

Abstract ID – 1514

Theme 4: Linking science and management

Invited speaker

The 2nd International Symposium on
Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Arendal, Norway
3 – 7 July 2011

Science Policy Interactions: Between policy fragmentation, integration and new paradigms for planning and management

Andreas Kannen

Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht
Max-Planck Str. 1
D-21502 Geesthacht
Germany

Andreas.Kannen@hzg.de

Abstract

Human activities in marine areas are increasing in number and intensity, and patterns of sea use are changing as a result of political, economic and societal developments. In addition proposed mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change might alter sea use patterns further and consequently the distribution and intensity of human impacts on marine ecosystems. Associated to the multitude of issues and sea uses are fragmented policy frameworks, not only divided by sectors but also between environmental regimes and the balancing approach of Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning, both claiming to be integrative. But even when integrated assessments (rare as they are) may more or less adequately ascertain the impacts, the implementation of resulting management plans is hampered by the potentially conflicting, jurisdictional policy objectives of various levels and arms of government in a given geographical area. Furthermore, neither long-term climate change impacts nor future socio-economic and cultural developments can be precisely predicted and put in definite numbers which offer a definitive guide for policy development. Planning under these circumstances can be characterised with the term “planning under uncertainty” and requires a move towards continuous planning processes reacting upon changing contexts instead of mainly data driven decisions. Today’s prevailing approach of scientific management seems to be ill equipped to offer solutions under these circumstances, for example in dealing with cumulative effects resulting from multiple sector-based activities or with normative conflicts between different actors. This presentation will illustrate such problems using specific examples and argue for a move towards adaptive, transnational and participative modes of coastal and marine governance using tools such as visioning and research which analyses the particular social, cultural and normative context of decision making. It aims to link the context in which institutions act to potential contributions of research.