

Problems and successes in water management – causes, consequences and responses

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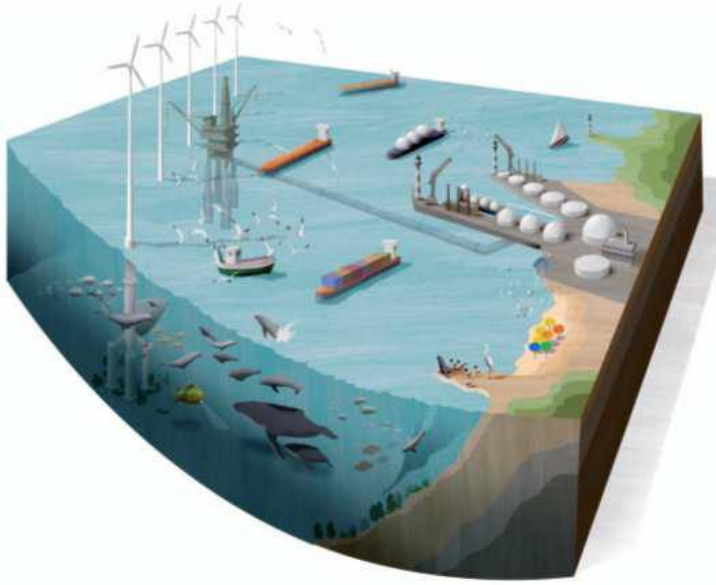
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Challenges for estuarine/marine science & management:



There is only one big idea: *how to maintain and protect ecological structure and functioning while at the same time allowing the system to produce ecosystem services from which we derive societal benefits.*

- Recovery/coping with historical legacy
- Endangered coastal and marine ecosystem functions
- Legal & administrative framework
- Economic prosperity and delivery of societal benefits
- Coping with climate change & moving baselines

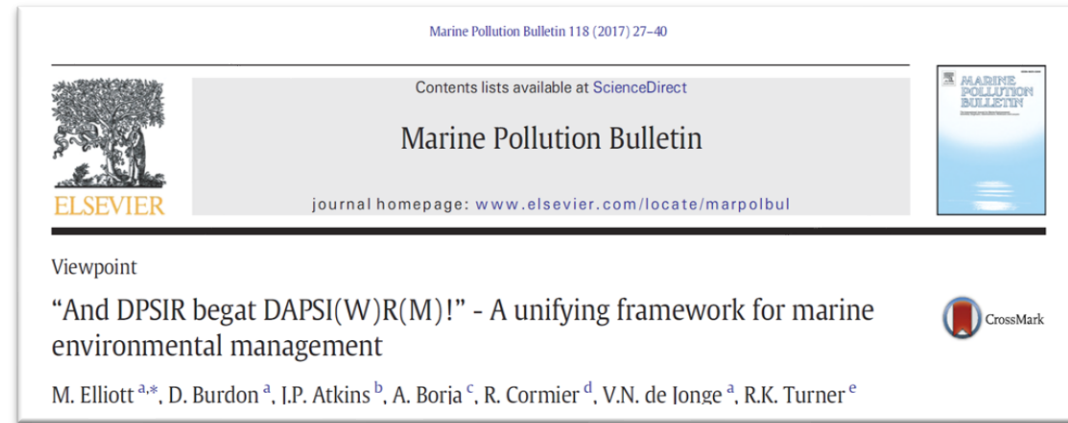
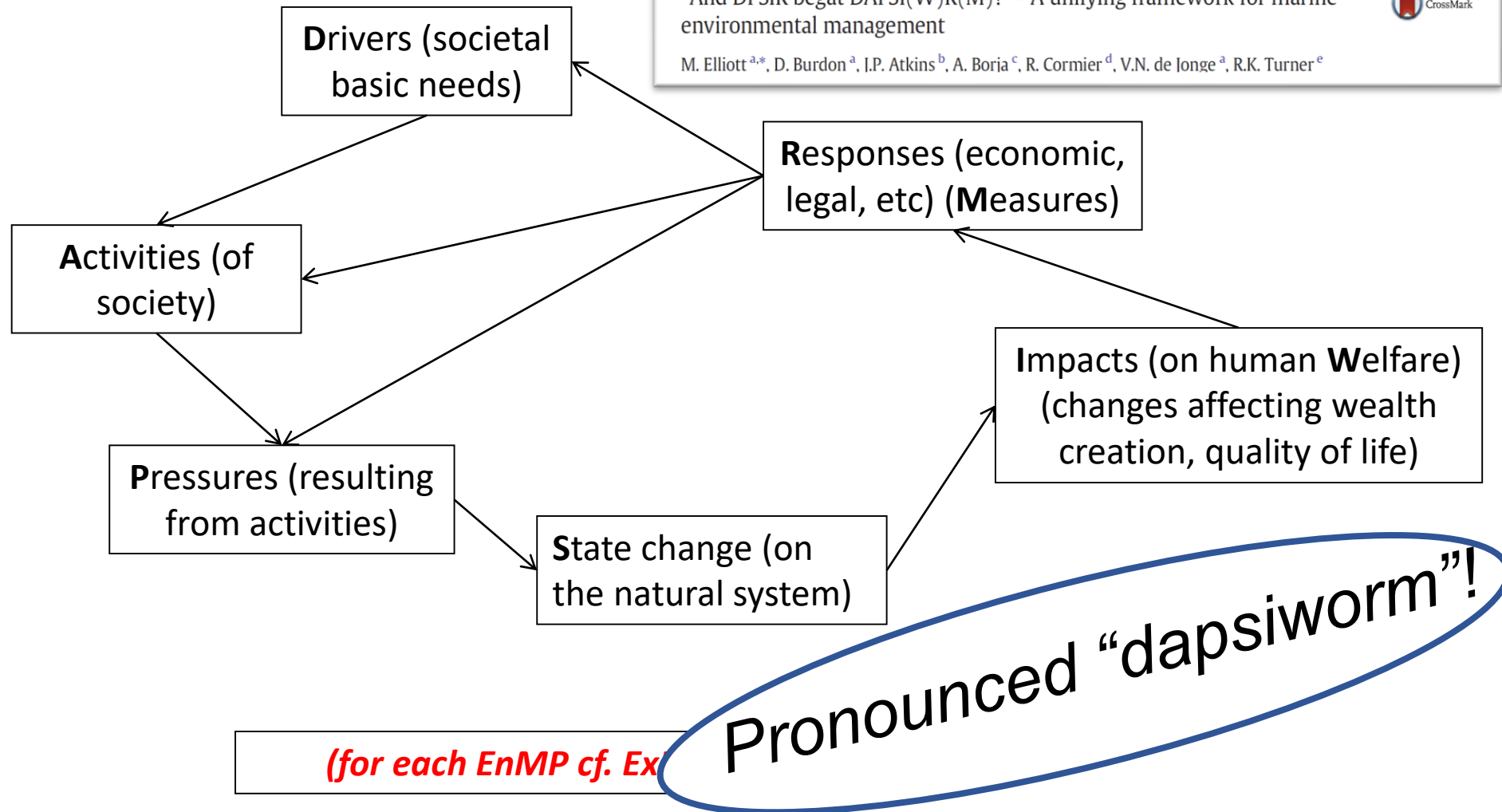
In other words:

“to look after the natural stuff and deliver the human stuff”

Environmental Management Questions:

- Where are the problems & What changes do they cause?
- What is the impact of these on ecosystem structure and functioning?
- What are the repercussions for ecosystem valuation based on economy-ecology interactions?
- What are the future environmental changes and economic futures?
- What governance framework is there, what do stakeholders need?
- What can we do about the problems?
- Where are the risks and how to address them now and in the future?
- What are the governance successes, failures and implications?
- How 'good' is the decision-making?
- What are the bottlenecks, showstoppers and train-wrecks?

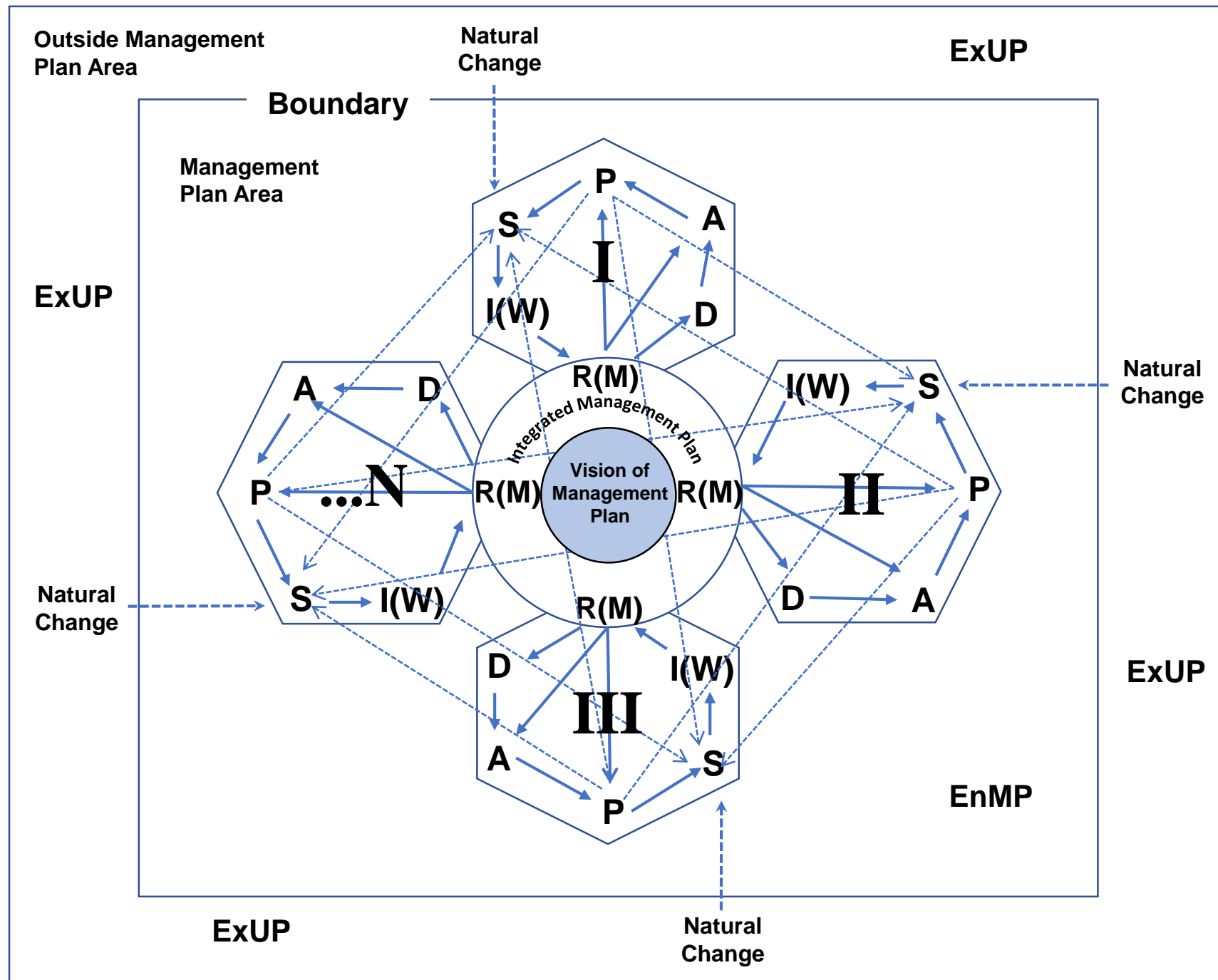
DAPSI(W)R(M) framework



Activities contributing to Endogenic Managed Pressures

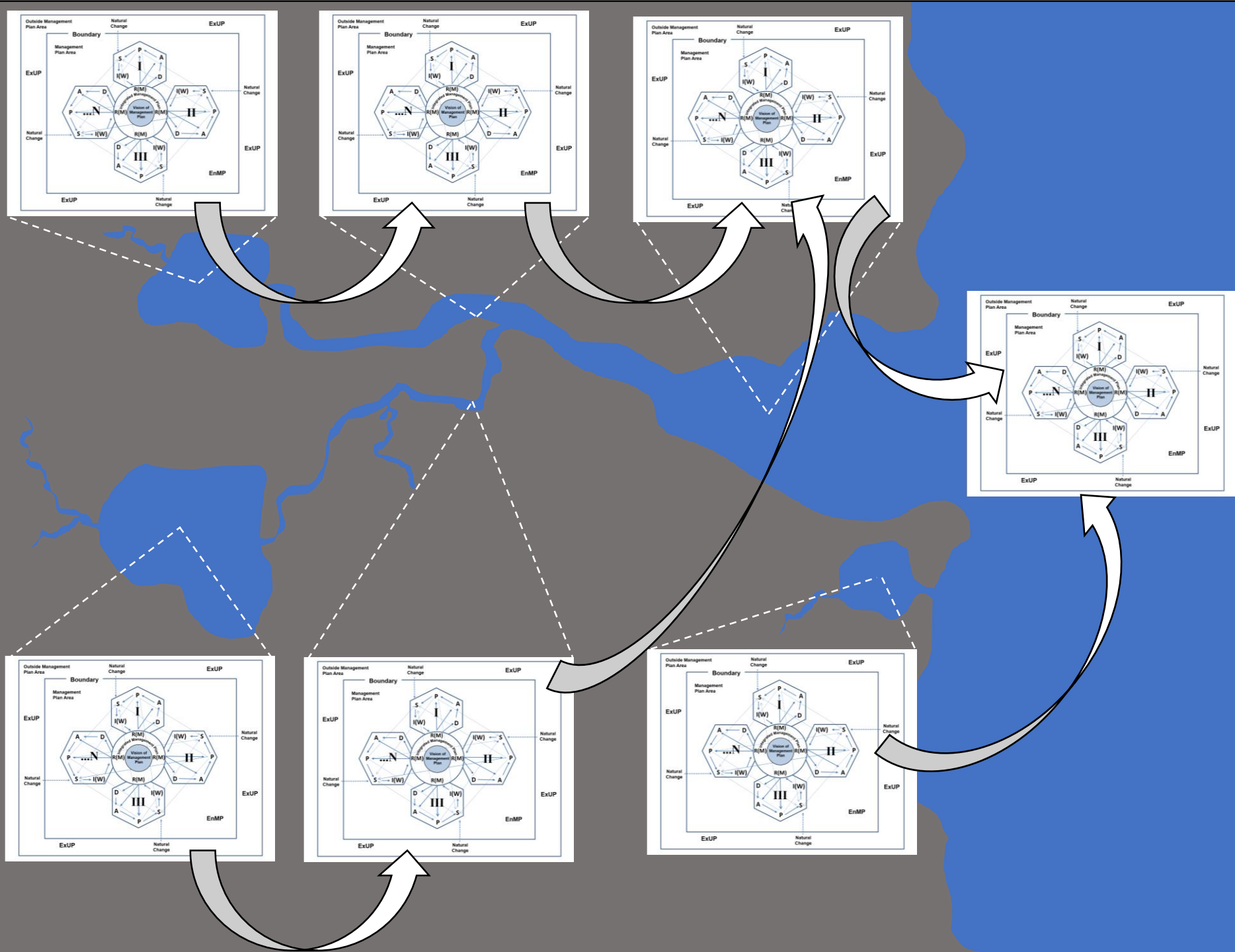
(Elliott et al 2017)

Activity	Pressures	
Aquaculture	Smothering	Nitrogen and phosphorus enrichment
Extraction of living resources	Substratum loss	Input of organic matter
Transport & Shipping	Changes in siltation	Introduction of microbial pathogens
Renewable Energy	Abrasion	Introduction of non-indigenous species and translocations
Non-renewable (fossil fuel) Energy	Selective extraction of non-living resources (habitat removal)	Selective extraction of species
Non-renewable (nuclear) Energy	Underwater noise	Death or injury by collision
Extraction of non-living resources	Litter	Barrier to species movement
Navigational Dredging	Thermal regime change	Emergence regime change
Coastal Infrastructure	Salinity regime change	Water flow rate changes
Land-based Industry	Introduction of synthetic compounds	pH changes
Agriculture	Introduction of non-synthetic compounds	Electromagnetic changes
Tourism/Recreation	Introduction of radionuclides	Change in wave exposure
Military	Introduction of other substances	
Research		
Carbon Sequestration		

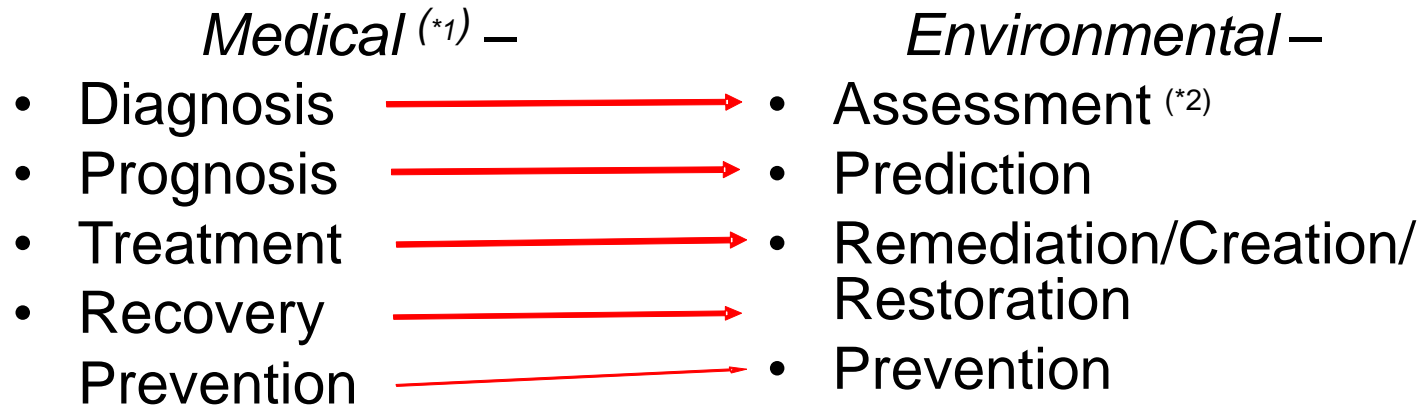


Exogenic Unmanaged Pressures (from Elliott et al 2017)

Pressure	Description
Thermal regime change	Temperature change (average, range, variability) climate change (large scale)
Salinity regime change	Temperature change (average, range, variability) due climate change (large scale)
Emergence regime change	Change in natural sea level (mean, variation, range) due climate change (large scale) and isostatic rebound
Water flow rate changes	Change in currents (speed, direction, variability) due climate change (large scale)
pH changes	Change in pH (mean, variation, range) due climate change (large scale), volcanic activity (local)
Change in wave exposure	Change in size, number, distribution and/or periodicity of waves along a coast due to climate change (large scale).



Unhealthy systems?



(*1 Steevens et al 2001 - Human Ecol. Risk Ass.)

(* 2 *using extension of
symptoms for the diagnosis
of ecosystem pathology*)

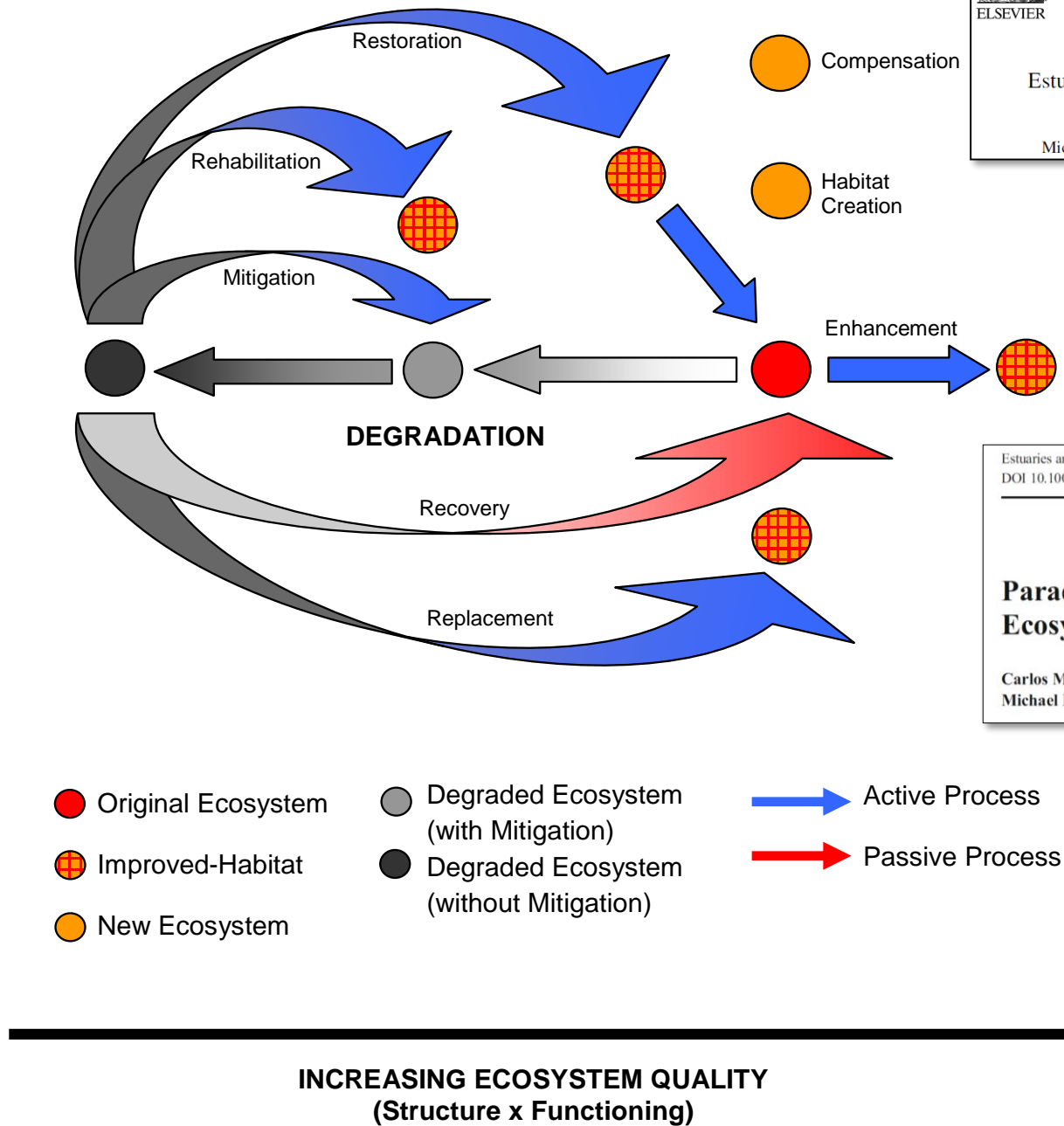
Comparison of the health of medical and environmental systems
(modified from Elliott & Cutts 2004; see Tett et al., MEPS 2013)

Medium- and Long-term Recovery of Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems: Patterns, Rates and Restoration Effectiveness

Ángel Borja · Daniel M. Dauer · Michael Elliott · Charles A. Simenstad

Paradigms in the Recovery of Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystems

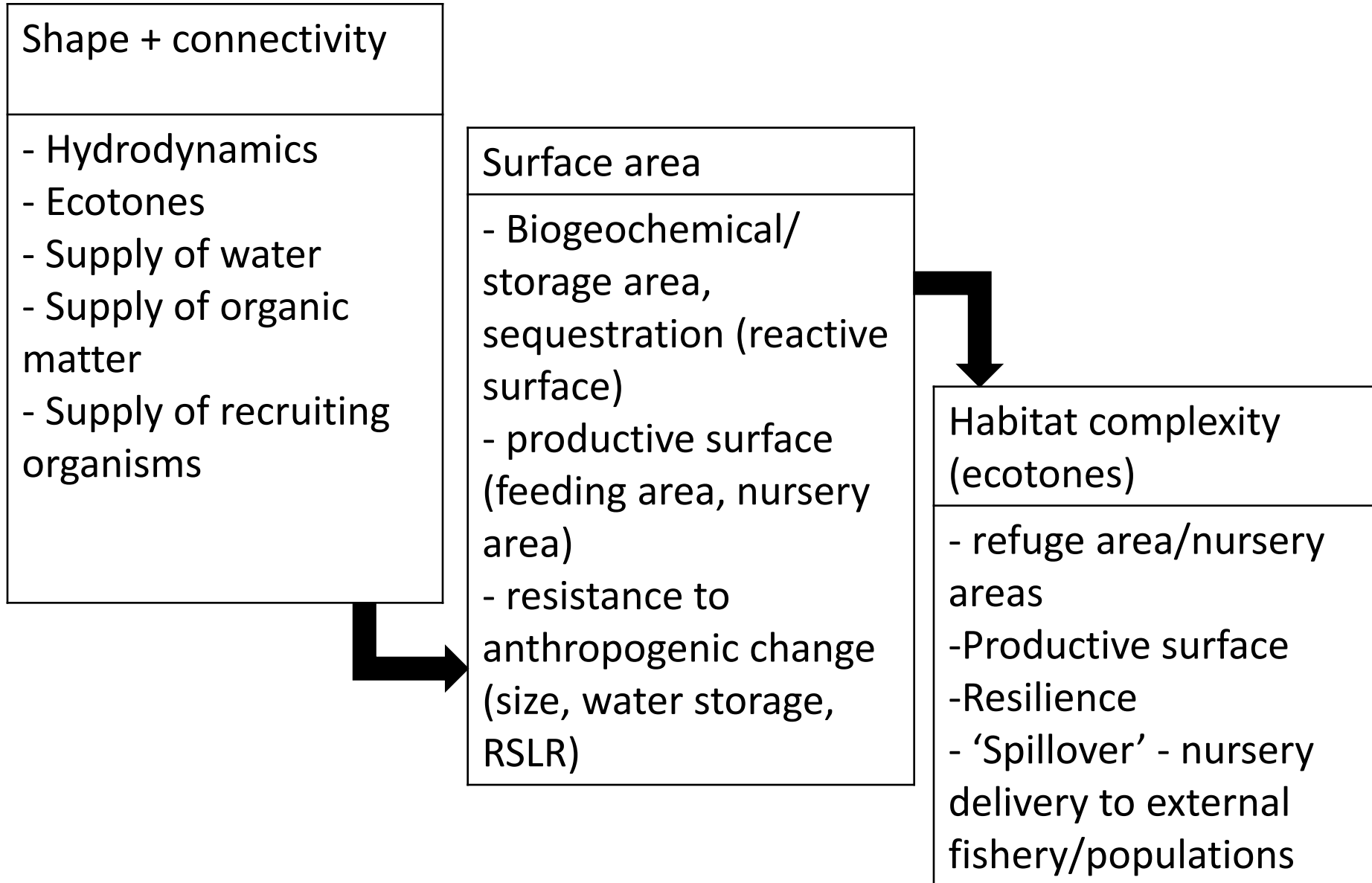
**Carlos M. Duarte • Angel Borja • Jacob Carstensen •
Michael Elliott • Dorte Krause-Jensen • Núria Marbà**

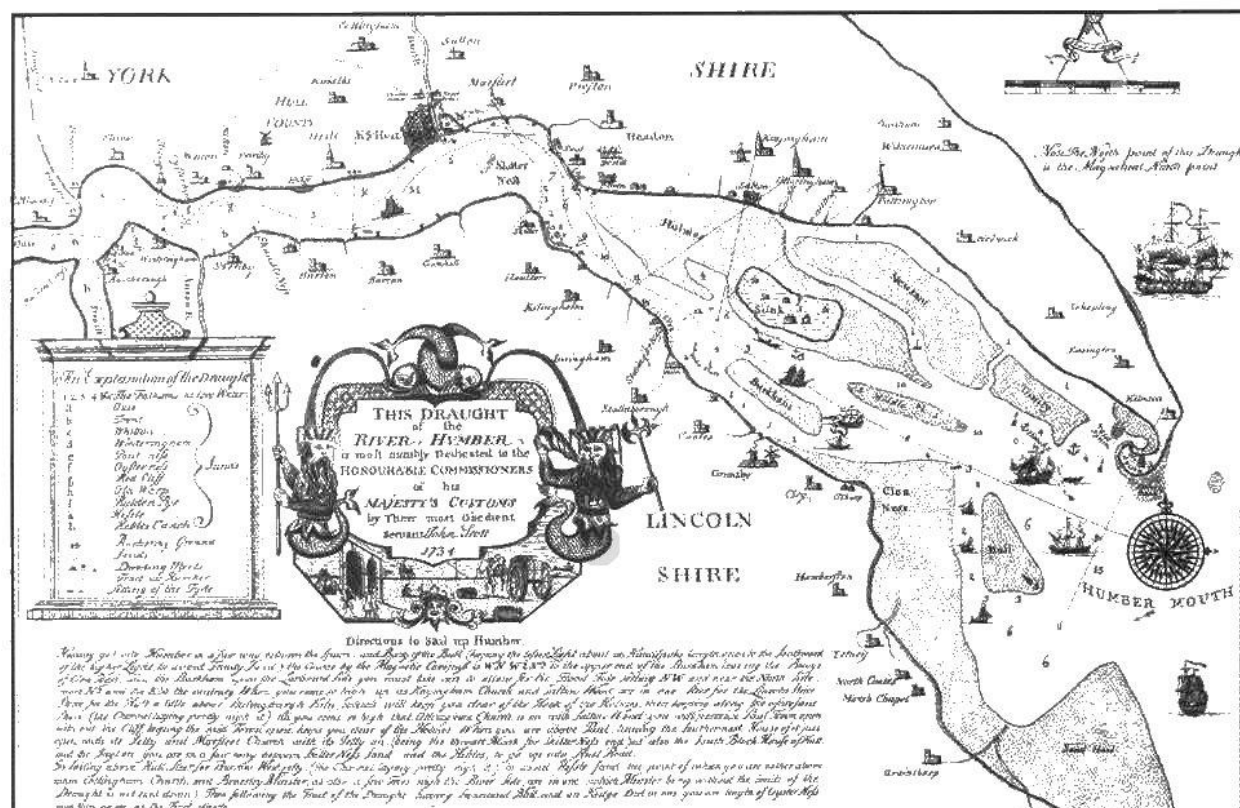


Why Recreate/Restore/Offset?

1. Policy
2. Obligations Voluntary offsets
3. Objectives Enforced offsets
4. Law Legally binding
5. Due diligence
6. Green credentials Economic incentives
7. Rectify historical losses (restore or increase ecological and socio-economic carrying capacity, ecosystem services and societal benefits)

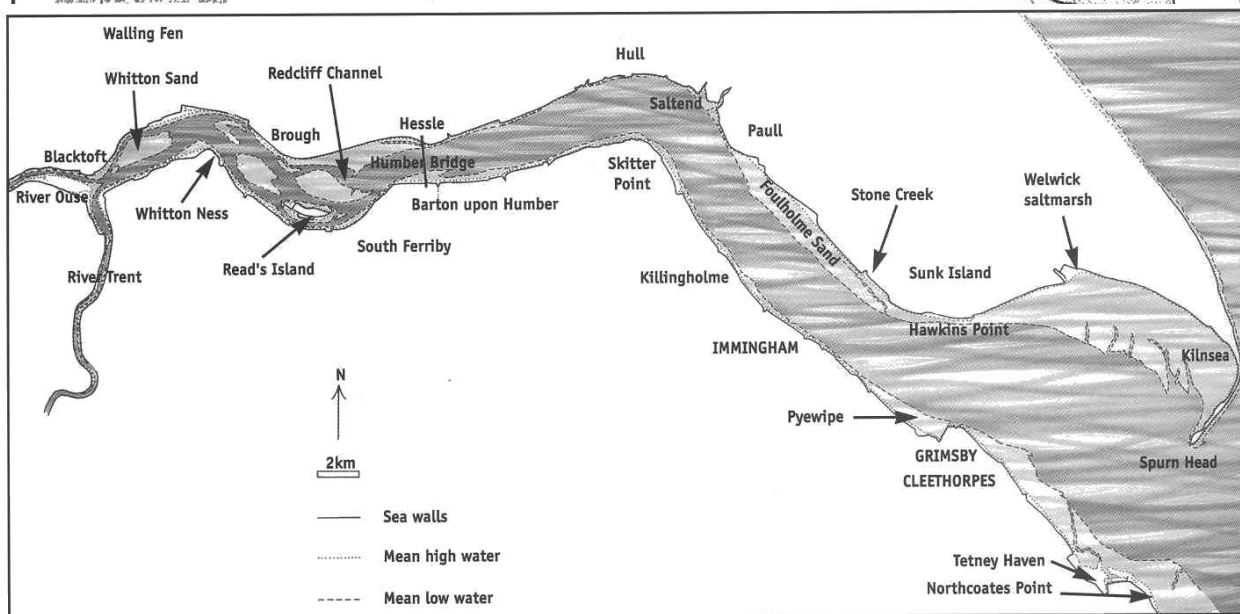
Restore/Recreate what?





Land claim in the Humber (since the Scott chart, 1794)

Coastal squeeze – anthropogenic and exogenic



IECS 1993; Murby 2001;
<http://www.hull.ac.uk/iecs>



Habitat Restoration - Managed Realignment

Humber Estuary - Chowder Ness,
June 2006

High degree of site preparation

NB Compensation Scheme (with Welwick
saltmarsh) for Port Development (gain:loss = 2.5:1)



Management?

Elephant in the room: is MR a viable tool in high turbidity estuaries or just a politically expedient tool to meet Directive compliance? Is it just good for the regulators and industry, but not for the estuarine system? Can it be improved as a tool or do we look for alternatives?



2007 cf. 2015

What do we want from a site and is it actually deliverable e.g. SPA/SAC specifics?

Current techniques potentially fail to deliver for some defined offset metrics unless there is considerable management.

But:

Opportunity for other habitats/ species delivery as well as other EcoServes.

Opportunities for new techniques but constraints on their trial (cost/consenting).

Management aims need to either drive location or be driven by the prevalent physico-chemical conditions. Offset outside the estuary?

Peel-Harvey Estuary (WA) – EcoEng to solve a WQ problem:



Opening of Dawesville Channel
in 1994

+ve

better water quality, fewer odour
problems, better recreation
fishery, more residential areas

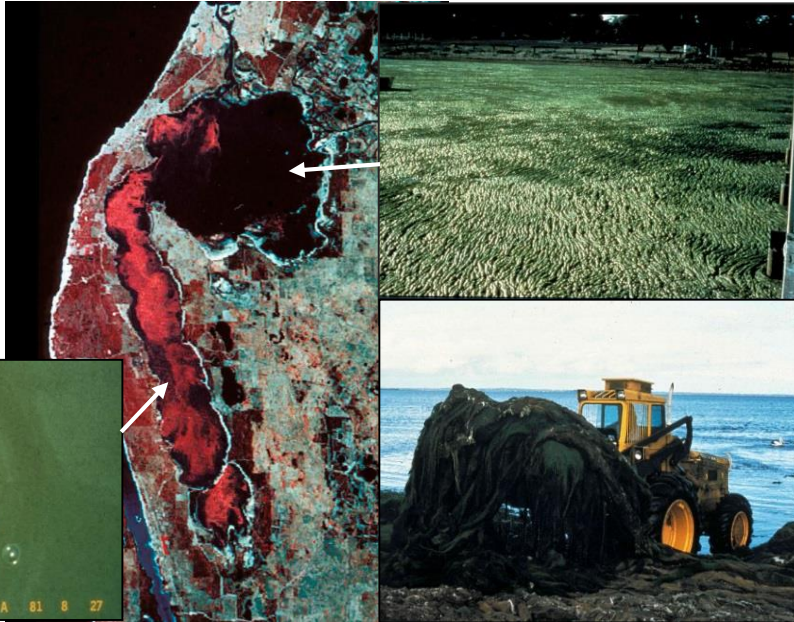
-ve

poorer prawn fishery, still
circulation problems, increased
mosquitos, still eutrophication in
certain areas, remediation not
accompanied by land-use
changes

Peel-Harvey system – an ideal test case: ARC Project:



1960s-80s



1994



Impediments to achieving restoration success:

Barriers to strategy development:

- High-level policy and organisational barriers
- Approach and methodological barriers
- Resource considerations (financial, organisational)
- Inter- and intra-group relationships
- Lack of shared vision and understanding

Barriers to strategy implementation:

- Cultural and/or policy
- Technical capacity and ability
- Resourcing (staff, finance)
- Trust and relationships

Solutions - The 10-tenets:

To be successful, management measures or responses to changes resulting from human activities should be:

- Ecologically sustainable
- Technologically feasible
- Economically viable
- Socially desirable/tolerable
- Legally permissible
- Administratively achievable
- Politically expedient
- Ethically defensible (morally correct)
- Culturally inclusive
- Effectively communicable



(NB spellcheck -
not "a good night
in Scotland"!)

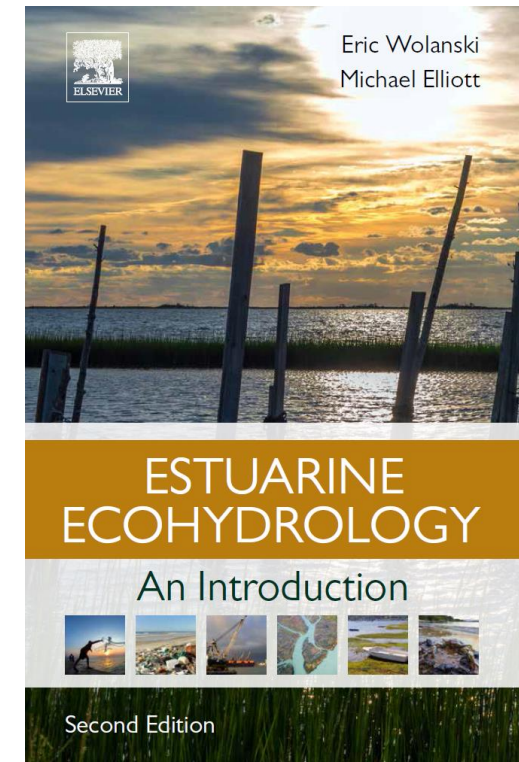


Estuarine Ecohydrology

The science and understanding of the links between the physical functioning and the means by which it creates the appropriate ecological functioning of an estuary. It assumes that the ecology is primarily driven by the physics, which in turn affects the biological processes operating within a system.

It includes changing the physiography and manipulating the freshwater flows from the catchment and it is also influenced by the anthropogenic users and uses of the estuary, some of which will have modified and impacted both the physics and the ecology.

It is that knowledge which guides the management of the entire river basin from the headwaters down to the coastal zone, which Ecohydrology views as an ecosystem.



Estuarine Ecological Engineering

Uses ecohydrology knowledge to modify and achieve our ecological aims for an area by Engineering:

(1) the physics, including changing the physiography and manipulating the freshwater flows from the catchment, to produce the ecological niches which in turn lets the ecology and habitats develop, especially if the colonising species are ecological engineers (Type A Ecoengineering).

(2) the ecology, by restocking or replanting, in turn creating habitats or letting the ecological engineer species modify habitats, thus enhancing the physical-biological links (Type B Ecoengineering).

Ecoengineering initiatives often aim to accelerate natural rehabilitation and sometimes harness dynamic variability. However, they often only achieve establishing a static system (the desired state) even if this does not include all natural successional processes and stages.

Category	Ecohydrological measure type
Hydrology / Morphology	Measure to reduce tidal range, asymmetry and pumping effects and/or dissipate wave energy
	Other measures for flood protection
	Other measures to stabilise coasts or improve morphological conditions
	Measure to decrease the need for dredging
	Zoning measures
	Measures to stop or reverse subsidence due to extraction of water and minerals
	Measure to restore longitudinal or lateral connectivity

Ecohydrological measure categories (see Elliott et al 2016 for examples)

Category	Ecohydrological measure type
Physical / Chemical Quality	Measure to reduce nutrient loading (point and diffuse sources)
	Measure to reduce persistent pollutant loading (point and diffuse sources)
	Measure to improve oxygen conditions
	Measure to reduce physical loading (e.g. heat input by cooling water entries)
	Measure to reduce sediment inputs and sediment loading

Ecohydrological measure categories

(see Elliott et al 2016 for examples)

Category	Ecohydrological measure type
Biology/ ecology	Measure to develop and/or protect specific habitats
	Measure to develop and/or protect specific species
	Measures to retain or restore natural gradients & processes, transition & connection
	Measure to prevent introduction of or to eradicate/ control against invasive species
	Measure for direct human benefit of ecological attributes
Human safety	Measure for early warning/evacuation of natural disasters
	Measure for improved resilience of housing and industry

Ecological Engineering - Principles:

- (1) ecohydrological principles should be used to ensure a suitable and sustainable physico-chemical system
- (2) the design should encompass local features and so be site-specific
- (3) the design parameters and features should be kept simple in order to deliver the functioning required
- (4) the design should use energy inside the system or coming from outside, such as flow conditions and working with nature, and that the system should be kept simple to minimise the information required for its execution, and lastly
- (5) the EcoEng design should aid the natural and social systems and so should have an ethical dimension; this may involve 'over-engineering' the design in order to protect human safety and property.

This therefore ensures the wins for safety, economy & ecology

(Modified from Bergen et al 2001 Ecol. Eng. 18: 201-210)



What?	Cause?	Reverse?
Land-claim	Wetland removal/dyke construction	Restocking with vegetation, reconnection, resculpting
DO sag	Waste discharges	Reduction/treatment of inputs, reoxygenation, bubbling
Bivalve biogenic reef loss	Siltation, overharvesting,	Adaptation, flushing, regulation, restocking
Eutrophication	Poor flushing, excess nutrients	Reconnection, regulation
Biota kills	Toxin input, WQ problems	Regulation, industry removal
Coral reef loss	Siltation, direct damage, bleaching	Run-off controls, re-creation, global rethinking,
Loss of fish	Overharvesting, climate change, hydrodynamic barriers	Restocking, rethinking, adaptation, regulation

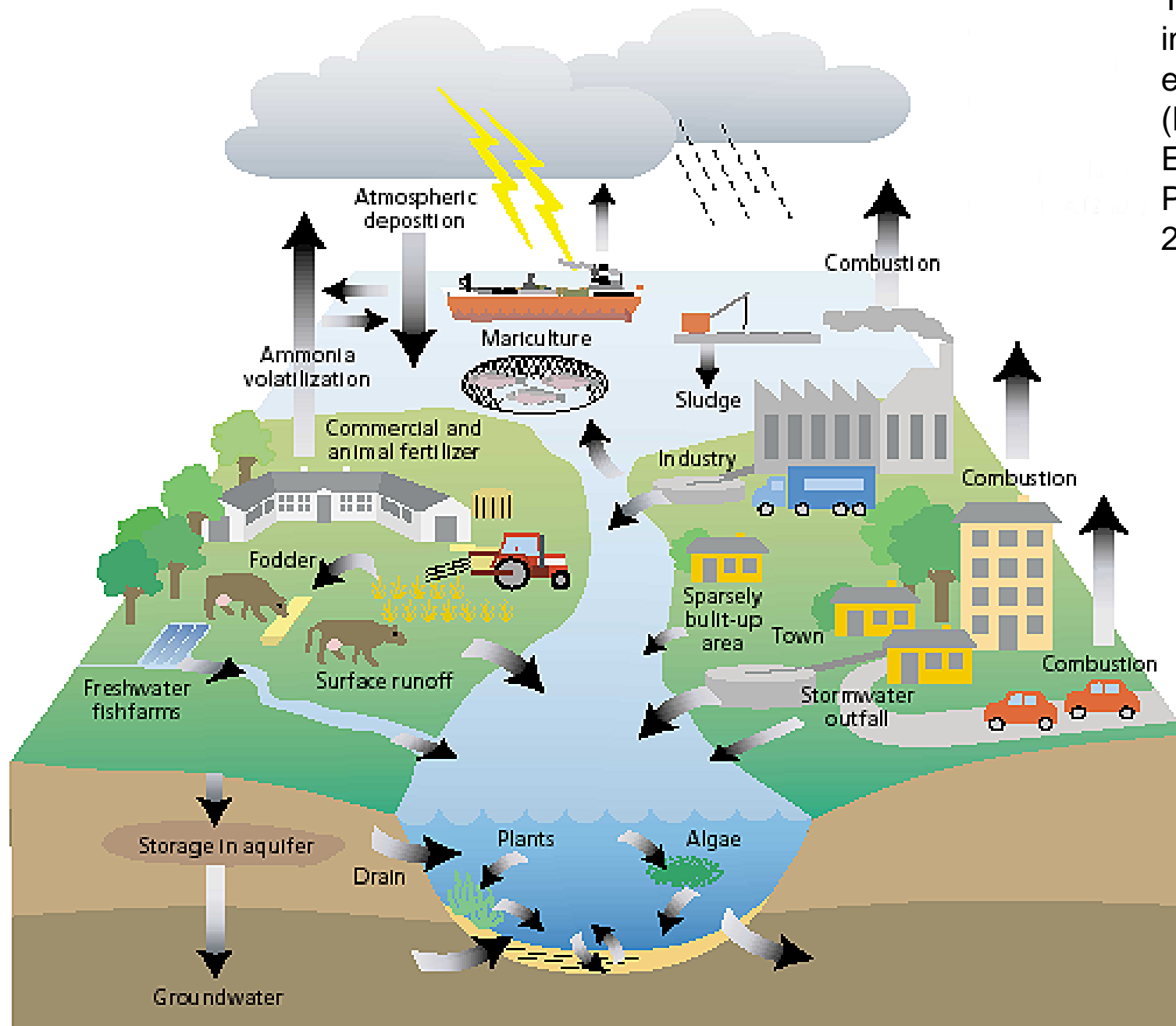
What?	Cause?	Reverse?
Salinity change	Upstream abstraction, impediments to flow	Removal, reconnection
Loss of seagrass	Smothering, nutrient excess, disease, hydrographic change	Reduction, removal, reconnection, replanting
Loss of flow	Diversion, abstraction, structures	Reconnection, reallocation
Seabed extraction	Aggregate removal, loss of sediment fraction	Reseeding, regulation, reallocation
Taxonomic changes	Non-indigenous species influx	Removal, eradication, prevention

So what is the problem and solution and why doesn't it always work?

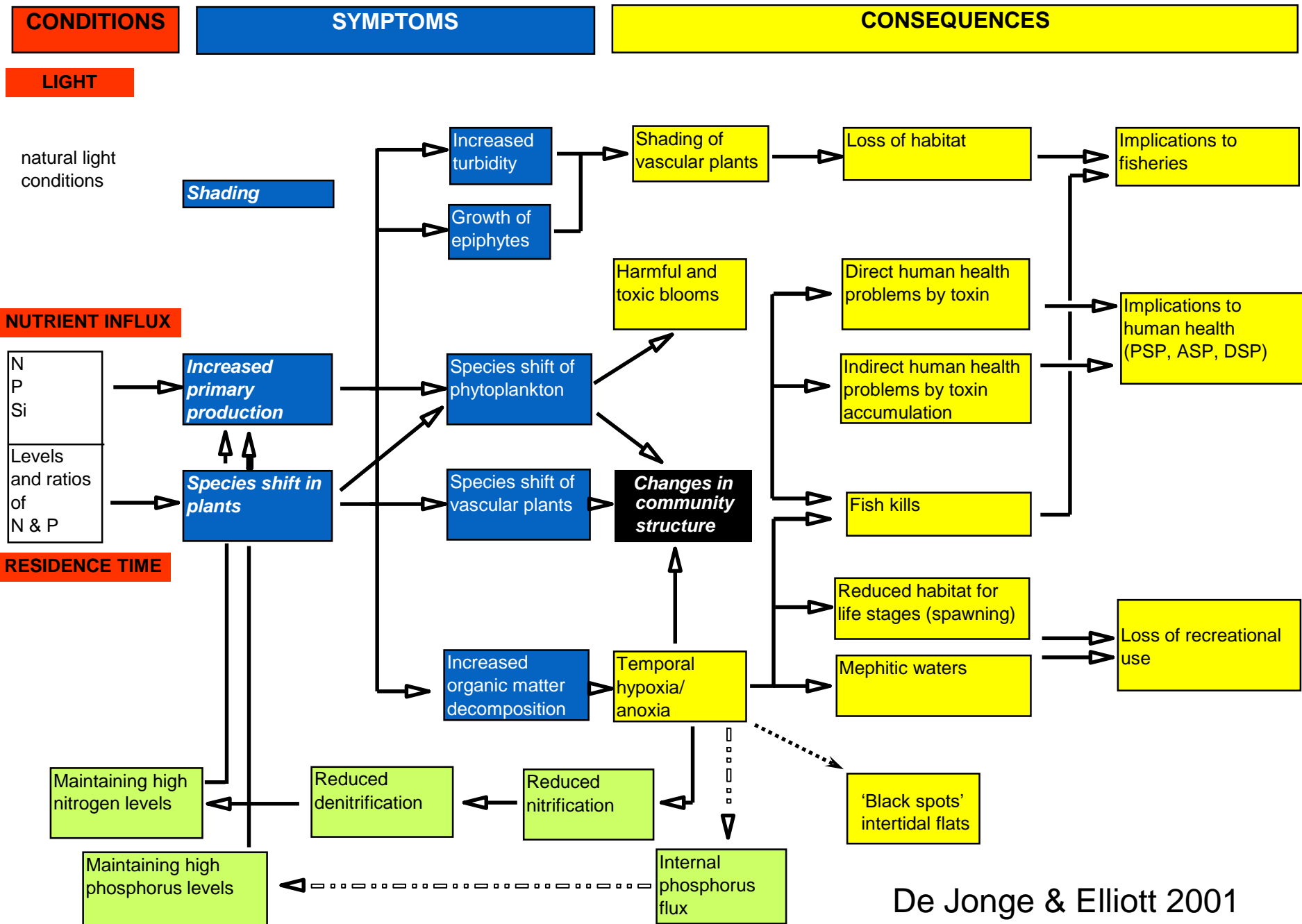
Categories of Problem	Categories of Solutions
Enrichment by substances Loss of surface and habitat Biotic compound loss or change Over-extraction of resources Water and connectivity loss	reversal, restocking, regulation, reconnection, re-sculpting, removal, revision, restoration, replanting, reduction, reallocation, reseedling, reoxygenation



Perhaps we don't
know our R's from our
.....?



The nitrogen cycle in the aquatic environment (Danish Environmental Protection Agency, 2000).



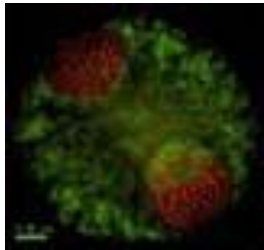
De Jonge & Elliott 2001

Symptoms of Ecosystem Pathology:

Noxious,
nuisance and
toxic microalgae
and macroalgae



Presence of toxic microalgal blooms:
Alexandrium sp. & *Dinophysis* sp.



Red tides & fish & bird kills



From 'normal' seabed
organisms - many species,
all sizes To Polluted
seabed community - few
species, small organisms

PARIS COMMISSION: Eutrophication Symptoms and Problem Areas

Map 12: Changes in macrophyte growth in various coastal zones of the Convention area in summer/autumn during various years.



Data processing and cartography: Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. Rijkswaterstaat, The Netherlands.

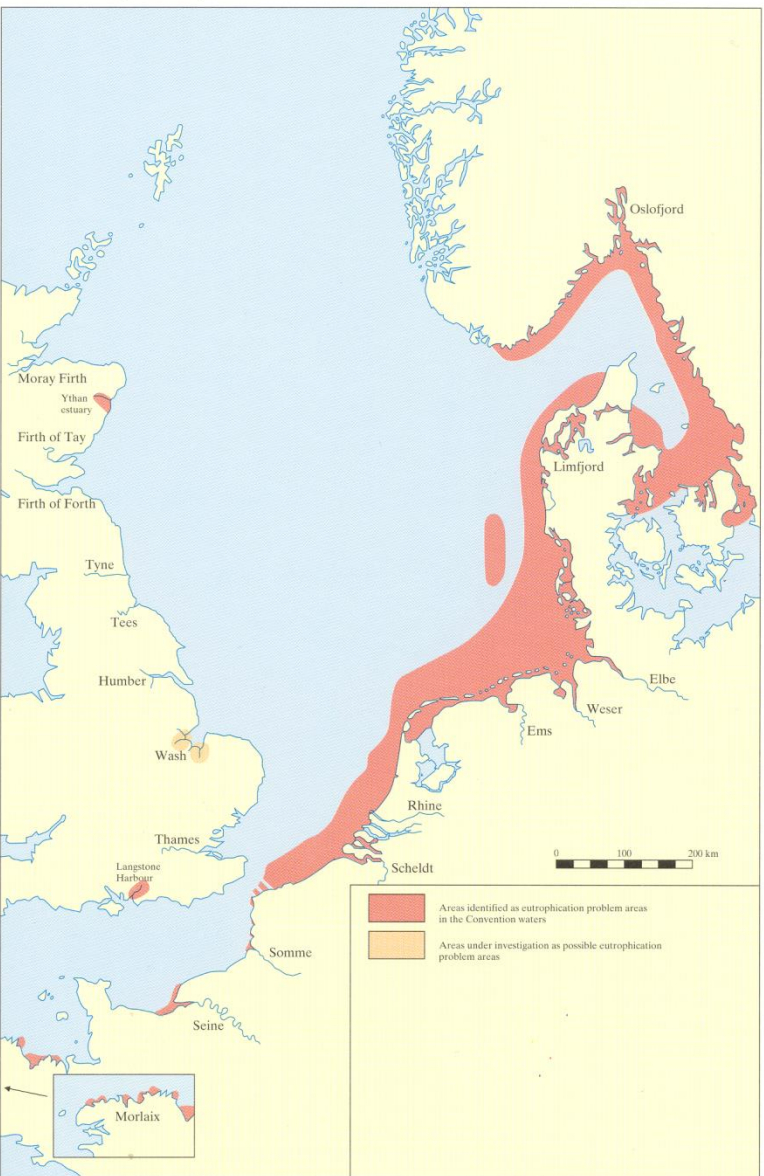


Symptoms of ecosystem pathology: macroalgal mats



PARIS COMMISSION: Eutrophication Symptoms and Problem Areas

Map 1: Integrated administrative map on areas identified by Contracting Parties as eutrophication problem areas in the Convention waters.

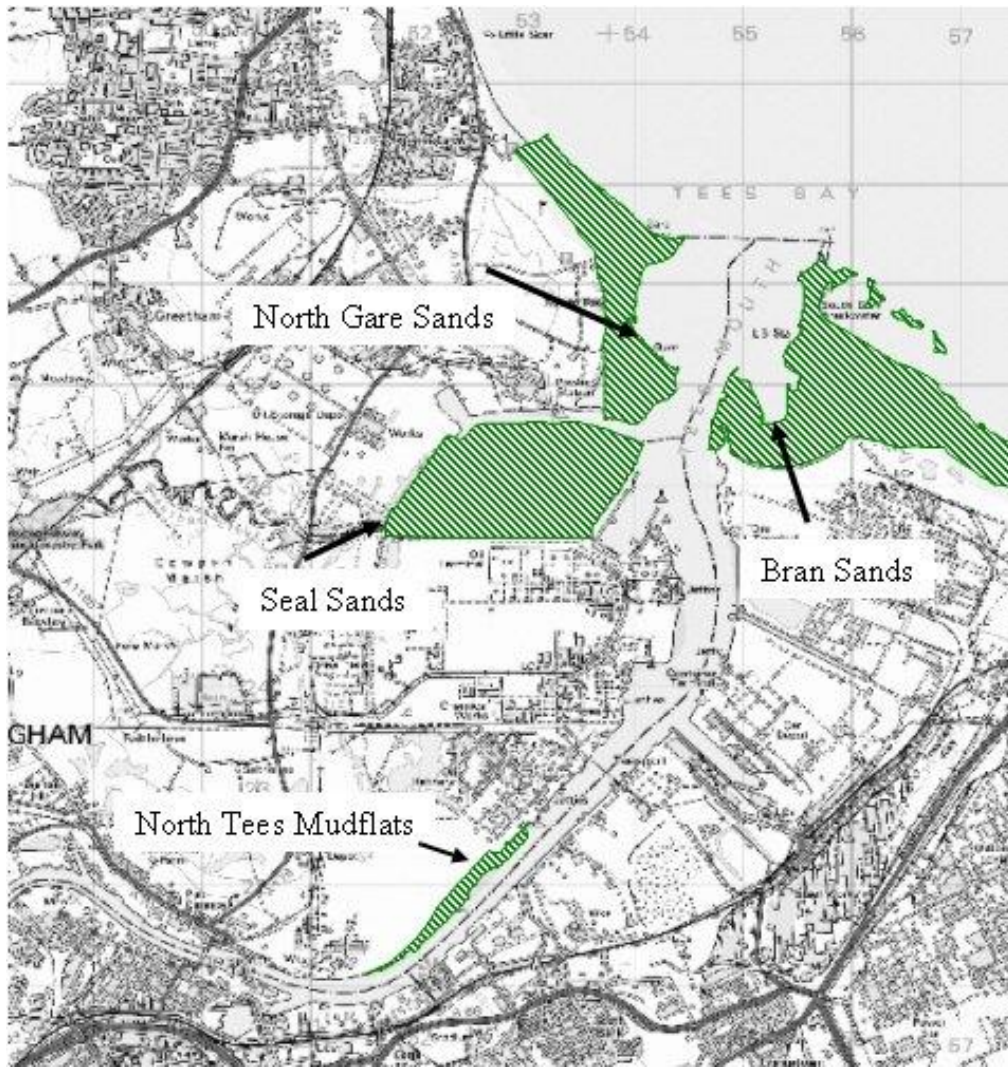


Data processing and cartography: Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. Rijkswaterstaat, The Netherlands.

Sources of point and diffuse anthropogenic inputs (Carpenter *et al.*, 1998; Novotny & Olem, 1994; Smith *et al.*, 1999; D'Arcy *et al.*, 2000; Elliott & Boyes, 2002).

Point Sources	Diffuse Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste water effluent (municipal & industrial); • Point run-off and leachate from waste disposal sites; • Run-off and infiltration from animal feedstuffs; • Discharges from minewaters, oil fields, and unsewered industrial sites; • Storm sewer outfalls from urban conglomerations; • Overflows of combined storm and foul sewers; • Point run-off from construction sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run-off from agriculture (including return flows from irrigated agriculture; • Inputs from vegetation - reedbeds, saltmarsh, algae, and die-off from freshwater plankton; • Septic tank leachage and run-off from failed septic systems; • Run-off from construction sites; • Non-point discharges from abandoned mines; • Atmospheric deposition over a water surface; • Activities on land that generate contaminants, such as forestry, wetland conversion, construction, and development of land or waterways; • The extent and significance of diffuse pollution is predominantly related to the occurrence of meteorological events.

The Tees Estuary - NE England (designated conservation areas shown)



Q. What is the relationship between existing and planned STW discharges and HSD designation?

Table 3 Effects of eutrophication on estuarine and coastal marine ecosystems (Smith, 1998; Smith *et al.*, 1999; Bricker *et al.*, 1999; Elliott & Read, 2001; Elliott *et al.*, 2002)

Effects

- Increased biomass of marine phytoplankton and epiphytic algae
- Shifts in phytoplankton species composition to taxa that may be toxic or inedible (e.g., bloom-forming dinoflagellates)
- Increases in nuisance blooms of gelatinous zooplankton, toxic blooms and tainting phytoplankton forms
- Changes in macroalgal production, biomass, and species composition, leading to elevated chlorophyll-*a* concentrations
- Occurrence of blooms of micro-algae which may be a nuisance (and cause aesthetic pollution) through foaming (e.g. *Phaeocystis*, *Chaetoceros socialis*)
- Changes in vascular plant production, biomass, and species composition
- Reduced water clarity
- Decreases in the perceived aesthetic value of the water body
- Elevated pH and dissolved oxygen depletion in the water column
- Mortalities of higher organisms through effects of neurotoxins with associated shifts in composition towards less desirable animal species
- Increased probability of kills of recreationally and commercially important animal species
- Nuisance macroalgal mat formation to hinder fishing and navigation
- Hindrance to intertidal feeding by wading birds and ducks

KISS()*

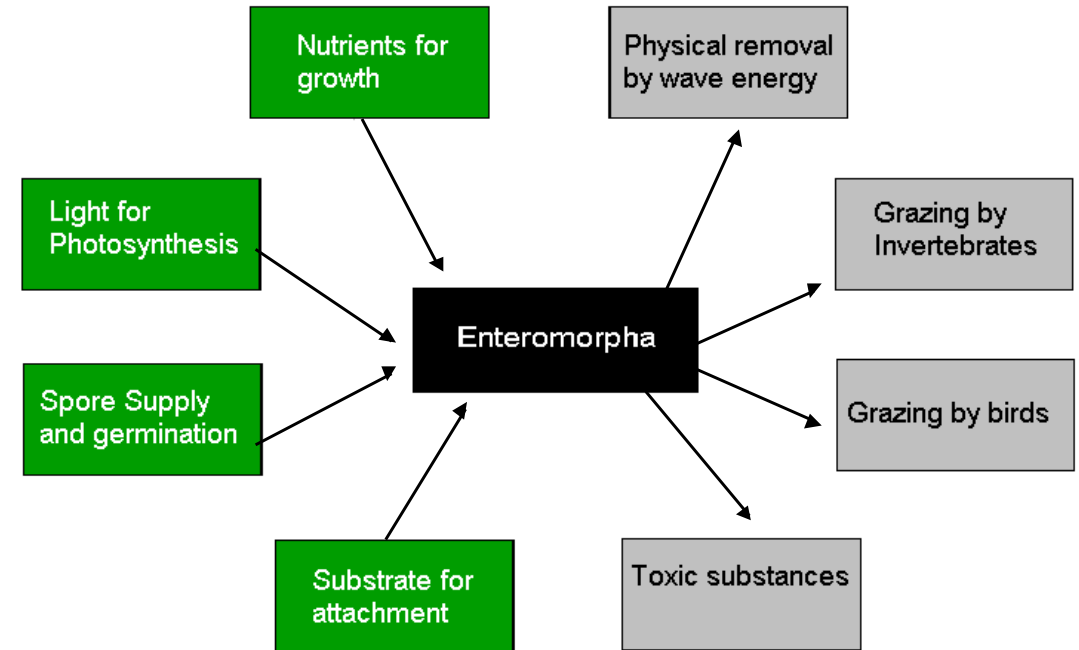
- *Eutrophic - anthropogenic undesirable consequences (cf. pollution);*
- *Eutrophication - process of becoming eutrophic;*
- *Organic enrichment - natural state;*
- *Hypernutrification - nutrient excess (cf. contamination)*

(keep it simple, stupid)*

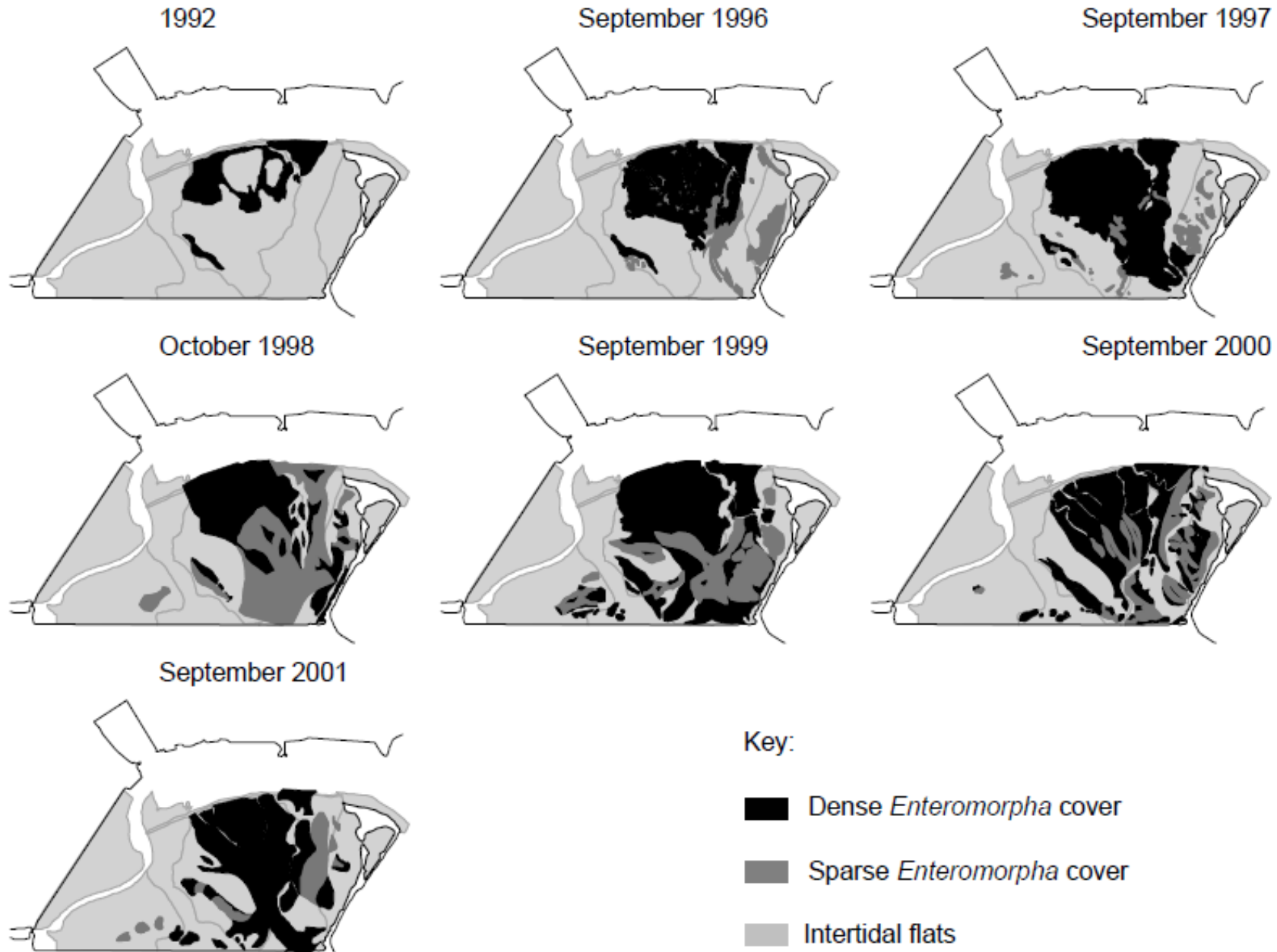
Plate 6. Where the algal mat is thick, the underlying sediment is cut off from the atmosphere and becomes starved of oxygen. This creates a black anoxic layer as seen here, directly under the mat.



Plate 7. In some areas where the mats are dense, water currents and eddies twist the layers of algae into ropes.



Main Concern - macroalgal mats affecting conservation objectives (wading bird feeding for *Natura* 2000 site)



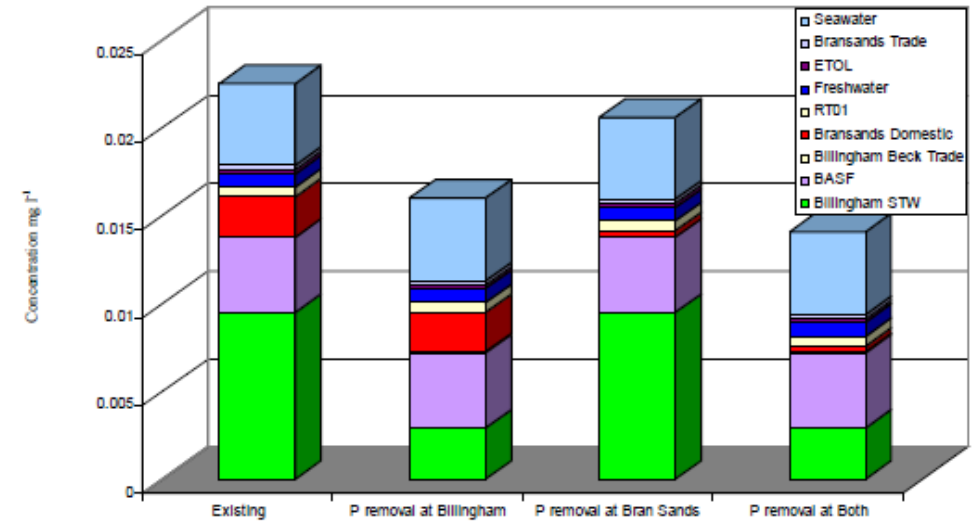
The coverage of *Enteromorpha* on Seal Sands 1992-2001
(Ward et al 2003 from data provided by Environment Agency)

Tees Estuary Study - Conclusions

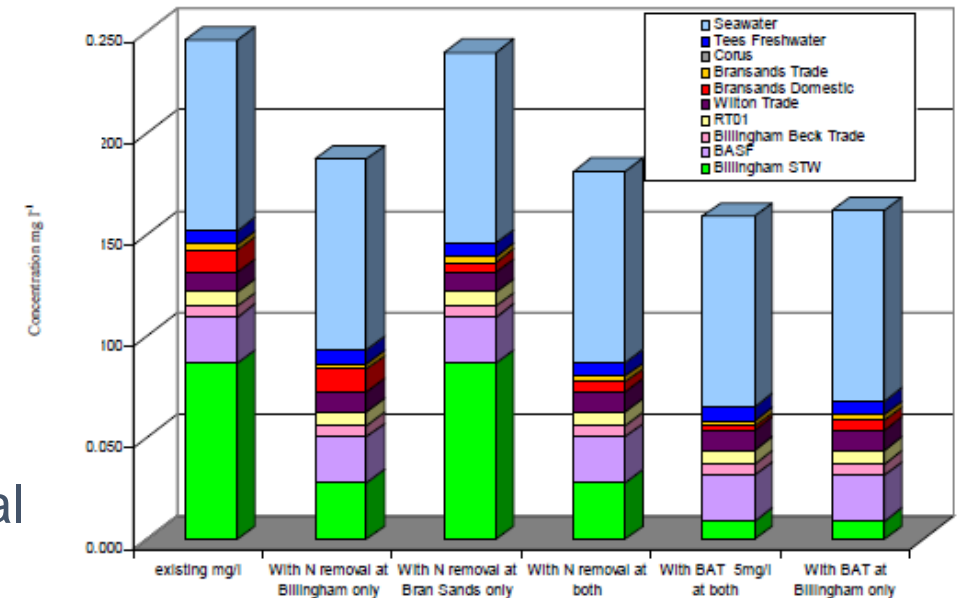
- Aim of science to inform AMP4 capital expenditure and UWWTD compliance related to HSD;
- Onus on NWL to demonstrate no-effect rather than on statutory bodies to demonstrate an effect;
- The increase in macroalgal mats coincided with a reduction in nutrients (diffuse and point sources) and toxic substances;
- Transport patterns did not explain the cause but residence time was important;
- The main sources of nutrients, especially NH_4 , were planned to be removed even before the study;
- Tick-list as a pragmatic approach using 'probability/weight of evidence approach' (legal basis), suitable for managers and acknowledging data/information gaps;

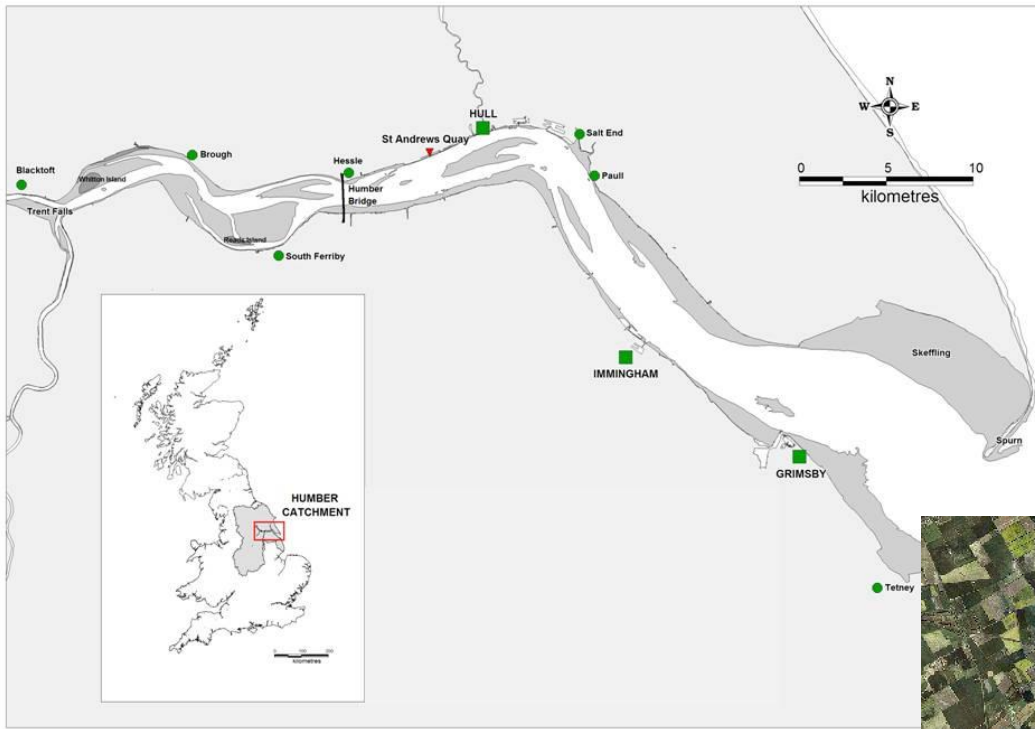
BELPLUME predictions of DAIP and DAIN conc. over Seal Sands in 2003 with differing treatment regimes (EA 2006)

Effect of P removal on DAIP concentrations over Seal Sands



Impact of N removal on N concentrations over Seal Sands







The Humber Estuary - NE England

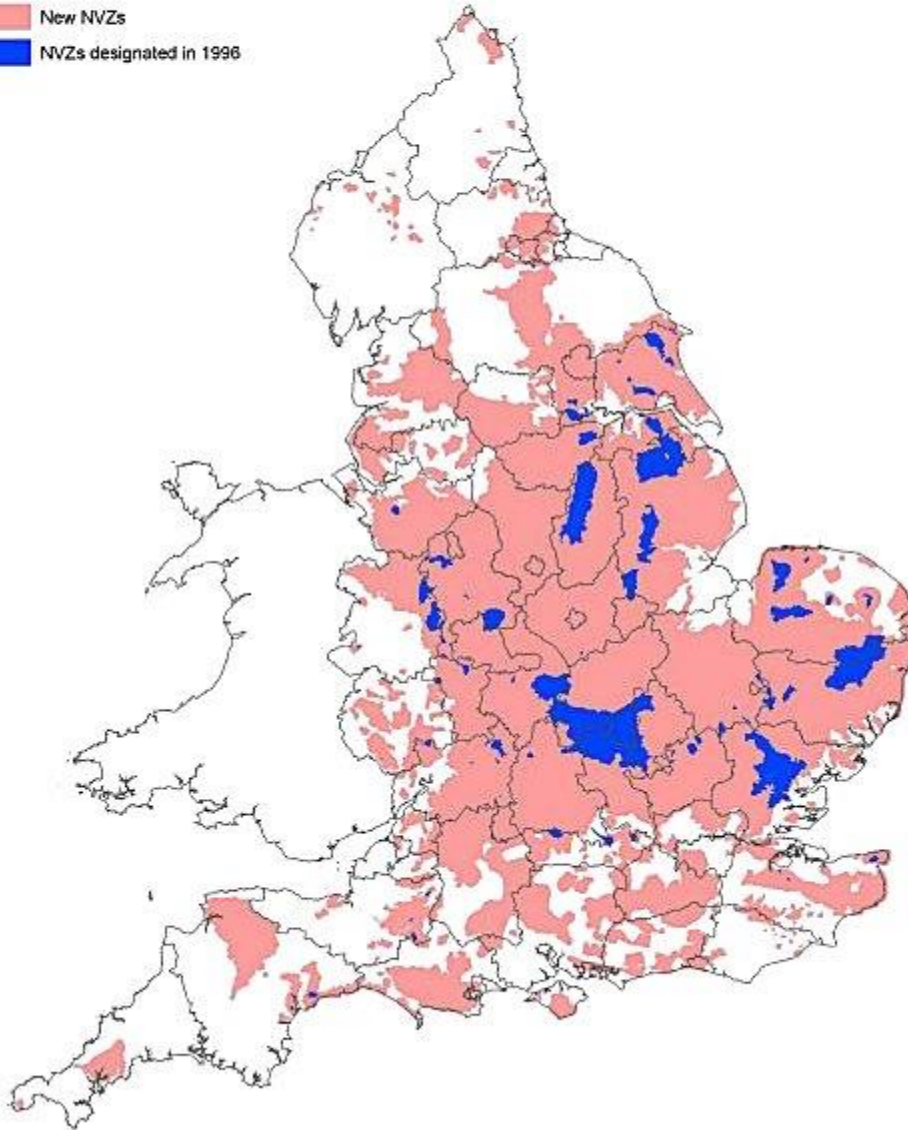
Q. Re. UWWTD - 'is the area eutrophic or likely to become eutrophic?' (cf. Infracation proceedings)?



Mid-Humber - Turbidity Maximum Zone -
Freshwater Seawater Interface
(Suspended Solids: usually 5 g.l^{-1} , often 14 g.l^{-1} , can get 75 g.l^{-1} !)

NITRATE VULNERABLE ZONES IN ENGLAND

 New NVZs
 NVZs designated in 1996



EU Nitrates Directive

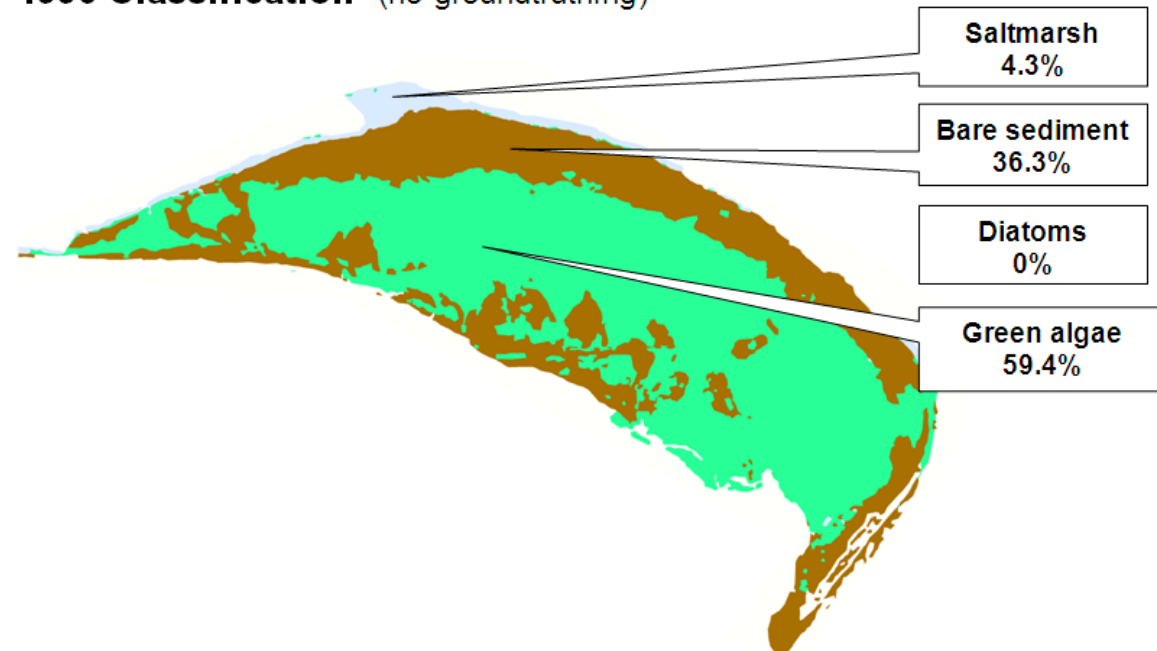
Re-designation of Nitrate
Vulnerable Zones in response to
EU recommendation

Tackling diffuse pollutants –
requires changes to agricultural
systems and society

Summary - Humber Infraction Proceedings

- Basis - EC concerns about nutrient levels and possible adverse environmental impact from nutrient loadings from North Sea estuaries.
- In 1996 and 2003/4 two CASI (Compact Airborne Spectrographic Imaging) flight surveys were carried out in the Humber estuary by the EA.
- The data were interpreted remotely (by JRC Ispra and a non-local 'independent expert') as being indicative of the widespread presence of a dense green algal growth that can be associated with eutrophication.

1996 Classification (no groundtruthing)



Summary - Humber Infraction Proceedings

- As a result, the EC raised a legal infraction case against the UK regarding the Humber and other UK estuaries,
- EC asked detailed questions during the legal process and criticised the Environment Agency's (NE) lack of information to answer them.
- Consequently, the Humber Infraction Project (HIP, 2008) addressed outstanding EC questions about quantitative evaluation of algae and nuisance species
- The onus was on the UK to demonstrate 'no problem' or 'no evidence of eutrophication'.
- IECS was commissioned by the EA to lead expert workshops and undertake groundtruthing in 2008 to quantify habitats, microphytobenthos and macroalgal patterns.



Plate 1. Bare mud. PHS021_27



Plate 2. Diatoms on mud. SK2_59



Plate 3. Mixed. PW8_34



Plate 4. Green algae (5-25%)



Plate 5. Green algae (25-50%). ALK1_1



Plate 6. Green algae (50-75%). PW7_29



Plate 7. Green algae (75-100%). ALK2_9



Plate 8. Brown algae. PW2_6



Plate 9. Saltmarsh. W3_24

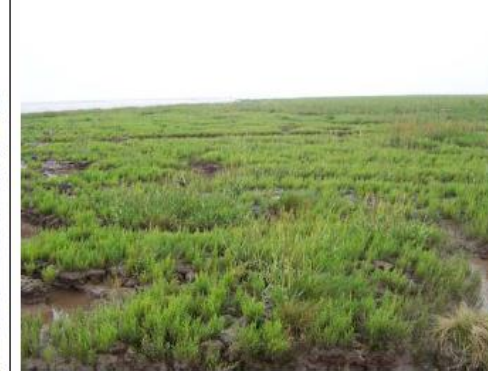


Plate 10. Saltmarsh. W21_115

Summary - Humber Infraction Proceedings

- Historic benthic data showed there were no observed change in the benthic community during this time.
- New information supported previous extensive local observations that MPB were the main primary producers present on the intertidal sediment and green macroalgae cover was only 0.8%.
- The problematic dense green algae assumed to be present during previous CASI surveys do not exist in the Humber estuary and that the dominant feature is benthic diatoms.



Habitat restoration

Restoration (rehabilitation, adaptation, re-creation, remediation and enhancement etc) – anthropogenically changed baselines – e.g. DO levels in previously polluted estuaries)

CUMULATIVE FISH SPECIES RECORDED IN TIDAL THAMES (FULHAM - TILBURY)

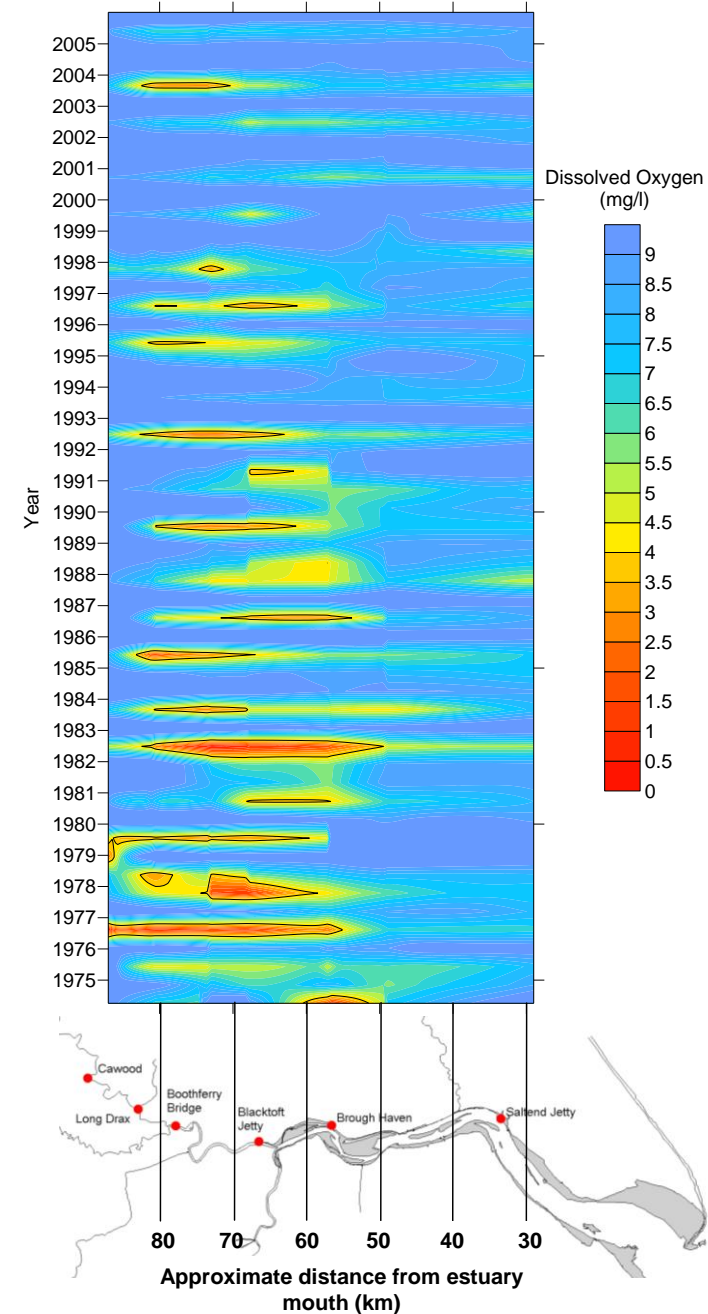
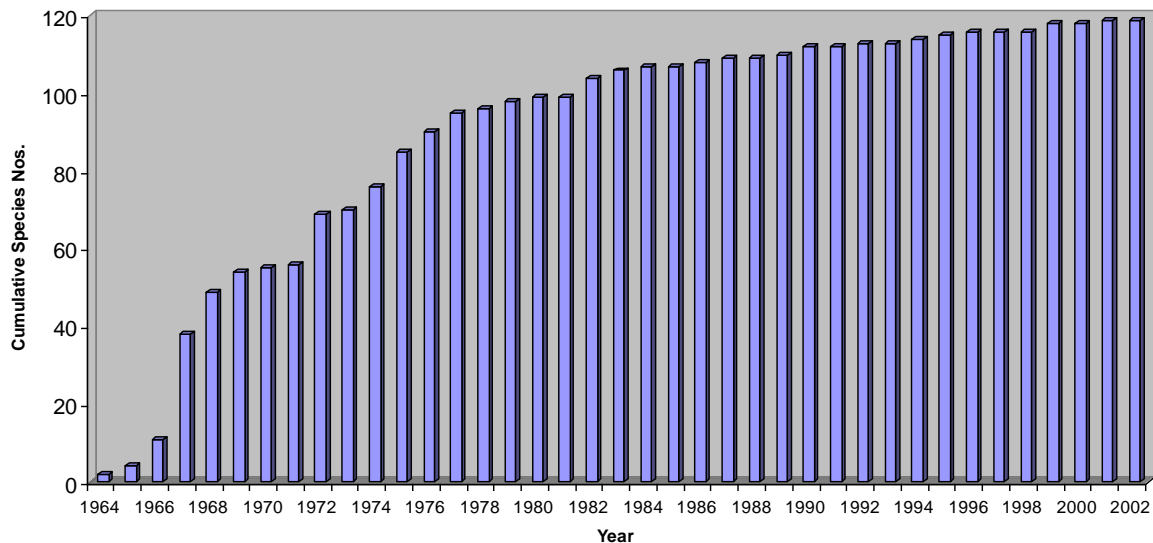


Figure 2: Monthly DO levels (mg/l) along the Humber and River Ouse. 1974 to 2005
The black line represents the 4 mg/l threshold for fish passage

Summary - Humber Infraction Proceedings

- Macroalgal (green and brown) distribution is limited to rocky / stony areas and areas of saltmarsh with areas of dense algae (75-100% cover) being present in very small, isolated patches.
- Long term data sets do not indicate that the benthic communities are impoverished in any way, beyond the natural effects of variable and low salinity, high turbidity, strong currents and fine-grained, organic rich sediments.
- No nuisance algae were found in the water and the estuary health and diversity were independently reported as good.
- 'Tick-list approach' used in communication.

Summary - Humber Infraction Proceedings

- The work answered the outstanding EC questions and confirmed that the Humber shows no adverse environmental impact or evidence of eutrophication.
- This supports and strengthened the case already made by Environment Agency against the infraction action and designation.
- The financial repercussions of losing the infraction proceedings would have been €500-850M.
- Lessons learned:
 - Importance of local knowledge and ground-truthing;
 - Importance of good, thorough, independent and proportionate science;
 - Value/necessity of expert-judgement approach;
 - Realisation of economic and ecological consequences.

1ry & 2ry Symptoms of Eutrophication

Value of tick-list approach

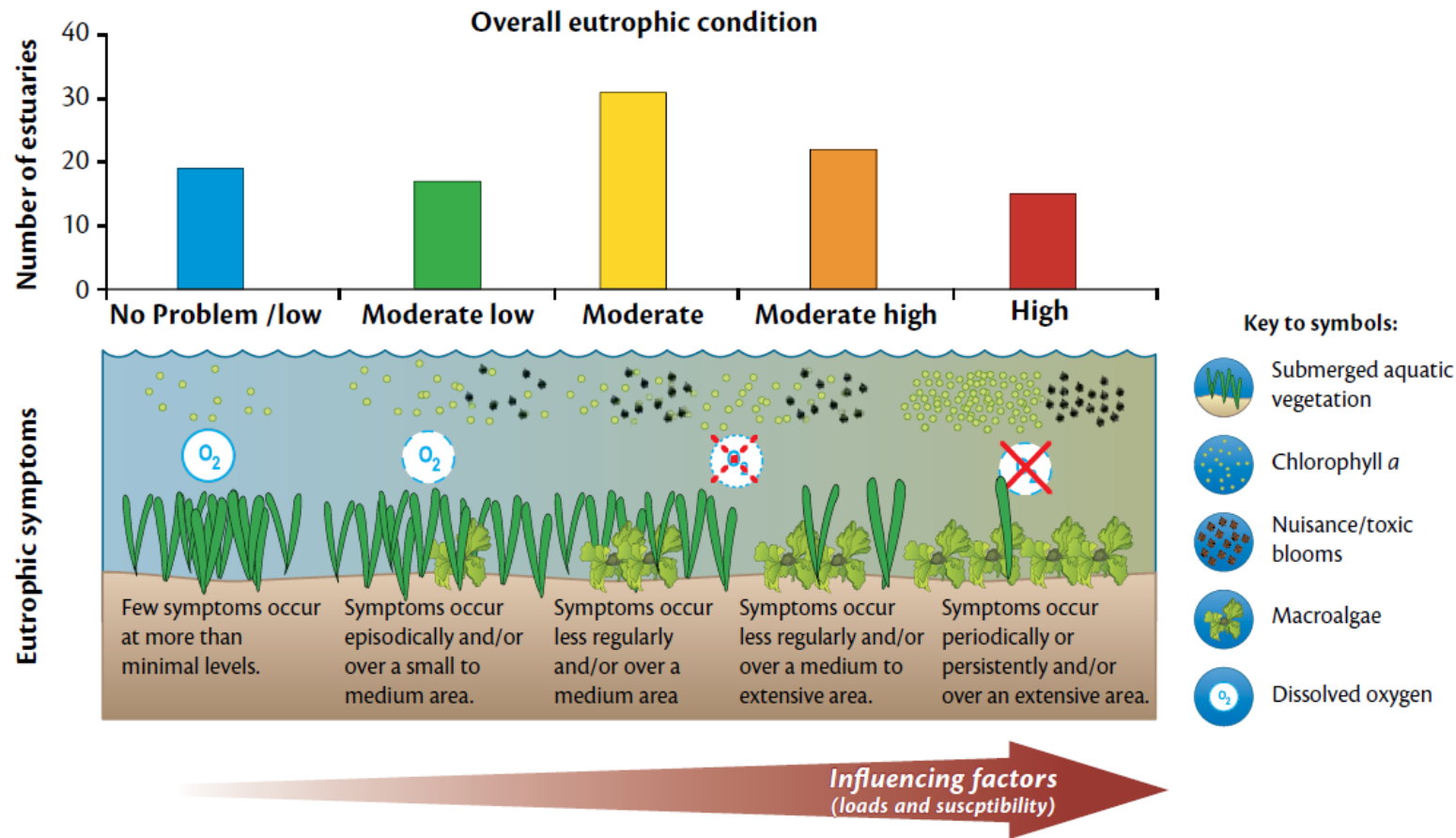
		Randers Fjord		Scheldt				Bay of Palma	
		Inner Fjord	Outer Fjord*	Estuary Plume	Lower Estuary	Upper Estuary	Fluvial Estuary	Inshore	Offshore
Causes of Eutrophication	Increased nutrient inputs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	High residence time / slow flushing rate / poor levels of dilution	Short retention time 13 days		High residence time of the water masses; up to 70 days for water in upstream areas				Wind driven, poor turnover ratio	
Primary Effects	Occurrence of blooms of toxic or tainting phytoplankton forms	x	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓
	Increasing plant/algal biomass production, both at the micro and/or macro level, leading to elevated chlorophyll- <i>a</i> concentrations	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	?
	Occurrence of blooms of micro-algae which may be a nuisance (and cause aesthetic pollution) through foaming (e.g. <i>Phaeocystis</i> , <i>Chaetoceros socialis</i>)	?	?	✓	x	✓	x	x	x
	Decline or disappearance of certain perennial plants, often replaced by annual, fast growing opportunistic species such as foliose or filamentous green algae (e.g. <i>Ulva</i> , <i>Enteromorpha</i>)	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	?
	Reduced diversity of the flora (and associated fauna)	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	?	?
	Changes to photic regime through shading	✓	?	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	?

* Including Hevring Bay.

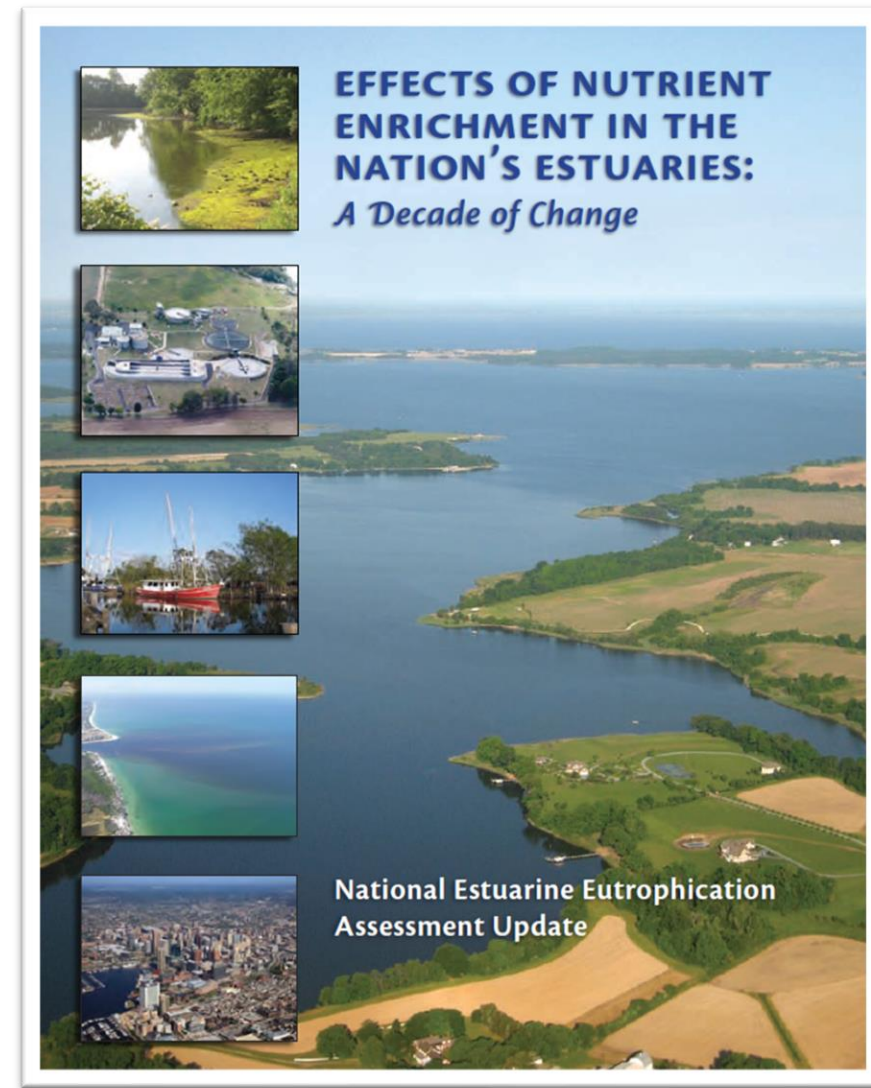
? Unclear from the literature.

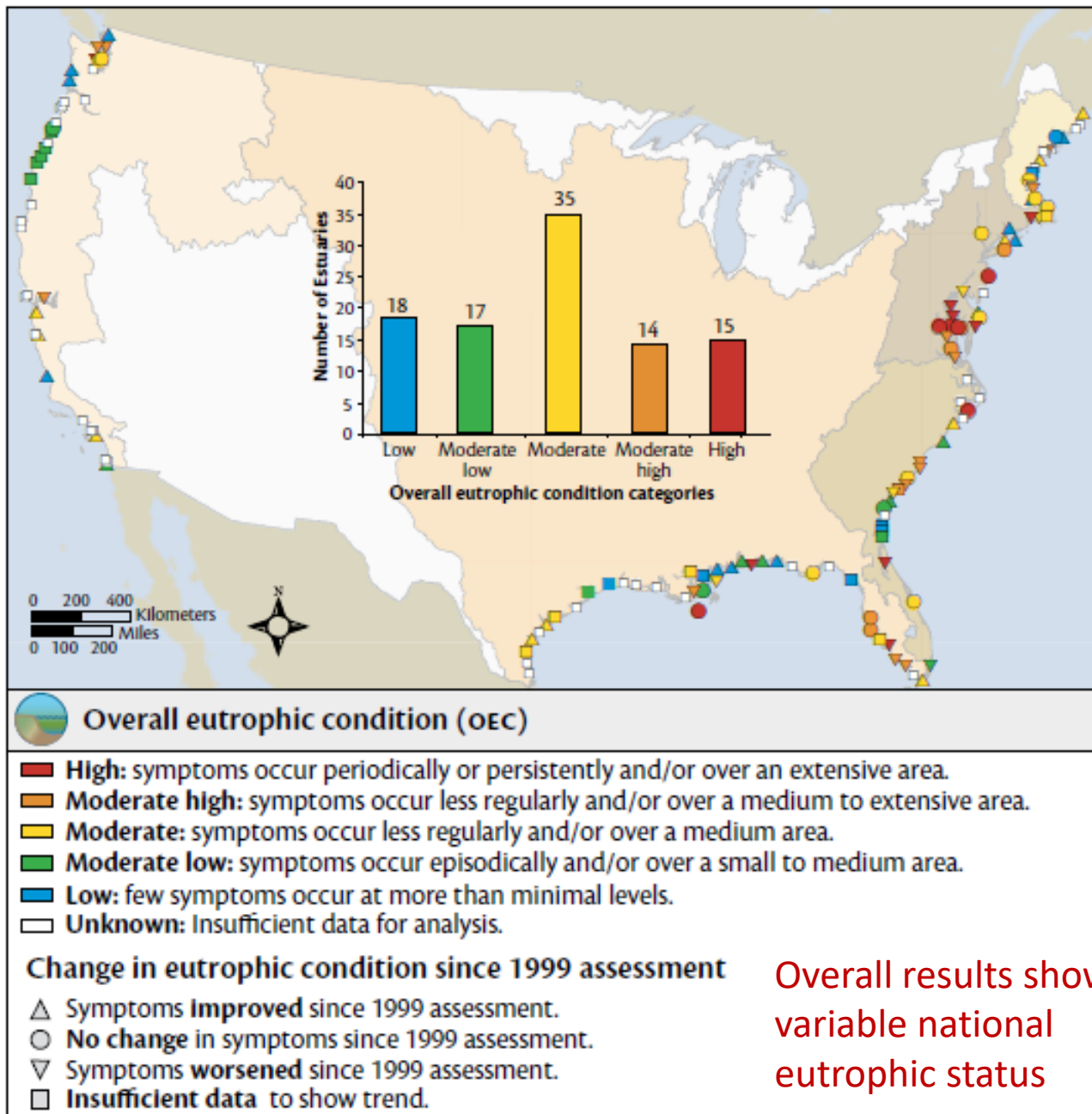
- No information identified within the literature sourced.

		FJORD							
		Inner Fjord	Outer Fjord*	Estuary Plume	Lower Estuary	Upper Estuary	Fluvial Estuary	Inshore	Off-shore
Secondary Effects	Increased particulate and dissolved organic matter in seawater and sediments	✓	?	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	-
	Increased organic matter decomposition	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nuisance macroalgal mat formation to hinder fishing and navigation	-	✓	-	-	-	-	×	×
	Nuisance macroalgal mat formation producing underside/sedimentary anoxic conditions	-	-	-	-	-	-	×	×
	Increase in microbial community and thus oxygen depletion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
 leading to hypoxic processes such as H ₂ S and CH ₄ production	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Development of opportunistic macrobenthic populations and thus changes along the Pearson-Rosenberg continuum	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	×	×
	Poor water quality, especially water column oxygen depletion, thus affecting fishes and zooplankton if a water quality barrier is produced	✓	?	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×
	Mortality of higher organisms through effects of neurotoxins	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Hindrance to intertidal feeding by wading birds and ducks	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

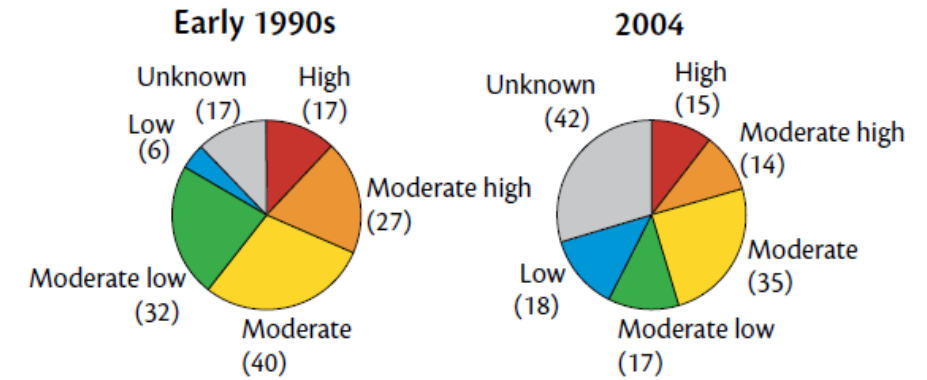


Eutrophication – the causes (nitrogen loads and susceptibility), resulting status and consequences (signs and symptoms)

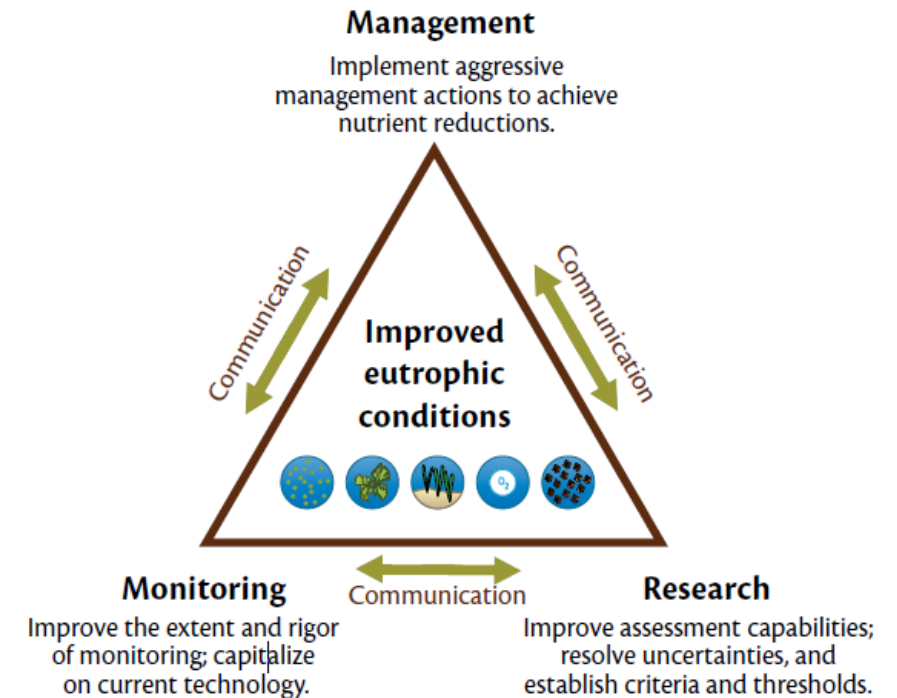




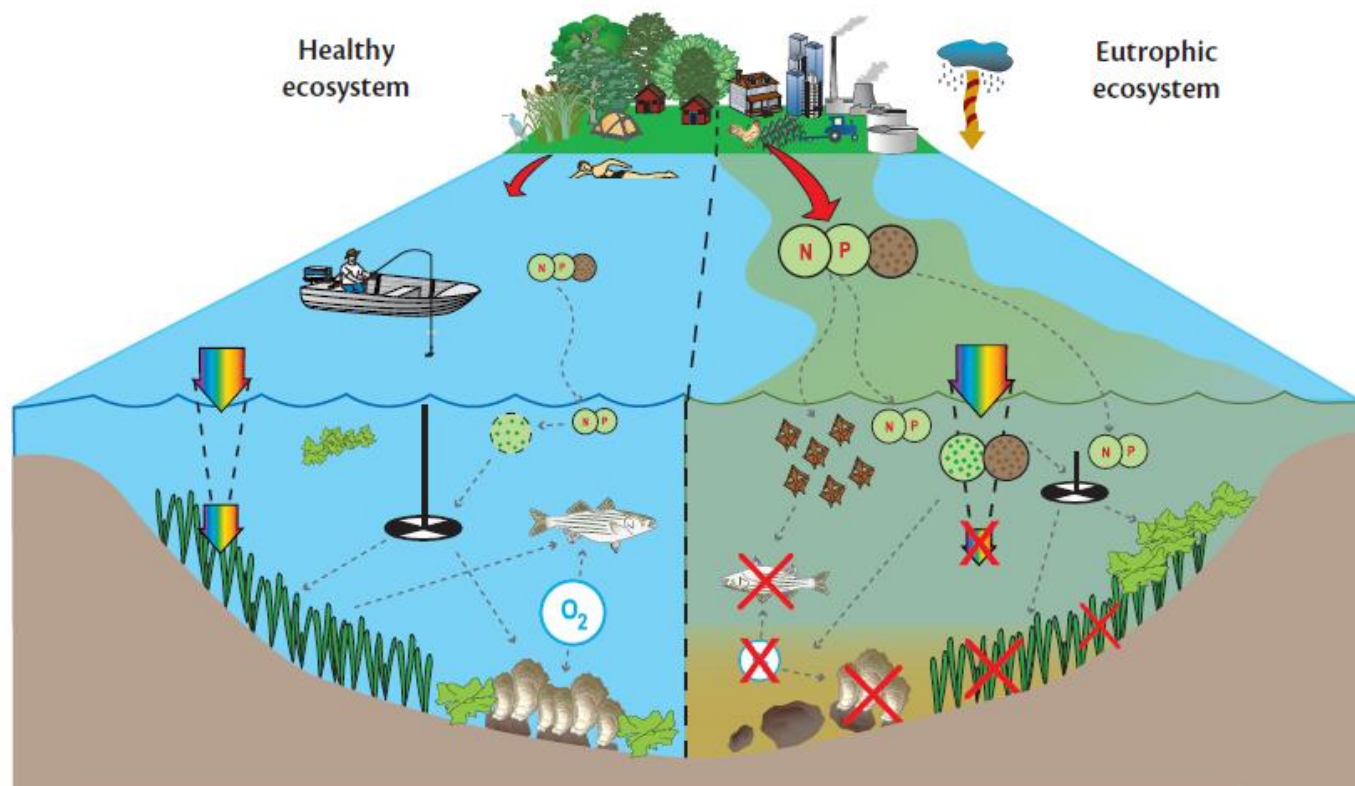
Number of estuaries in each status category in early 1990s cf. 2004



Monitoring & management requires a good understanding and fit-for-purpose science



Overall results showing variable national eutrophic status



In healthy ecosystems, nutrient inputs, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus (N P), occur at a rate that stimulates a level of macroalgal and phytoplankton (chlorophyll *a*) growth in balance with grazer biota. A low level of chlorophyll *a* in the water column helps keep water clarity high, allowing light to penetrate deep enough to reach submerged aquatic vegetation. Low levels of phytoplankton and macroalgae result in dissolved oxygen (O₂) levels most suitable for healthy fish and shellfish so that humans can enjoy the benefits that a coastal environment provides.

In a eutrophic ecosystem, increased sediment and nutrient loads (N P) from farming, urban development, and industry, in combination with atmospheric nitrogen, help trigger both macroalgae and phytoplankton (chlorophyll *a*) blooms, exceeding the capacity of grazer control. These blooms can result in decreased water clarity, decreased light penetration, decreased dissolved oxygen, loss of submerged aquatic vegetation, nuisance/toxic algal blooms, and the contamination or die off of fish and shellfish.

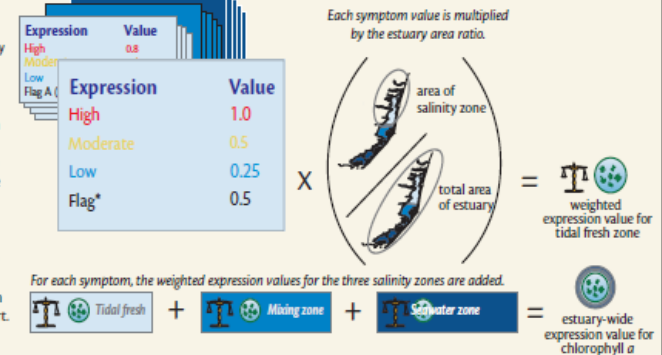
Step 1: Determine expression value for each eutrophic symptom in each salinity zone.

Eutrophic symptom expression values are determined for each symptom in each salinity zone (seawater, mixing, and tidal fresh), resulting in a total of 15 calculations. The expression is based on a set of IF, AND, THEN, decision rules that incorporate the symptom level (e.g., concentration), spatial coverage, and frequency.

Seawater zone					
Mixing zone					
Tidal fresh					
IF	Concentration	Spatial cover	Frequency	Expression	Value
High	High	High	Periodic	High	1.0
Low	Low	Moderate	Unknown	Moderate	0.5
Unknown	Unknown	Very low	Any frequency	Low	0.25
		Any cover		Flag*	0.5

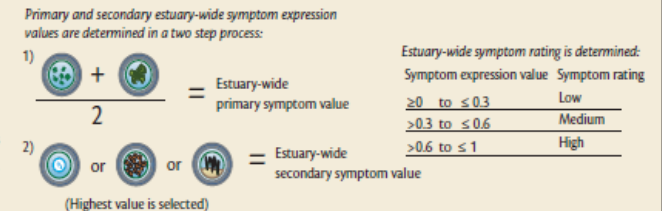
Step 2: Calculate estuary-wide symptom expressions (using chlorophyll *a* as an example).

The expression values are then used to calculate estuary-wide symptom expressions for each symptom. First, each expression value is multiplied by the area of the salinity zone and divided by the entire area of the system to establish the weighted value. Then, the weighted expression values in the tidal fresh, mixing, and seawater zone for each symptom are totaled to calculate the estuary-wide symptom expression value. This process is repeated for all five eutrophic symptoms. Note that "no problem" is the rating assigned if the value is 0, but that "no problem" and low are combined for discussion and tabulation throughout the report.



Step 3: Assign categories for primary and secondary symptoms.

The average of the primary symptoms is calculated to represent the estuary-wide primary symptom value. The highest of the secondary symptom values is chosen to represent the estuary-wide secondary symptom expression value and rating. The highest value is chosen because an average might obscure the severity of a symptom if the other two have very low values (a precautionary approach).



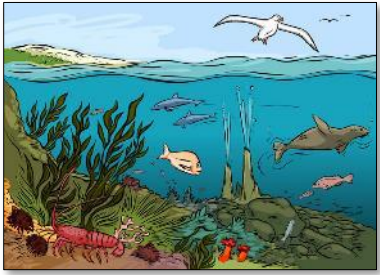
Step 4: Determine overall eutrophic condition.

A matrix is used to combine the estuary-wide primary and secondary symptom values into an overall eutrophic condition rating according to the categories at right. Thresholds between rating categories were agreed on by the scientific advisory committee and participants from the 1999 assessment (Bricker et al. 1999).

	0	0.3	0.6	1.0
High Primary	Moderate	Moderate high	High	
Moderate Primary	Moderate low	Moderate	High	
Low Primary	Low	Moderate low	Moderate high	
	Low Secondary	Moderate Secondary	High Secondary	

Expert judgement approach to determining overall eutrophic condition – turning 'soft intelligence' into 'hard data' (Bricker et al, 2007).

Ecosystem services are the link between ecosystems and the goods and benefits that they provide for society



**Marine Ecosystem
Structure and
Functioning
(Stocks & Processes)**



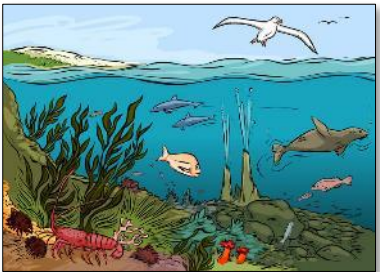
**Ecosystem
Services
(Flows)**



**Input of
Human
Capital***

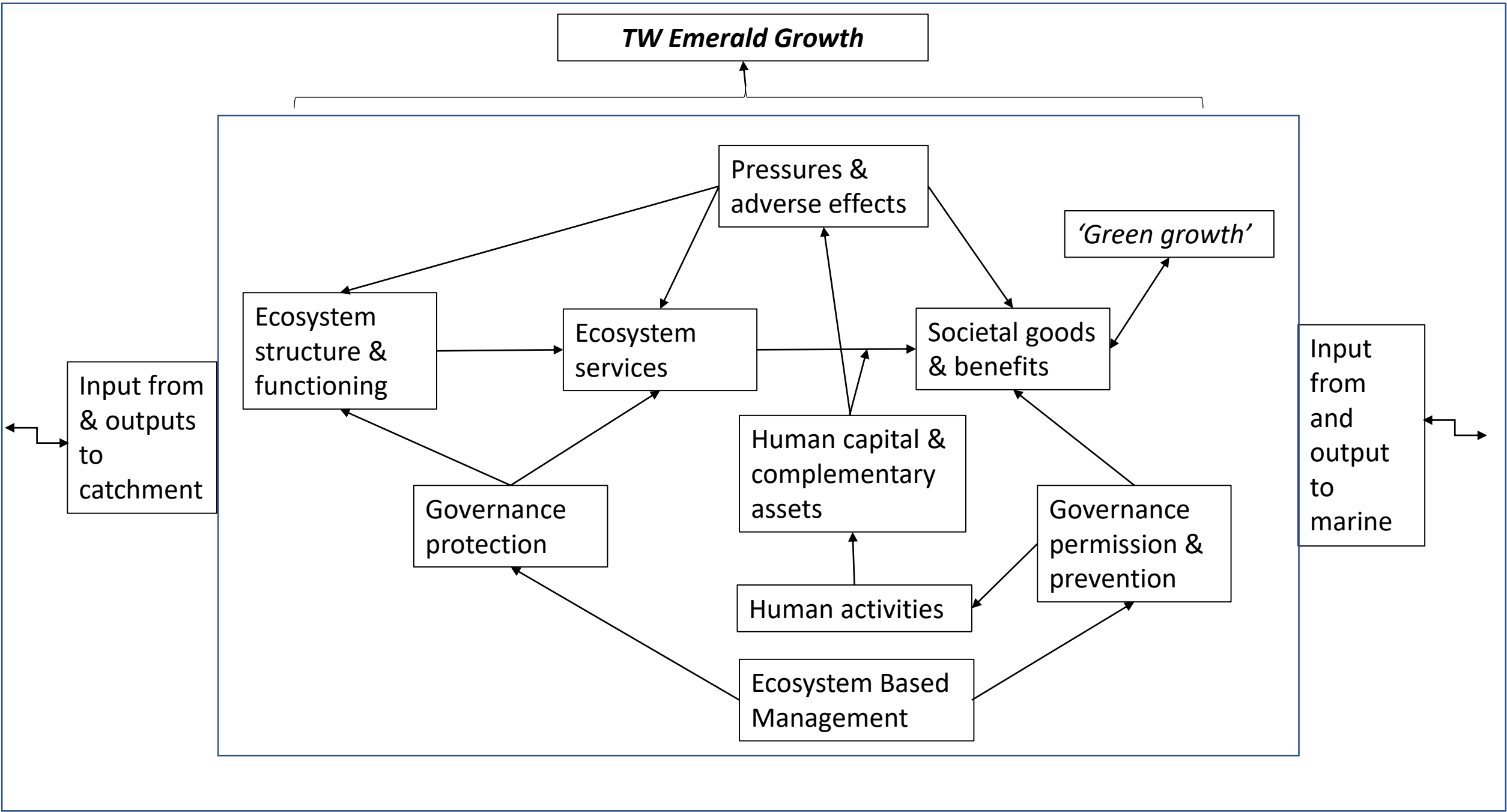


**Societal Goods &
Benefits
(Well-being)**

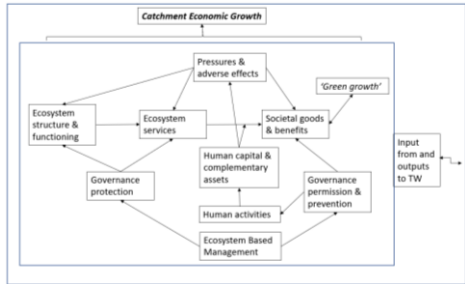


"Grab them by the
'wallet' and their hearts
and minds will follow!"

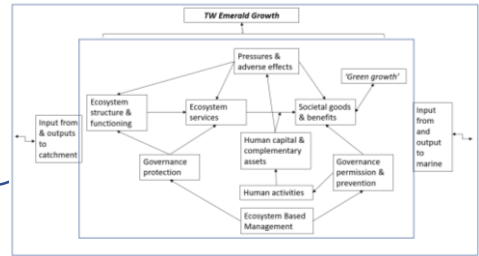
(* Human complementary assets – time, money, skills, energy required to obtain the goods and benefits)



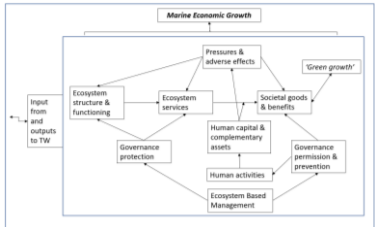
Catchment



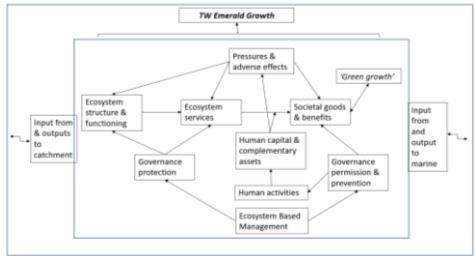
Catchment



TW



Marine



TW

Total economic value of water quality improvements

Use Values			Non-Use Values
Direct Use Values	Indirect Use Values	Option Values	Existence Values
Recreation	Recreation	Future uses as per direct and indirect use values	Estuary and coastal zone as an object of intrinsic value, as a gift to others, and as a responsibility (stewardship)
Commercial fishing	Landscape		
Agriculture/Industry	Biodiversity value		
Drinking purposes	Aesthetic value		
Biodiversity value	Tourism/Ecotourism		
Landscape	Research/Education		
Research/Education	Human health		
Tourism/Ecotourism			
Human health			



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MARINE
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An application of contingent valuation and decision tree analysis
to water quality improvements

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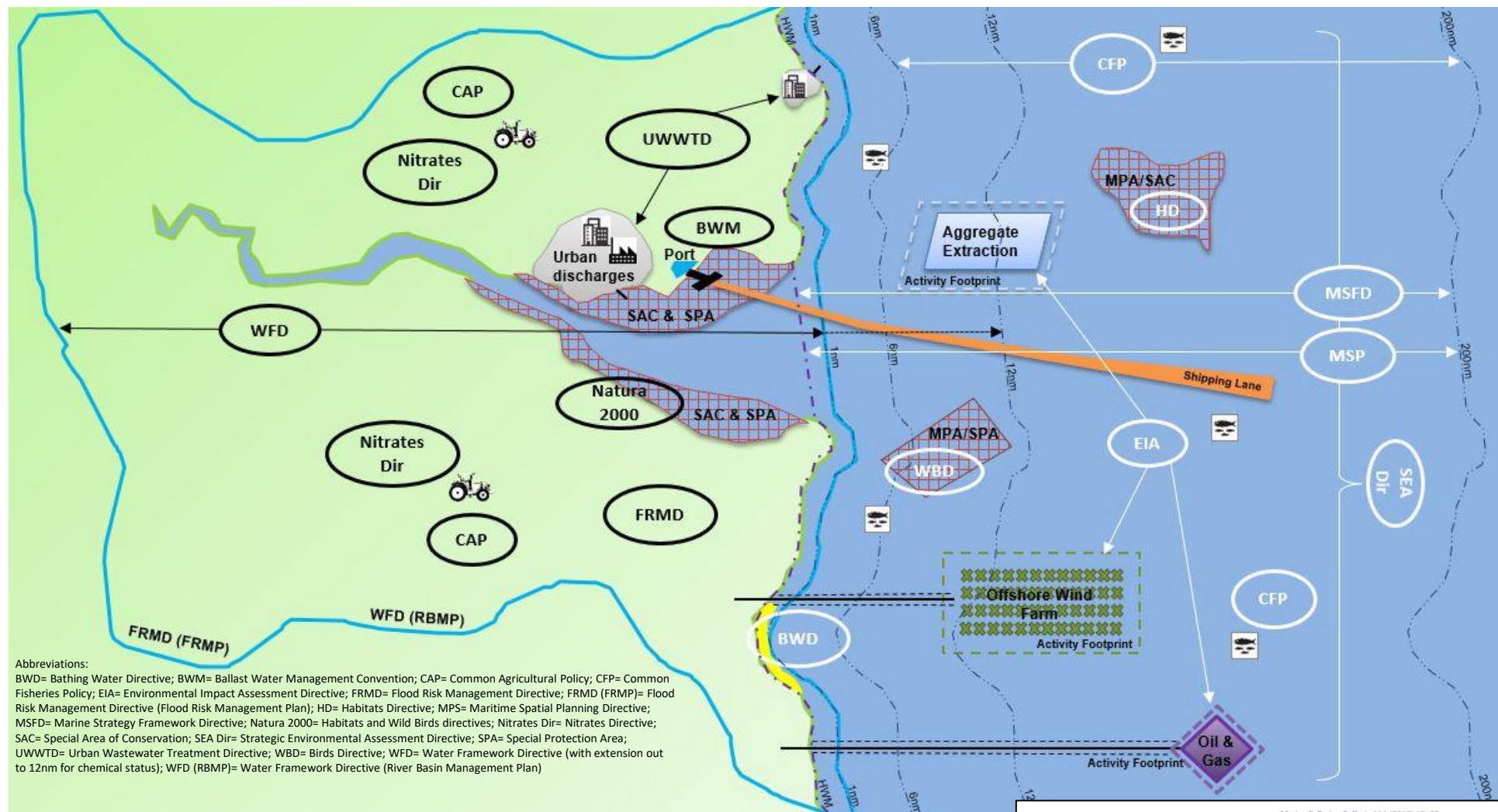
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What are the costs and benefits of biodiversity recovery
in a highly polluted estuary?

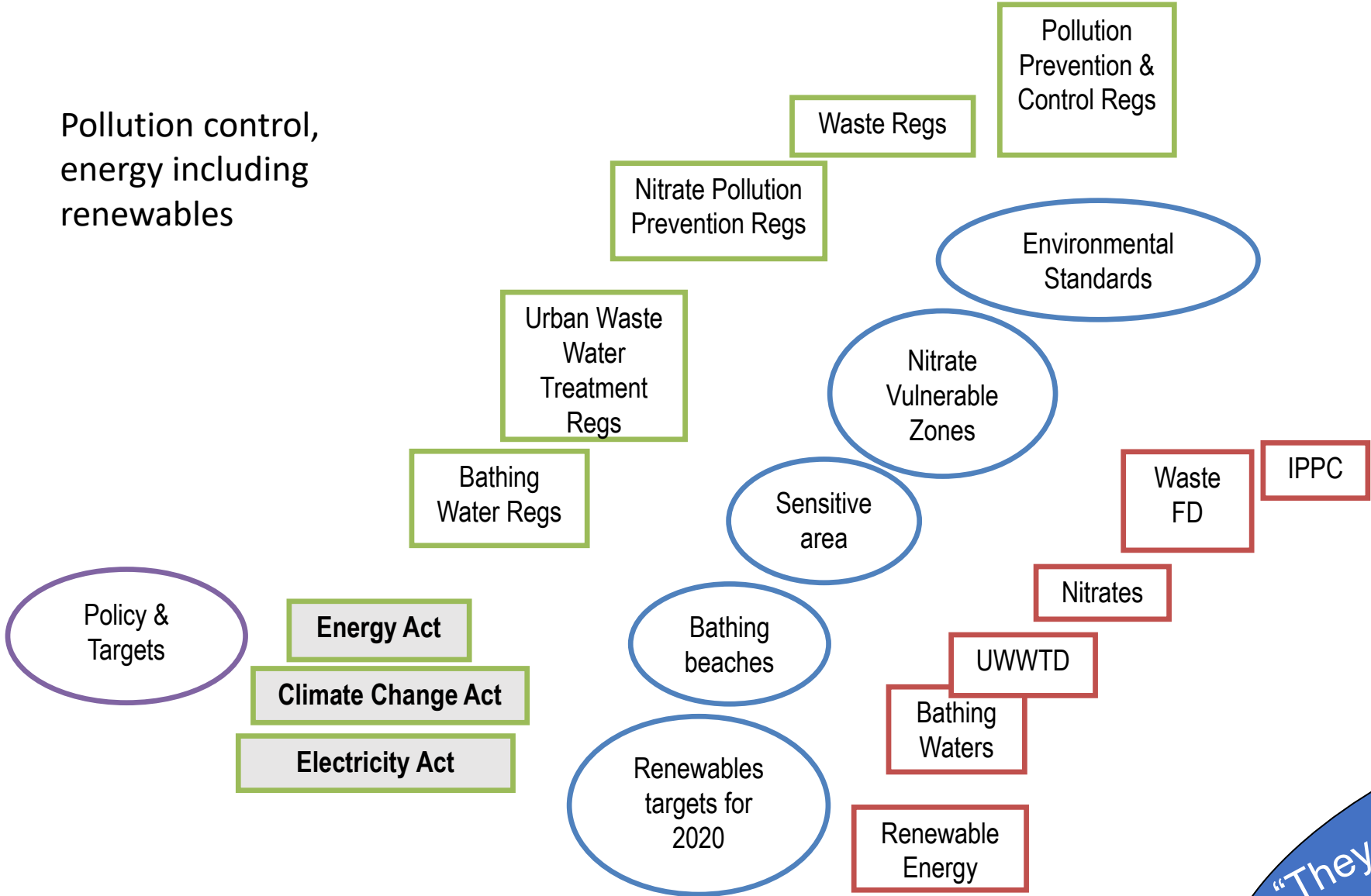
M. Pascual ^{a,b,*}, A. Borja ^{a,*}, J. Franco ^a, D. Burdon ^b, J.P. Atkins ^c, M. Elliott ^b



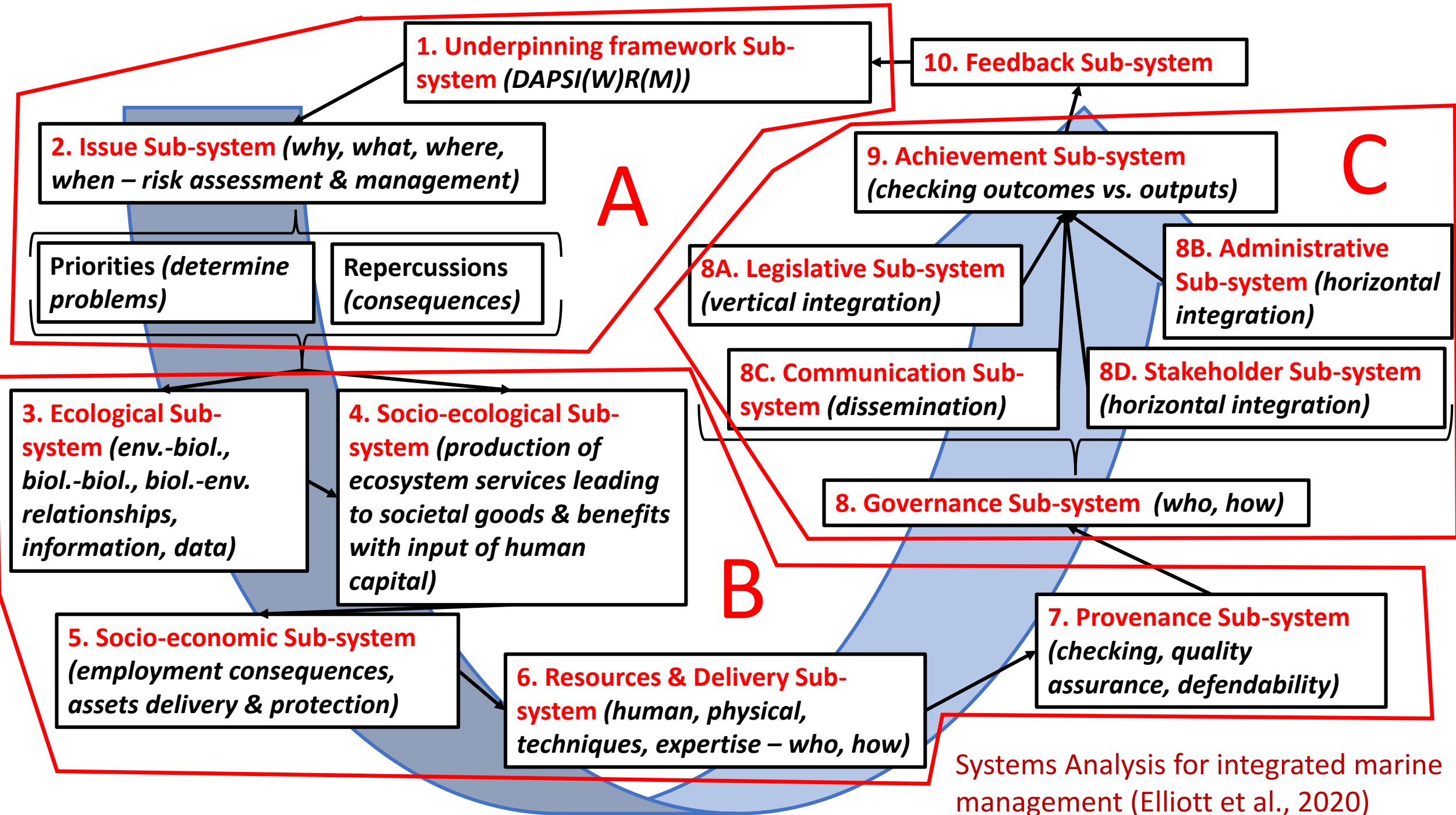
Geographical scope and competencies of EU legislation



Pollution control,
energy including
renewables



“They do it because
the law says they
should!”



Challenges – measuring and managing change

The need to:

- Determine reference conditions and change against them (e.g. 4 ways in WFD – control, hindcasting, forecasting, best expert judgement)
- Allow for the natural characteristics in determining the activity, pressures, effects and management responses footprints
- Integrate the different legislative instruments such as EU Directives
- Allow for the ‘assessment paradox’
- Relate to the economic costs and benefits to catch the politician’s ear
- Emphasise that the system functions because of connectivity across all fields



“I suppose I’ll be the one to mention the elephant in the room.”

“How come it’s always the old, bald-headed guy with glasses in cartoons?”



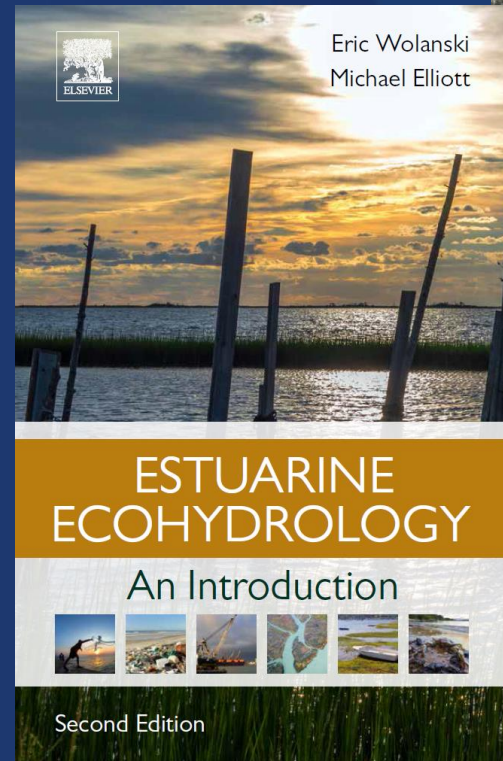


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OF HULL

*Thanks for
listening!*

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