

Science for policy

...in marine governance settings

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Background to the study

- How to produce science that is relevant for policy?

- Domain

Marine governance

- Spatial planning
- Ecosystem Approach



Learning from previous work

■ Three case studies:

1. Making EU Fisheries Ecosystem Plan Operational (MEFEPO)
2. Preparatory action for Marine Spatial Planning in the North Sea (MASPNOSE)
3. Marine Strategy Framework Directive

■ Approach:

- Team of IMARES & internship (Sara)
- Interviewing involved stakeholders, researchers & 'clients' (policy officers) to the research projects

Research Question

- What is the **role of knowledge (science)** and **knowledge actors (scientists)** within the overall governance set-up in which the research projects take place?
- How do the **knowledge components (project outputs)** fit within the overall **policy cycle** of decision-making? >> **Uptake of knowledge**

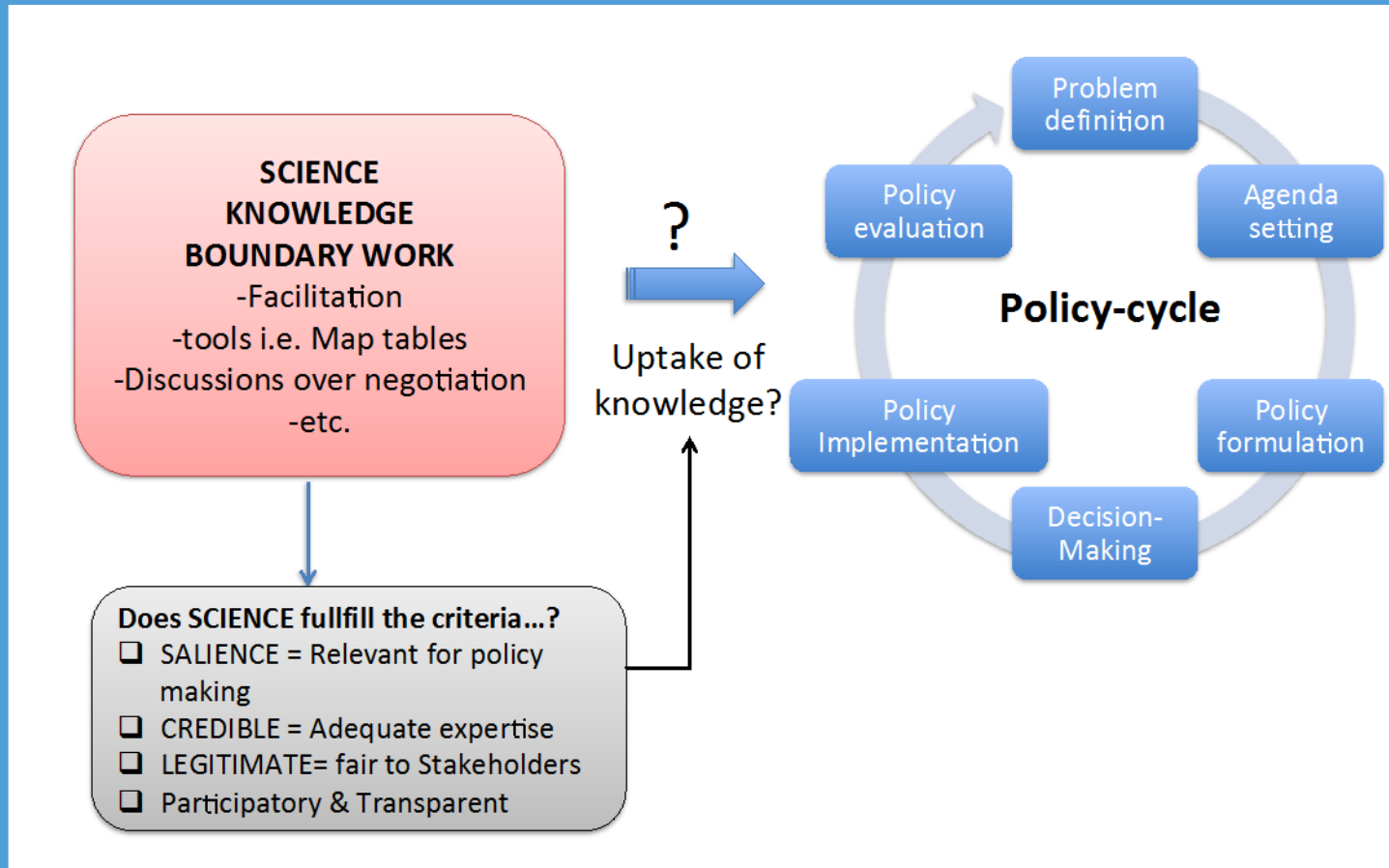
Theoretical building blocks

- Role of scientists / science:
 - Classification Pielke (2007)
 - Boundary work (Clark et al 2010)
- Uptake of knowledge: *“the influence of science depends on the extent that it is perceived by multiple stakeholders as satisfying **the salience, credibility and legitimacy**”* (Clark et al., 2010:1).

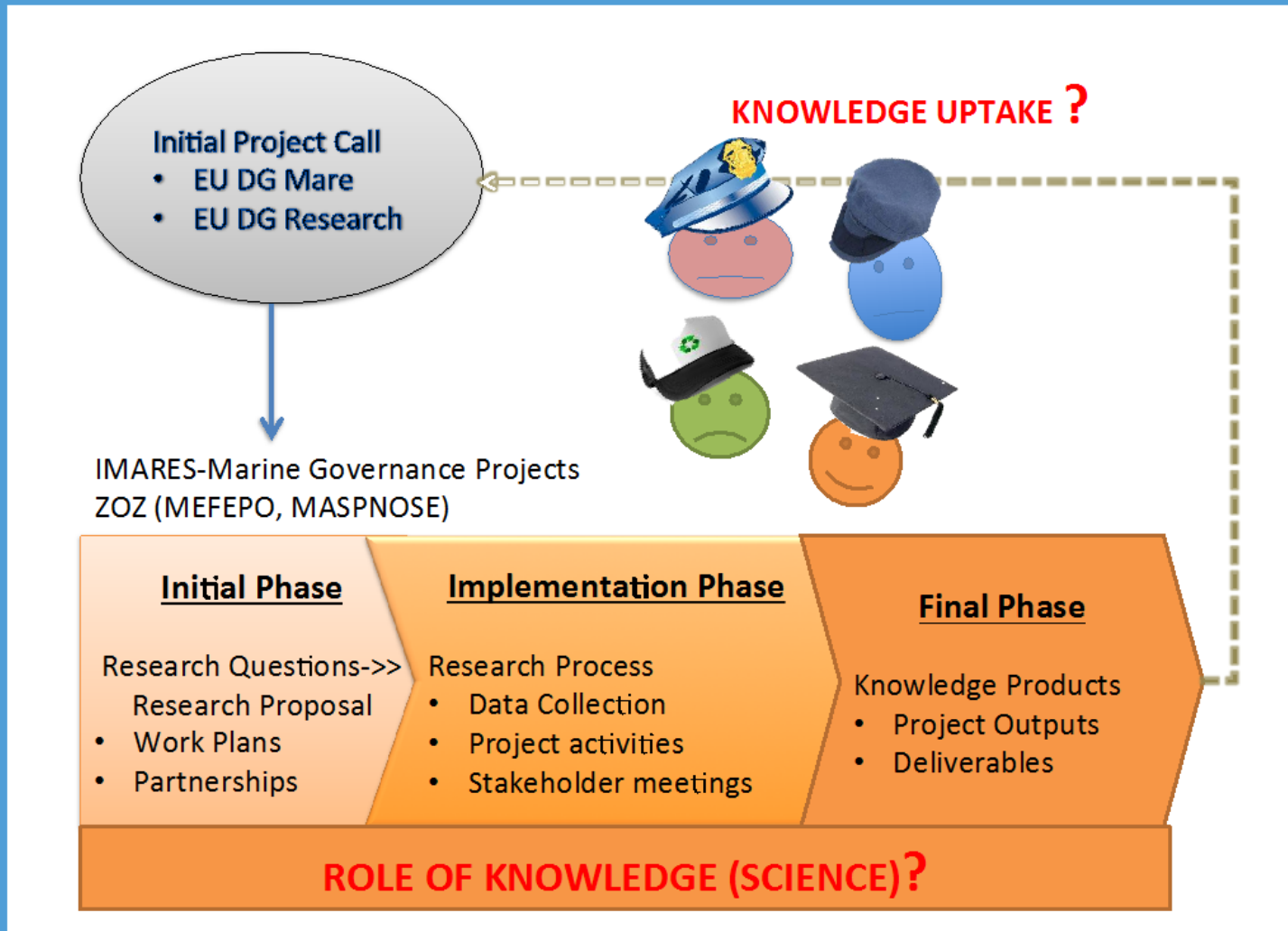
| View of Science | |
|---|---|
| Linear model | Stakeholder model |
| <p>Pure scientist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on research (the truth) with no consideration for its use or practical implication of results • Has no direct connection with decision-makers. • Research as a reservoir of knowledge available to all decision-makers | <p>Issue Advocate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the implications of research for a particular political agenda • Seeks to participate in the decision-making process (engage science & decision-makers) • Seeks to reduce the scope of available choice |
| <p>Science Arbiter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stays removed from explicit policy and politics • Has direct interaction with decision-makers to provide them expert judgment • Seeks to focus on issues that can be resolved by science • Removed from a closer interaction with stakeholders | <p>Honest Broker of Policy Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages in decision-making exploring possible alternatives and their implications. The goal is not to eliminate options but to expand the scope of choices available to policy makers. • Integrates scientific knowledge with stakeholder concerns • Places scientific understanding in the context of a variety of policy options |



Uptake of science in the policy cycle



Approach taken



2 case studies

| ZOZ Project | MASPNOSE | MEFEPO |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Project | Preparatory action for Marine Spatial Planning in the North Sea | Making European Fisheries Ecosystem Plan Operational |
| Goal | Cross-border issues on MSP Support the EU policy towards MSP | Operationalize the EAFM (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management) |
| Client | EU DG MARE | EU DG MARE |
| Drivers | Mix of policy and research Support & facilitate stakeholder process Process +: stakeholder driven process Content - | Science driven project with potential impact on the CFP reform Process – Content + |
| Focus: case studies | Case study 1: The development of the fisheries management proposal for the Dogger Bank in MASPNOSE | Case study 2: the challenges to implement the EAFM in MEFEPO |
| Stakeholders Interviewed | 11 interviews : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 researchers • 4 government officers (3 MS & 1 non-MS officer) • 1 EU DG MARE • 4 stakeholders (1 NSRAC, 2 fisheries and 1 NGO) | 8 interviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 researchers • 2 government officers • 2 stakeholder s (Pelagic RAC and 1 fisheries) • 0 representative from DG MARE |

MASPNOSE - Role of science – in a facilitation role

Positive feedback

- Neutral platform
- Use of mapping tools



Negative feedback

- Unclear terms of reference
- Lack of information to solve uncertainties
- Mistrust in the process
- Change in facilitation mode (from discussion to negotiation)
- Lack of mandate

MASPNOSE - Role of scientists

- 'honest broker of policy alternatives' (Pielke, 2007): exploring possible alternatives and their implications, expanding and clarifying the scope of choice.
- Researcher: *'Will they accept this as a useable and valuable knowledge? (...) I was trying to match the output of the project with the expectation of the stakeholders around the project, including the EC'*
- Scientists involved focussed on facilitation and governance issues. That was both valued as well as criticised.
- Policy maker: *..."I don't need anybody to tell me how this job should be done... at least not by saying: 'according to governance theory we should do it like this!'"*



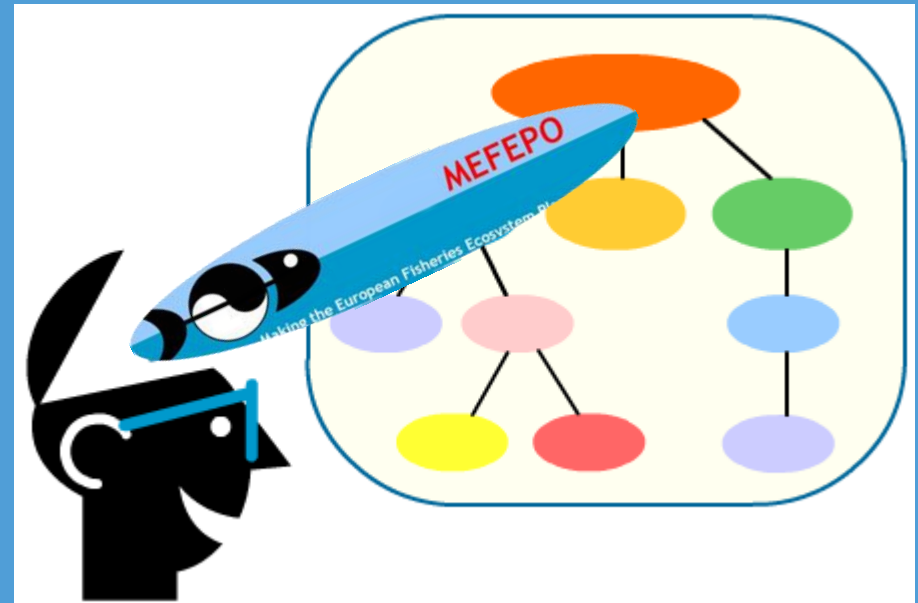
MASPNOSE - Uptake of science

- Project outputs: 'reports who nobody reads' (gov off)
- Process: useful, learning experience, neutral platform – develop a common knowledge base
- Effective boundary work facilitated the spread of ideas and knowledge to enter the policy cycle
 - Fishers: our data has been taken into consideration
- ToR & ecological indicators – not effective boundary work
- 10 MSP Principles vague – assessed as not relevant (gov off)



MEFEPO

- Too much science oriented
- Difficult to find respondents
- Timing
- lack of boundary work
- Stakeholder process badly organised
- Uptake???



General conclusions

Role of science

Balancing act
Relevance & credibility

MASPNOSE
Neutral platform

MEFEPO
Science driven

MEFEPO
In theory highly relevant

MASPNOSE
Real process

MASPNOSE
Discrepancy process - content

MASPNOSE
Effective boundary work

MASPNOSE
Link with policy cycle not optimal

Uptake of science



Questions?

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