



## MASTS PECRE FINAL REPORT

### Deliberative valuation of marine ecosystem services



*Lina Isacs, Stockholm*

#### **Institutions involved**

Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Oban, Scotland

*Host*

Department of Sustainable Development, Environmental Engineering  
KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

*Home institution*

#### **Aim of the exchange**

The main aim of this exchange was to establish contacts and enable further collaboration between researchers within marine socioeconomics in Scotland and Stockholm, and, notably, for me personally, to gain experiences and new insights from working together with my PhD co-supervisor Dr Jasper Kenter and his research group on the topics we share an interest in: deliberative approaches to socioeconomic assessment of policies in general, and valuation of ecosystem services in marine areas in specific. The PECRE award provided for a six week visit to SAMS, Oban, which I split in two during 2016 (four weeks in Nov-Dec) and 2017 (two weeks in Oct).

#### **Scientific output**

The work during my first stay (2016) was entirely dedicated to analysing my then recently collected empirical material on values of combined top-down and bottom-up control of eutrophication at the Swedish west coast, and to prepare a scientific paper together with Dr Kenter relating to this. The empirics consisted in a mix of quantitative and qualitative data from a series of deliberative valuation workshops with local stakeholders in the area called “8 fjords“ north of Gothenburg. The scientific output of these first four weeks of the exchange was, importantly, to have pinpointed and outlined a draft based on some of the main contributions found in my data. The topic –facilitation of deliberative valuations – is described accordingly in our paper draft, which I and Dr Kenter continued to work with during my second visit (2017):

Facilitation can be defined as a set of specific activities and actions initiated and performed by the facilitator of a deliberative process with the aim to make it more effective in some sense. This includes considerations of how to tackle in-group power dynamics and related inequalities, trust issues and social desirability biases, framing biases and more broadly the desired *versus* the actual impact of facilitators

themselves. In the increasing number of studies on deliberative valuation, facilitation is emphasised as one of the determining factors for the quality of deliberative valuation. Few studies are however clear and transparent about how, or indeed whether at all, active facilitation is used and operationalised. Although key in shaping the discursive exchange and group dynamics required to support effective deliberation, and despite it frequently being highlighted as crucial for the legitimacy of a deliberative process, detailed descriptions, discussions and recommendations around facilitation-related issues still lack in the deliberative valuation literature.

Our paper addresses this issue and provides practical tools on how to go about facilitating valuation exercises, also tackling typical caveats associated with deliberative valuations. We draw on Dr Kenter's Deliberative Value Formation Model (DVM) (2016, published in *Ecosystem Services*), which outlines the main factors of influence for different deliberative valuation outcomes, of which the design of the facilitation and the facilitator herself play – according to us – may be central for overcoming the most commonly critical issues in deliberative valuation. We exemplify with case studies from our own research on deliberative valuation in marine environmental management, but we think the results are relevant to other deliberative settings too, whenever participatory elements are part of the process.

#### **Other outputs resulting from the exchange**

- I presented my research at a Laurence Mee Centre seminar at SAMS, Nov 2016.
- Attended a workshop in Dec 2016 on practical and theoretical matters related to mixed methods and participatory and deliberative research at the University of Edinburgh with Professor Andy Thompson (Chair of Public Policy and Citizenship at the School of Social and Political Science at Edinburgh University) and Jen Roberts (from University of Strathclyde, which was invaluable, also thanks Professor Thompson generously sharing literature and material in subsequent contacts.
- Inimitable learning gave the opportunity to take part in a deliberative workshop with members from the public in Greenock, Clyde, in Oct 2017, as part of the regional marine planning (Clyde Marine Planning Partnership), which Dr Kenter and one of his other PhD students Jacob Ainscough co-organised and facilitated.
- Both of the above contributed significantly to my research, and I am delighted to have met Jacob and expect to work with him more in the future.
- Attended a Valuing Nature Programme Conference in Edinburgh, 18-19 October.
- Dr Kenter has been invited to speak at the annual World Water Day hosted by Stockholm International Water Institute on Mar 22, 2018. He is asked to present experiences from the work done in Scotland on deliberative processes and initiatives taken to involve the public in marine policy.

The most significant outcome for me personally, though, I must say, was the time I had to focus, read and reflect in an inspiring research milieu that offered unique opportunities to discuss my research with, apart from Dr Kenter, PhD student Jacob Ainscough, post-doc fellow Dr Simone Martino, Dr Sue Billing and research fellow Lucy Greenhill.