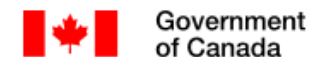
- ✓ Over 100 global, national and local data sources assessed
- ✓ Documentation of account development process and methods
- ✓ Advice about scaling up extent and ecosystem service accounts
- ✓ Produce accounts and analysis to inform park management, national compliance monitoring risk assessments and 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
  - 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:
  - Inform Samoan government decisions
  - Inform regional ocean litter projects
  - 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
  - Efficiencies from building on others lessons
  - Technical guidance in application, modelling, condition indicators etc.
  - 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



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