

A vibrant tropical beach scene. On the left, a dense line of tall palm trees stands against a clear blue sky. A group of about eight children are walking along the sandy beach towards the camera. To the right, the turquoise ocean meets the shore with gentle waves. In the background, a small white boat is visible in the water, and a distant shoreline with more palm trees and a hill is visible under a sky with large, fluffy white clouds. A semi-transparent dark grey banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

Ocean Accounts Updates

Dr Ben Milligan, University of New South Wales, Co-Chair, Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

Institutional and political context:

UN system – UN Stats Commission request to ESCAP and UNEP to develop technical guidance on ocean accounts

High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy – 13 Heads of Government request recommendations on development of ocean accounts

National policy demand – emergence of integrated national strategies for developing the “blue” or “ocean” economy.

National pilot activities – diverse focus, at least 10 countries.

Focus of interest from HLP countries:

Identify how growth and employment are underpinned by specific ecosystem conditions and functions: **Invest \$X to restore ocean to condition Y = Z benefits.**

Identify where (and where not) and how marine ecosystems perform better than convention coastal infrastructure: **e.g. when do mangroves or wetlands provide more benefits than concrete?**

A **common set of facts** for different parts of government: environmental protection, infrastructure development, planning and finance, transport, fisheries, energy, etc.

HLP countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, Portugal.

Fragmentation is a big problem

Climate data

National census

Fish stock assessments

Shoreline maps

Ecological assessments

Tourism data

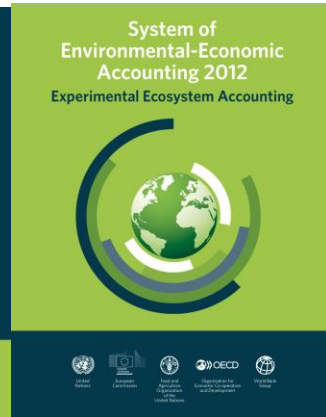
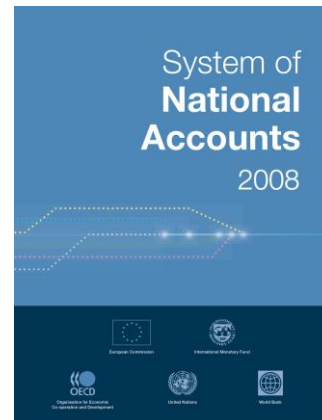
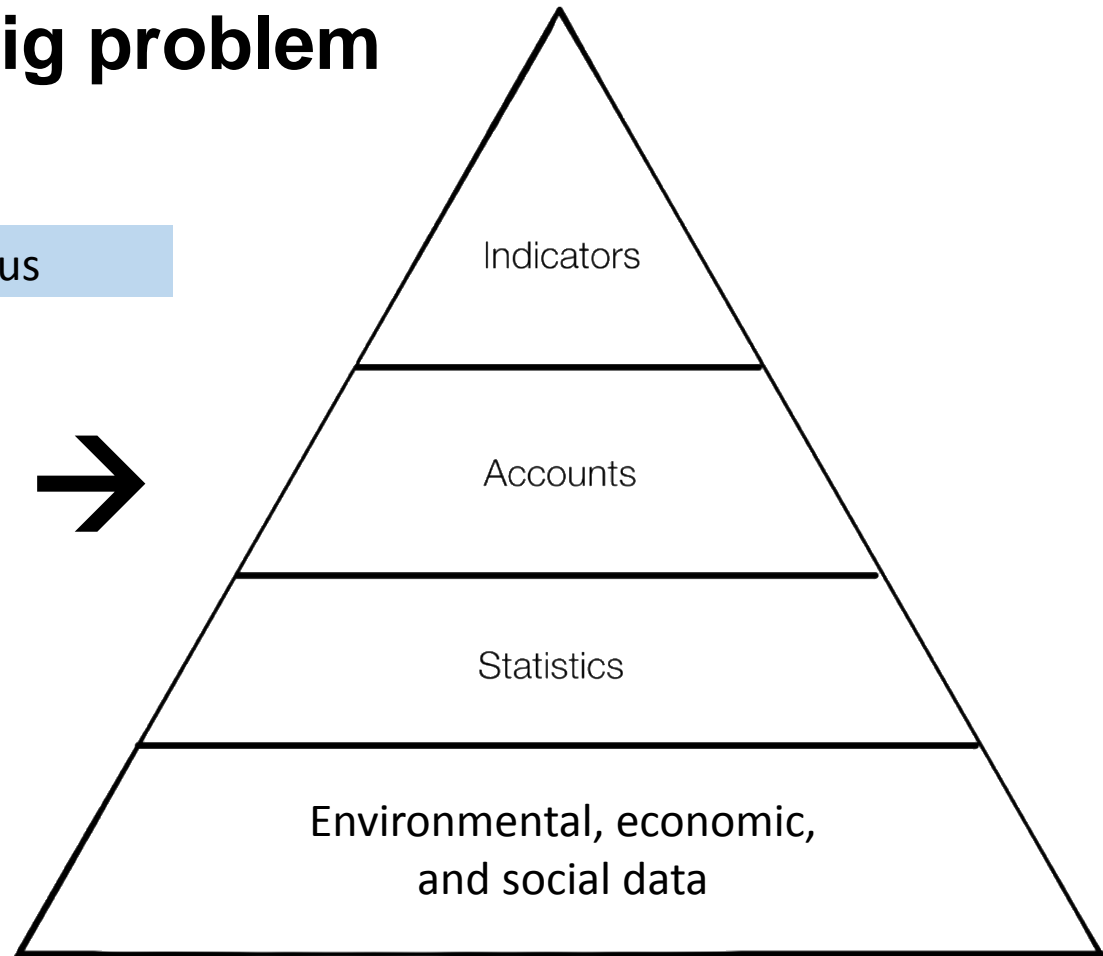
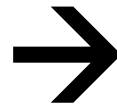
Hydrographic data

Biogeochemical data

Ocean industry statistics

Laws and policies

Pollution data



A large school of fish, possibly sardines, swimming in clear blue water, viewed from below. The fish are densely packed and move in a coordinated pattern, creating a dynamic and textured scene. The water is a vibrant blue, and the fish are silvery with dark outlines.

Technical progress towards ocean accounts

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Asia and the Pacific Regional Expert Workshop on Ocean Accounts

1 AUG 2018 TO 3 AUG 2018

BANGKOK, THAILAND



Based on our [Assessment of capacity development needs of the countries in Asia and the Pacific for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14](#), the region needs strengthening of technical capacity, coordination, governance, data and statistics, awareness, stakeholder engagement and partnerships.

Vital information to monitor and evaluate progress towards SDG 14 is available, but it is fragmented across scientific domains, policy frameworks and institutions.

ESCAP and UN Environment are leading a global effort to develop statistical guidance based on the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA). The Ocean Accounts Platform will provide guidance on electing, prioritizing and standardizing data of national, regional and global importance, so

Support Materials

[Concept Note](#) [Agenda](#) 

Contact

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Spatial framework for ocean accounting

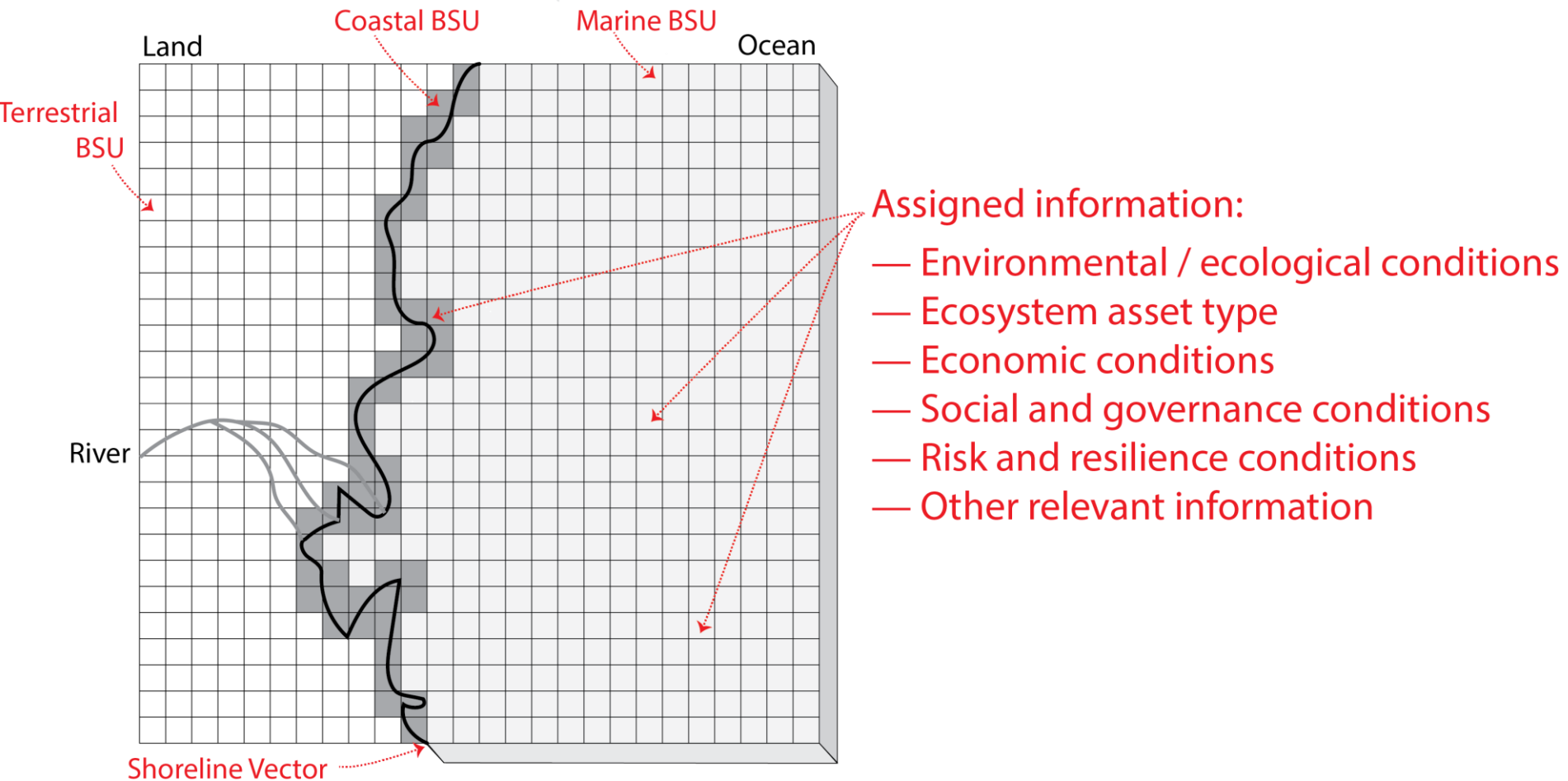
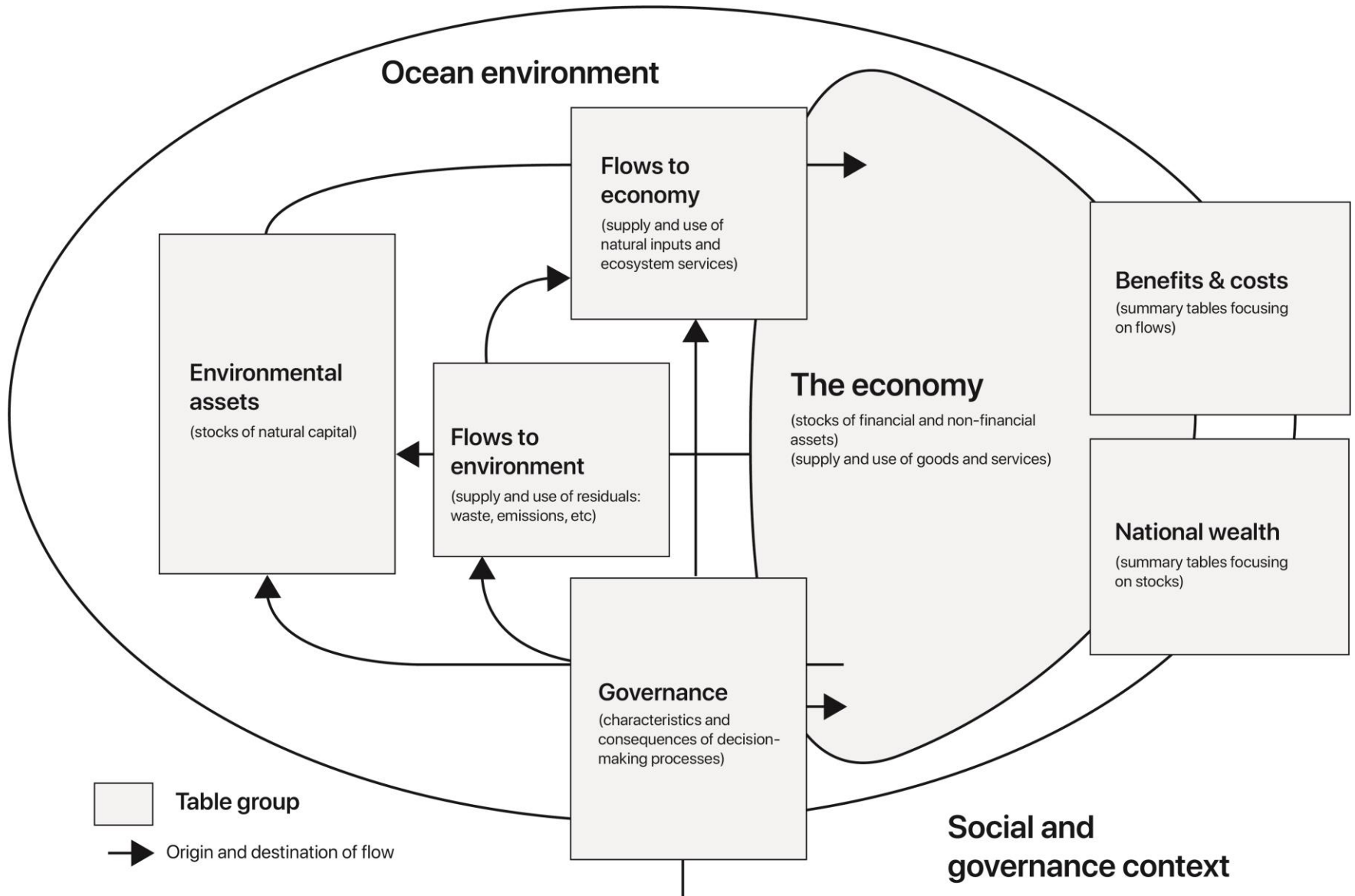


Table structure of ocean accounts



Side note on governance accounts

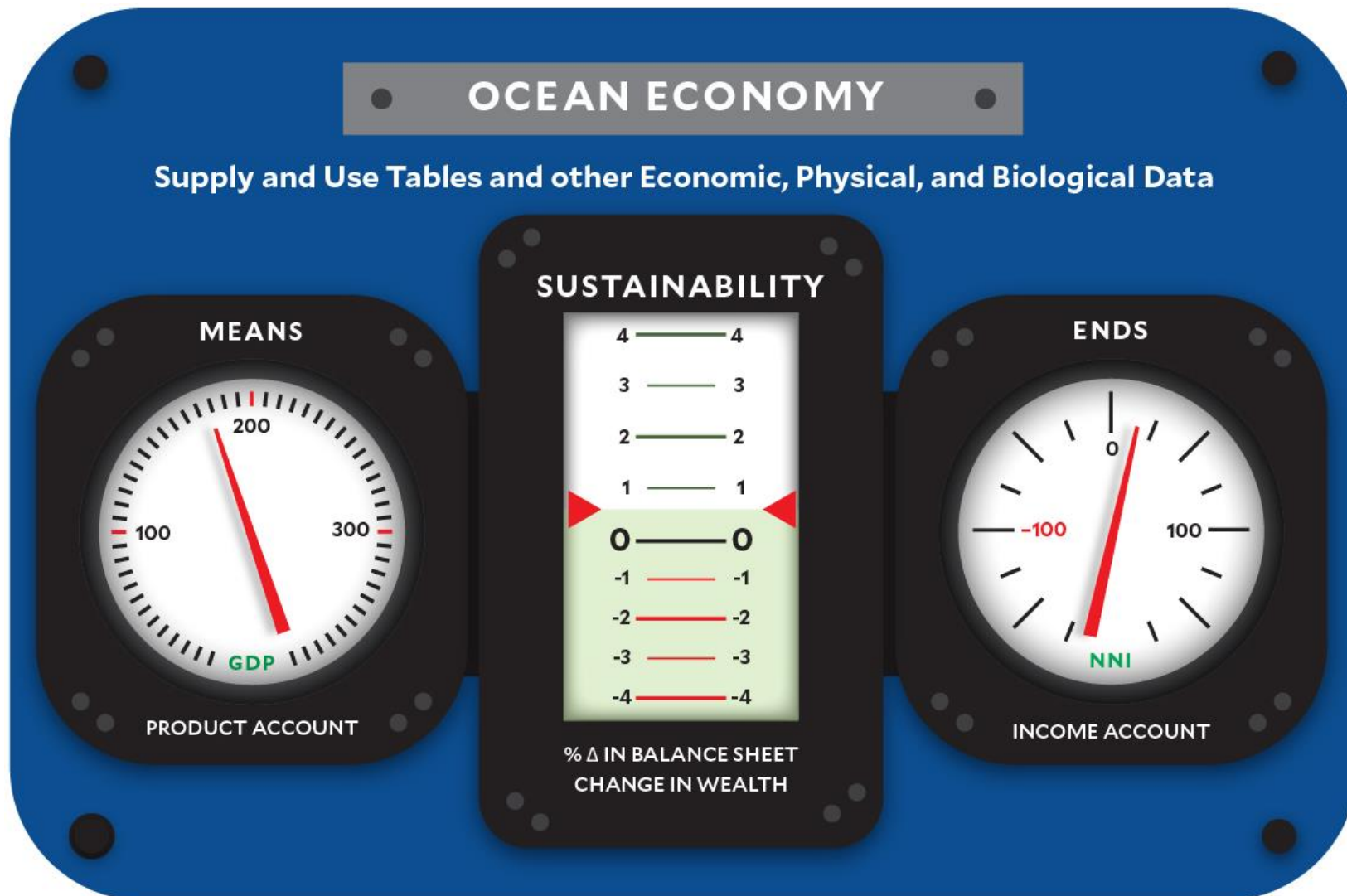
Table 13. Governance table: spatially explicit conditions (at end of accounting period)

<i>Repeat as needed for each Depth Layer:</i>	Spatial Unit 1	Spatial Unit 2	Spatial Unit 3	Measurement Units
Zoning				
Jurisdictional zone (e.g. Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, EEZ/CS)				Type classification based on national laws and policies
Management or planning zone (e.g. protected area, private property, aquaculture, energy development, submarine cable corridor, etc)				Type classification based on national laws and policies
Rules and decision-making institutions				
Activity 1 (e.g. small-scale fishing)				Written comments and references to official sources
Activity 2 (e.g. industrial fishing)				Written comments and references to official sources
Activity 3 (e.g. wind farm development)				Written comments and references to official sources
Social circumstances				
Topic 1 (e.g. Public health)				Appropriate indicators
Topic 2 (e.g. Poverty)				Appropriate indicators
Topic 3 (e.g. Social inclusion)				Appropriate indicators
Risk and resilience				
Topic 1 (e.g. Flood / storm surge risk)				Appropriate indicators
Topic 2 (e.g. Resilience)				Appropriate indicators

Table 14. Governance table: monetary conditions per sector (at end of accounting period)

	Industry 1 (e.g. shipping)	Industry 2 (e.g. fisheries)	Industry 3	Government
Protection and management expenditure				
Environmental goods and services provided				
R&D expenditure				
Tax less subsidies				

Key headline outputs of ocean accounts



Dashboard prototype

Note: Do not cite. See [here](#) for info on Norway's ocean value. Tourism and Recreation Values are not currently included in this version.

Norwegian Ocean Economy Dashboard

HIGH LEVEL PANEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

Blue Paper 8: National accounting for Ocean Productivity, Sustainability, Wealth and Welfare

NOK Base Year 2016

Define the Ocean Economy (Hold CTRL to Select Multiple)

- ☐ Building of ships, oil platforms and moduls and other transport equipment
- ☐ Oil and gas extraction
- ☐ Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs
- ☐ Service activities incidental to oil and gas
- ☐ Fishing and aquaculture
- ☐ Ocean transport

*(Blank) indicates No Data Available

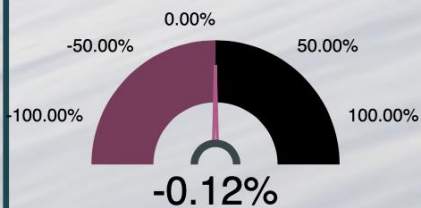
Define the Reference Year (1978-2016)

2015

to

2016

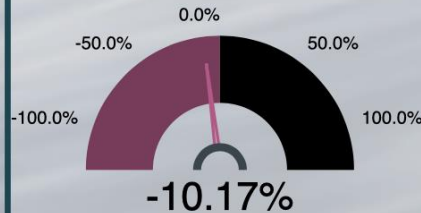
Value Added % Change to 2016



Value Added in Reference Year

495.84bn

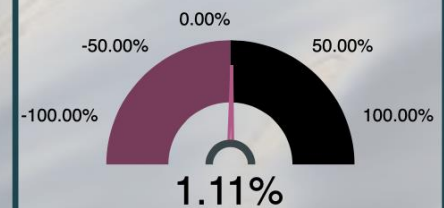
Income % Change to 2016



Income in Reference Year

121.11bn

Assets % Change to 2016



Produced Assets in Reference Year

1.52T

[Click here to explore in detail](#)



IO Table by Industry

☐ Fisheries Value
☐ Mining, Oil, and Gas

☐ Transportation
☐ Tourism

Income & Other Market Services

☐ Non-Market Services

Partial Balance Sheet

☐ Fisheries Stock
☐ Pollutants

Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting: 12–15 November 2019 in Sydney

Events • Aug 02, 2019

Update: To register for this event visit <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5179330/First-Global-Dialogue-on-Ocean-Accounting>

Update: [Draft Agenda and Explanatory Note available.](#)

Co-hosted by the University of New South Wales (UNSW), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, supported by the World Bank Blue Economy Program.

- **Dates:** 12–15 November 2019.
- **Venue:** John Niland Scientia Building, University of New South Wales, Sydney, High Street, Kensington, New South Wales, 2052, Australia.
- **Agenda:** Plenary and small-group working sessions, focusing on: (1) review and discussion of **draft global technical guidance** on ocean accounting, (2) presentation and discussion of ocean accounts **pilot projects**, (3) discussion and planning for improving connections between **ocean data, assessments and ocean governance**, (4) **high-level policy dialogue** on national accounting and the ocean economy. The draft agenda and explanatory note can be [viewed and downloaded here.](#)

A large school of fish swimming in clear blue water, viewed from below. The fish are densely packed and move in a coordinated pattern, creating a dynamic and visually striking scene. The water is a vibrant blue, and the fish are silhouetted against the lighter background.

Next steps for ocean accounting

Headline HLP recommendations:

Focus all policy decision-making on **three questions, not one**: how will this decision:

- (1) Change **ocean wealth**, including produced assets (e.g. ports) and non-produced assets (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves, fish stocks).
- (2) Change **income or welfare** for people?
- (3) Change **ocean-based economic production**?

Integrated accounts (environment, economy, social) are needed to answer these questions

Headline recommendations: accounts

When building integrated ocean accounts, use **existing internationally agreed frameworks** for national accounting:

- System of National Accounts 2008
- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012
- Framework for Development of Environment Statistics

Avoid the prevailing **overreliance on GDP**

Avoid **overreliance on ad hoc assessment**

Realistic objectives for ocean accounts

25 by 25: at least 25 countries have published ocean accounts by 2025 covering: **(1)** ocean production (GVA / GDP), **(2)** ocean income or welfare, **(3)** ocean wealth including ecosystems.

50 by 25: at least 50 countries have published, by 2025, an action plan for developing and maintaining ocean accounts.

International coordination focusing on standardization, and inventory of global datasets to support national accounts.

Achieving objectives through partnership

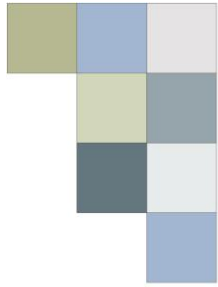
Given current status of ocean accounting, **partnerships are crucial** for building capacity, sharing best practices, and overcoming outstanding challenges.

Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

established in 2019 lead by ESCAP:
membership open to diverse institutions, who make a non-binding commitment to ToR.

First **Global Dialogue on Ocean**

Accounting: November 12–15 in Sydney.



Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

info@oceanaccounts.org

www.oceanaccounts.org

Miscellaneous Slides

Ocean accounts projects around the world:

Beyond HLPO: Projects in Bangladesh, China, Costa Rica, EU, Kenya, Malaysia, Myanmar, Netherlands, Samoa, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, UK, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

Within HLPO: All countries have made some progress towards ocean accounts. The **key gap is integration of environmental and economic data** in a single accounting structure.

Australia: DEE / ABS environmental accounts

Fiji: Disaggregated economic accounting for ocean sectors

Indonesia: Range of pilot programs for different economic and environmental components of ocean accounting

Japan: Detailed but discrete environmental datasets and economic acc.

Palau: Several relevant pilots and economic data for ocean sectors

	Production Accounts Disaggregated to Ocean Economy	Physical Production Accounts Only at Level of Ocean Economy	Physical/Monetary Production Accounts Somewhat Disaggregated	Contribution of Ocean Economy to Production Unable to be Reported
Fisheries	13	1	0	0
Tourism	10	1	2	1
Transportation	3	4	1	6
Mining, Oil, and Petroleum	2	1	0	11

Different types of ocean accounts emerging for different capacities and needs: e.g.

Economic focus: disaggregation of existing national accounts to support development planning for specific industries and sectors.

Environmental focus: better structured information to support pollution monitoring and control, environmental health assessment, environmental regulation and permitting, protected areas and species.

Integrated focus: ocean economy development planning, marine and coastal spatial planning, designation of marine protected areas



Global Ocean
Accounts Partnership

- Responsible for
- Interested in

	BEIS	OGA	MHCLG	DEFRA	JNCC	CEFAS	EA	MMO	DfT	MCA	DIT	FCO	MOD	UKHO
Biodiversity				●	●	○	●	○				●		
Border security/defence									●	●	○		●	
Coastal communities			●	●		○	○	○	○					
Coastal tourism	○		○					○	○	○		●		
Communications			○					○	○	○	○	○	●	●
International law	○			●	○		○	○	●	●	○	●	○	●
Fishing and aquaculture	○		○	●	○	●	●	○		○	○	●		○
Mapping		●	○	●	○			○	○	●	○	○	●	●
Marine science	○			●	○						○	●		●
Marine spatial planning	○	○	○	●	○		○	●	○	●		○		○
Maritime manufacturing	●		○					○	○	○	●		○	
Maritime trade	○		○	○	●			○	●	○	●	○	○	●
Maritime business services	●		○	○				○			○		○	●
Offshore renewables	●	○	○	●	●	○	○		○	○	○	○		●
Mining	●	○	○	●	○		●				○	●		○
Natural capital	○	○		●	○	○		○				○		○
Naval capability				○							○	○	●	●
Oil and gas	○	●	○	○	●		●	○			○	○		○
Overseas territories and crown	○			●	●				○	○	○	●	○	●
Polar regions	○	○		○	●				○			●	○	●
Ports and infrastructure	○	○	○	●		○		●	●	○	○	○	○	
Safety/security at sea				○					●	●	○	●	○	
UK & Global climate change	●		○	●	○			○	○			○		



CBD



CTED



ESCAP



FAO



IAEA



ILO



OHRLLS



UNCTAD



UNDP



UNEP



UNESCO



UNHCR



IMO



IOC



ISA



DESA



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ODA



UNIDO



UNITAR



UNU



UNWTO



WMO



World Bank

