



BLUE ECONOMY FISHERIES SATELLITE ACCOUNT (BEFSA)

TECHNICAL PAPER OCEAN ACCOUNTS

Dr Anand Sookun (NKE)

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Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA)

Technical Paper Ocean Accounts

Prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

Under the auspices of the EEOFISH Marine fisheries (IOC) Work Plan, for the East Africa – South Africa – Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) region, a regional framework for ocean accounts and statistics and the related Blue Economy (BE) database and the BE Fisheries Satellite Accounts (BEFSA), is chartered to mainstreaming the Blue Economy approach into integrated and sustainable management of marine coastal fisheries resources and ecosystems. It will develop symbiotic links between existing datasets of the National Statistical Systems and other relevant sources to provide more comprehensive and realistic estimates of the aggregated fisheries wealth at the national and regional level following the blue economy (BE) paradigm.

This project will mainly support the following beneficiary countries: Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sudan, Somalia, and Tanzania. The government and non-governmental organisations/stakeholders are key stakeholders that are directly or indirectly involved in the coastal marine fisheries and environmental sectors, such as the Ministry of Fisheries, Environment, National Statistical Offices, Research and Academia, Business Community and Civil Society Organisations and possibly extended to others.

Aims and objectives

The statistical intervention objective is to strengthen national capacities of selected developing countries for the sustained, regular production of a priority set of fisheries and BE related socio-economic and related environmental statistics and accounts, and the resulting indicators, in order to measure progress towards sustainable development and the blue economy (BE).

This Technical paper is prepared: (i) to assess the weaknesses and loopholes in the fisheries data collection and management; (ii) the capacity needs and gaps assessment and, (iii) other concurrent initiatives in these areas in view to formulating a regional framework for economic measures of marine fisheries in the National Accounts and Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account.

This technical paper has two parts:

- (1) Ocean Accounts that describes the blue economy in terms of the statistical system that improves existing data with a view to developing ocean accounts which provides an understanding of the importance of the ocean as a development space.
- (2) The Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (BEFSA) that is part of the ocean account but having a particular focus on fisheries.

The technical paper gives an overview of the **Regional Framework** and a **manual** that will enable the development of a national and eventually a

regional set of statistics and accounts for the ocean and particularly for the fisheries sector.

Rationale

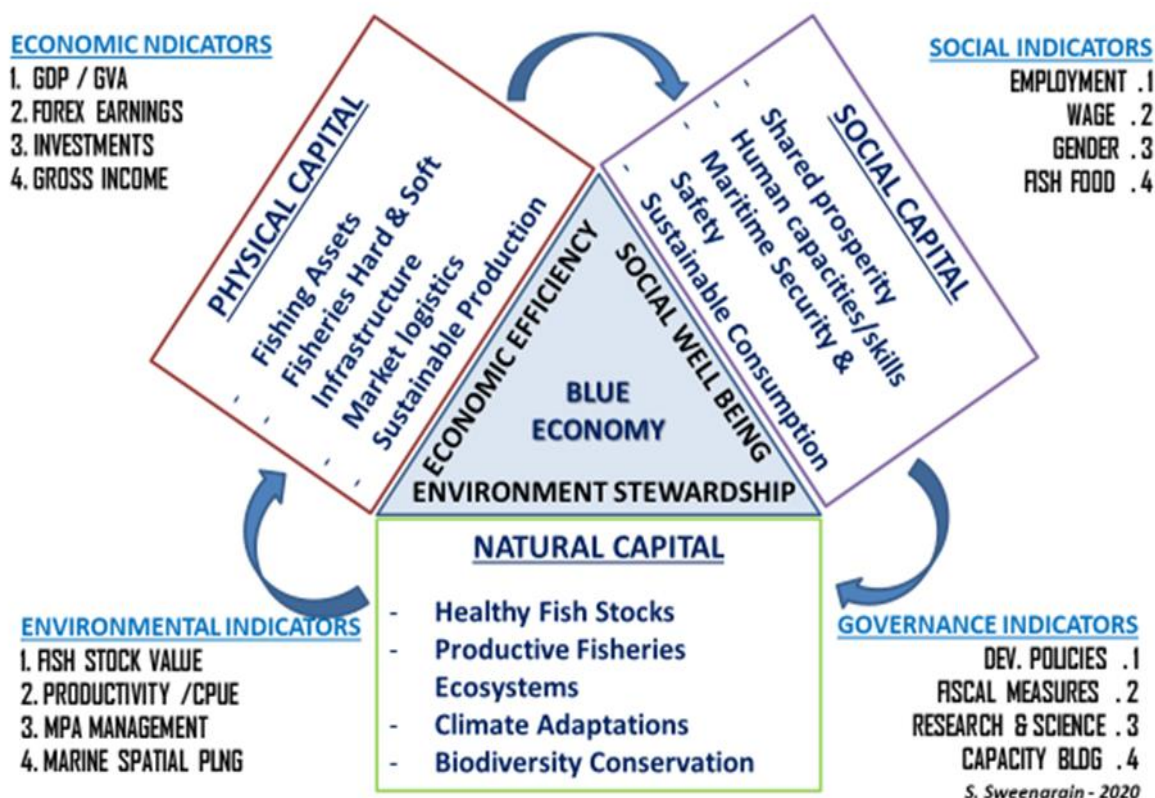
As a whole, the EA-SA-IO marine environment is an important asset for food, livelihood, trade and other activities. However, the lack of adequate and reliable scientific and economic information hampers science-based policy-making and management decisions at the national and regional levels. The framework and manual will be an enabling factor for monitoring progress in the BE.

Concept of Blue Economy

The BE concept is simply about greening the ocean related activities. According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the BE describes the sustainable use and conservation of aquatic resources in both marine and freshwater environments. This includes oceans and seas, coastlines and banks, lakes, rivers and groundwater.

Regarding sustainability, the chart below describes the components of the BE that measures the triple bottomline: PHYSICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS.

Chart 7 - SUSTAINOMICS OF MARINE FISHERIES



Weaknesses and loopholes in ocean related data

The level of details in the data varies greatly across countries. In the regional economic commissions (RECs) as well, the databases are poorly ventilated, except a few cases like the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) which keep a good database. The COMESA, which has a leading role in the developing of the BEFSA, though having a good data portal, still lacks data to meet the requirements of a BE statistical system.

Considering the specificity of the scope and coverage of the ocean economy, some challenges are expected in the attempt to estimate the Ocean Economy Satellite Accounts, as outlined below:

- Unavailability of the data

Ideally, all of the sea-based and coastal activities should be covered in the Ocean Accounts. However, data on the output of coastal establishments are not readily available. Data on the tourism activities are likewise not available in enough details. In addition, there is no record of output/revenues specific to maritime sectors. In this context, several proxy indicators can be considered to address some of the data gaps. In addition, some of the international databases, e.g. from the FAO, can be tapped.

- Disaggregation of data

The aggregation of data based in the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) system makes it difficult to identify and quantify the ocean-based output. Many of the published statistics on economic output (such as the National Accounts), presents estimates at levels of aggregation the does not conform to the requirements of Ocean Accounts. This can be addressed by arranging the ISIC for the different value chains or sectors, and by triangulations of details from survey data and supplementing it with administrative data.

Capacity needs and gaps

Some countries have the basic datasets to compile BE related statistics. For instance, national accounts and its main aggregates like the GDP and value added by sector are available, though lacking details. As regards other components of the BE and building the interactions with the society and the environment and sustainability, there are still some paucity of data.

Capacity in terms of resources to collect and manage data, through an ongoing activity, is still scarce. The capacity needs range from human capacity, finance,

and know how, among others. Armed with data and political goodwill, countries have different options to tap into the growth potential of the blue economy.

The following section present the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) assessment of the data management.

SWOT

The region is having shortcoming in terms of updated data on BE. There are however, some potential to develop further the existing data infrastructure. The SWOT Analysis below give some highlights on the situation.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National accounts, e.g. SNA 2008 already established in many countries, • Environment statistics are being developed, • COMESA and others like UNECA have capacity development initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the value chains not always updated, • The area is new and lacks capacity • No systematic data collection.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building often available, e.g. COMESA, UNSD, World Bank, UNECA • Several guidelines exists, e.g. UN FDES, and SEEA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of interest of countries to pursue regular data collection, • Lack of human and financial resources.

Concurrent initiatives

The African Union has established the Blue Economy Strategy 2020 in tandem with its Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 which are cascaded at the sub-regional and national levels. Among the target partner countries, Seychelles has experimented a Blue Economy Satellite Account for its fisheries sector and it is still a work-in-progress. Besides this, Mauritius also regularly prepares value added for the ocean industries. There are a few projects in the region namely that can be helpful: (1) the AFD funded IORA *"Strengthening the Capacities of IORA in Promoting the Blue Economy and Fisheries Management"* and (2) the SIDA *"A partnership for Marine and Coastal Governance and*

Fisheries Management for Blue Growth”, and the UNECA Blue Economy Valuation Toolkit (BEVTK) .

COMESA initiative

The COMESA Medium Term Strategic Plan 2016-2020 recognizes the Blue/Ocean Economy as covering aquatic and marine areas, including oceans, seas, coastlines, lakes, rivers and groundwater. Furthermore, it includes many productive sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transport, shipbuilding, energy, bio-prospecting and underwater mining to accelerate structural transformation. With the approval of the 2017-2020 Statistics Strategy by Council in November 2017, the COMESA Statistics Unit, started developing a framework that could be used to collect statistics for the strengthening of the Blue economy in the region. However, not much has been achieved due to lack of funding.

There are a few countries that have embarked in some way in compiling economic or social indicators related to fisheries, the ocean or other related topics. These are mainly based on the concept of fisheries value chains, e.g. for Gross Value Added (GVA). Lessons learned and best practices will improve the process of developing the BEFSA.

PART I – OCEAN ACCOUNTS

Understanding Ocean Accounts

An [Ocean Account](#)¹ is a structured compilation of consistent and comparable information, including statistics, indicators and maps, concerning marine and coastal environments, and related social circumstances and economic activities. Ocean accounts are organised by the common framework and structure to enhance the consistency, comparability and coherence of ocean-related data, statistics and indicators across social, environmental and economic domains.

The ocean accounts are compatible with relevant international statistical standards and approaches, including but not limited to, the System of National Accounts (SNA), System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), and Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). They are also compatible with the ten UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics ([FPOS](#)). These are designed as a reference point for ensuring that official statistics are fit-for-purpose given their critical role in policy decision-making in support of sustainable development; and securing public trust in governance.

The Ocean Accounts describe:

- Interactions between the economy and the environment,
- The stocks and changes in stocks of environmental assets (natural capital) that provide benefits to people, and
- Social and governance factors affecting the status and condition of environmental assets and associated benefits.

Conceptual Framework

The international standards and best practices for developing the ocean accounts will be based on the key elements of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) 2013), the SDG indicators, and a few other guidance documents, including:

- System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA AFF)²;
- Africa's Blue Economy: A policy handbook
- Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Fisheries (UNSD 2004 – white cover)

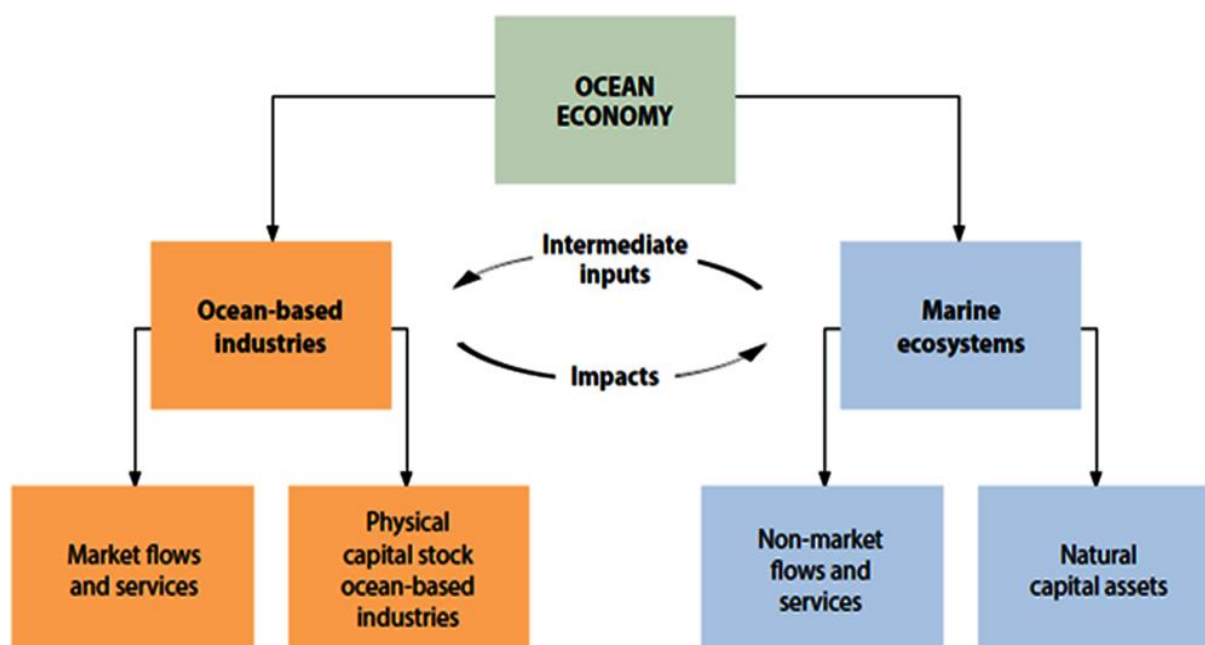
¹ GOAP 2020: Global Ocean Accounts Partnership - Technical Guidance on Ocean Accounting

² FAO and UN. 2020. System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA AFF). Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7735en>

- Measuring the Blue Economy: The System of National Accounts & Use of Blue Economy Satellite Accounts³
- Understanding and measuring the contribution of aquaculture and fisheries to gross domestic product (GDP), FAO 2019⁴
- Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounts: A Quick-Start Package⁵

The framework and its manual aim to develop a simple and cost-effective ocean accounting principles for compiling, evaluating, and reporting indicators on sustainable ocean activities in the EA-SA-IO region. It is an interdisciplinary and multidimensional framework.

Ocean-based industries⁶ can be divided into market flows and services and physical capital stock of the industries. Marine ecosystems represent natural capital and non-market flows and services. In many cases, marine ecosystems provide intermediate inputs to the ocean-based industries. An example is coral reefs. They provide shelter and habitat for fish nurseries and unique genetic resources, while at the same time providing recreational value for maritime tourism. Conversely, ocean industries can impact the health of marine ecosystems, e.g. through discharge of ship waste or pollution from oil spills.



Source: [OECD](#)

³ CDB Working Paper [No. 2019/02](#)

⁴ [FAO 2019](#): Cai, J.N., Huang, H. & Leung, P.S. 2019. Understanding and measuring the contribution of aquaculture and fisheries to gross domestic product (GDP). FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture, Technical Paper No. 606. Rome, FAO. 80 pp. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

⁵ Jean-Louis Weber (2014). Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounts: A Quick Start Package, Montreal, Technical Series No. 77, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

⁶ Source: OECD (2016), The Ocean Economy in 2030

Methodological Approach

This technical paper will be accompanied by a regional framework and a manual with a few demo accounts.

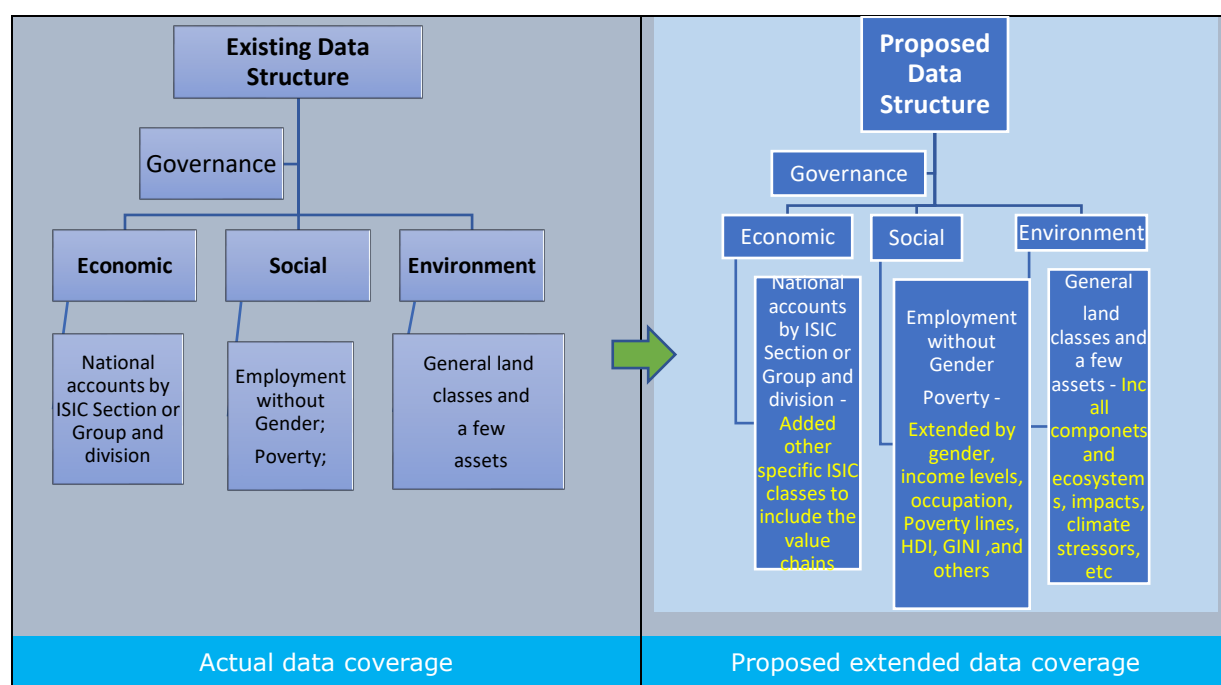
Ocean accounting covering a holistic set of statistics and indicators will be built mostly from existing statistics. The actual existing data is most often not disaggregated enough to cover the ocean or blue economy activities. The proposed framework builds on the extension of the data coverage for the different components mentioned above (See Figure xxx): the economy, the social and the environmental aspects.

The Economy

Ocean related activities encompasses a number of sectors that in terms of the System of National Accounts (SNA), is represented by the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) of activities.

The existing data, which lacks details and disaggregation of ocean related activities, will need to be improved so that all the established and emerging industries are included.

The concept of alternative aggregations⁷ shows that any statistical classification reflects compromises between a number of theoretical principles and practical considerations. Thus, not all needs for aggregated data will be equally well served by simple aggregation through the various levels within the existing structure of ISIC.

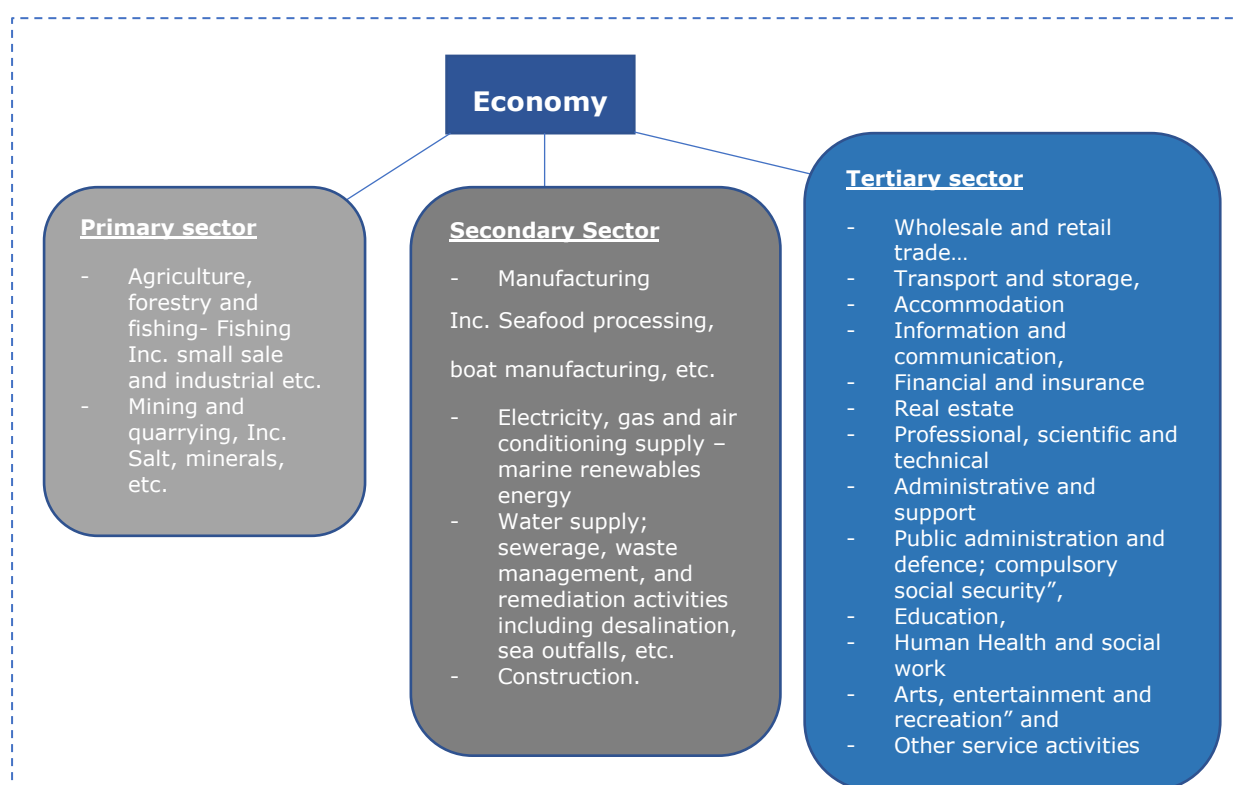


⁷ UNSD 2017: Defining [alternative aggregations](#) for ISIC: Example of the Blue Economy

To meet specialized needs, standardized alternative aggregations can be formed according to ISIC. The Blue Economy/Ocean Economy or maritime economy consists of all the sectoral and cross-sectoral economic activities related to the oceans, seas and coasts. Not every sector that is relevant and included in the ocean economy is defined as such within the ISIC and national statistical accounts. The 3 and 4 digit level ISIC codes are not detailed enough to list all the ocean-based industries – some industries match exactly while others would need changes in ISIC. If we want to use just complete classes for the aggregation, this should be done to support statistical measurement of the Blue Economy.

Most of the time, the cores of the marine or ocean related activities are embedded in the Groups such as Fishing in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; and Tourism in Accommodation and related Activities. Therefore, the structure to develop the Ocean accounts will require the disaggregating of the ISIC into detailed classes that will isolate the ocean related activities.

That would mean that indicators like the Gross Value Added (GVA), employment, and trade, among a few others, will be disaggregated according to the ISIC Classes relevant to the ocean and its related activities. Other disaggregation, such as for trade of products (e.g. frozen fish) based on the Harmonised System (HS) codes; and employment by the International Standard Code for Occupation (ISCO). In addition, some indicators will also improve the economic data, such as the Exchange rates, investments and a few others.



The Social aspects

The social aspects of the ocean-related and BE activities relate to the employment and earnings (wages) by gender, poverty incidences, and measures of wealth such as GINI and Lorenz curves, and the Human Development Index (HDI). Others can be added such as bad weather allowances for fishers, and social security, etc.

The Environment

Some countries have started to develop environment statistics, especially based on the UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES). These are categorised as components:

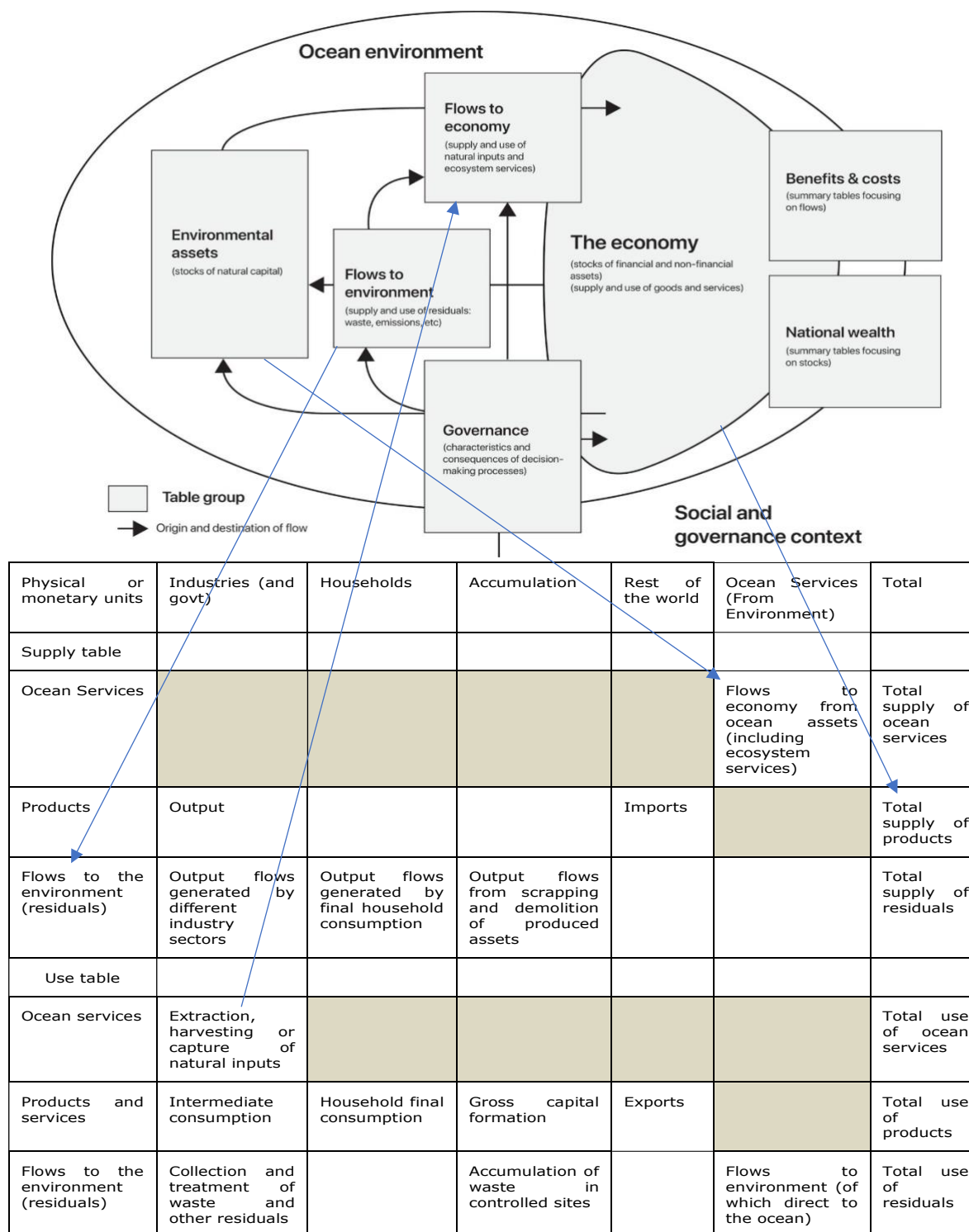
1. Environmental Conditions and Quality, e.g. marine ecosystems extent and condition
2. Environmental Resources and their Use: e.g. Marine resources, Minerals, energy. etc
3. Emissions, Residuals and Waste: Wastes (marine/coastal), chemicals releases, , wastewater, etc
4. Disasters and Extreme Events: extreme events/climate change, oil spills, etc.
5. Human Settlements and Environmental Health: Demography, marine pollutions, etc
6. Environment Protection, Management and Engagement: Finance, policies, risk reductions, climate change adaptation, sensitizations, etc

Each of these components contain statistics and data to be collected and these can be sorted according to their relevance for ocean and BE related activities.

Integrated satellite accounts

The integration will be done the use of supply and use tables, both in monetary and physical terms, so that the interactions between the economic, social and environmental activities can be traced out. The asset accounts will also be valuable, as well as the accounts integrating the ecosystem goods and services, such as regulating, provisioning, support, and cultural , etc.

Other tools such as the Social accounting matrix (SAM) and the input-output tables can also improve the accountings and statistics.



Source: Adapted from GOAP

The above BE pillars and integration of same will provide a holistic view of the BE and ocean related activities and events.

Part II – Blue Economy Fisheries

Satellite Accounts (BEFSA)

UNDERSTANDING OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Aquatic resources are renewable but not infinite or inexhaustible. They need to be properly managed to ensure their lasting socio-economic and ecological benefits. There are noted degradation of the coastal marine ecosystems resulting from human-induced and environmental stressors, including climate change.

Initiatives to safely manage the aquatic resources include:

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the SDG 14 – “Life Below Water”, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources;
- FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries that are embedded into the AU Policy Framework and Reform Strategies for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa to leapfrog the socio-economic aspirations of Transforming Africa 2063.

Sustainable Development, when applied to fisheries should be guided by the triple-bottom-line of Sustainable Development: Environmental Integrity, Economic Efficiency and Social Justice. The main constituents of a sustainable fisheries system are the followings:

- i. Environment: related to the health and productivity of the fishery resources and other associated species – safe biological limit of capture, impact of gear, habitats such as corals, mangroves, estuaries, marine pollution, etc.
- ii. Economy refers to the system of costs and benefits within the fishery and monetary flows into and out of the fishery – flows of fish resources to the economy and its use –demand and supply.
- iii. Society: The societal component encompasses the social costs and benefits in monetary or non-monetary value which are important factors of human welfare-jobs, gender, poverty, social safety nets, etc.
- iv. Governance includes Legal and Policy frameworks as well as formal, and informal practices and beliefs governing the system (Rules of the Game)

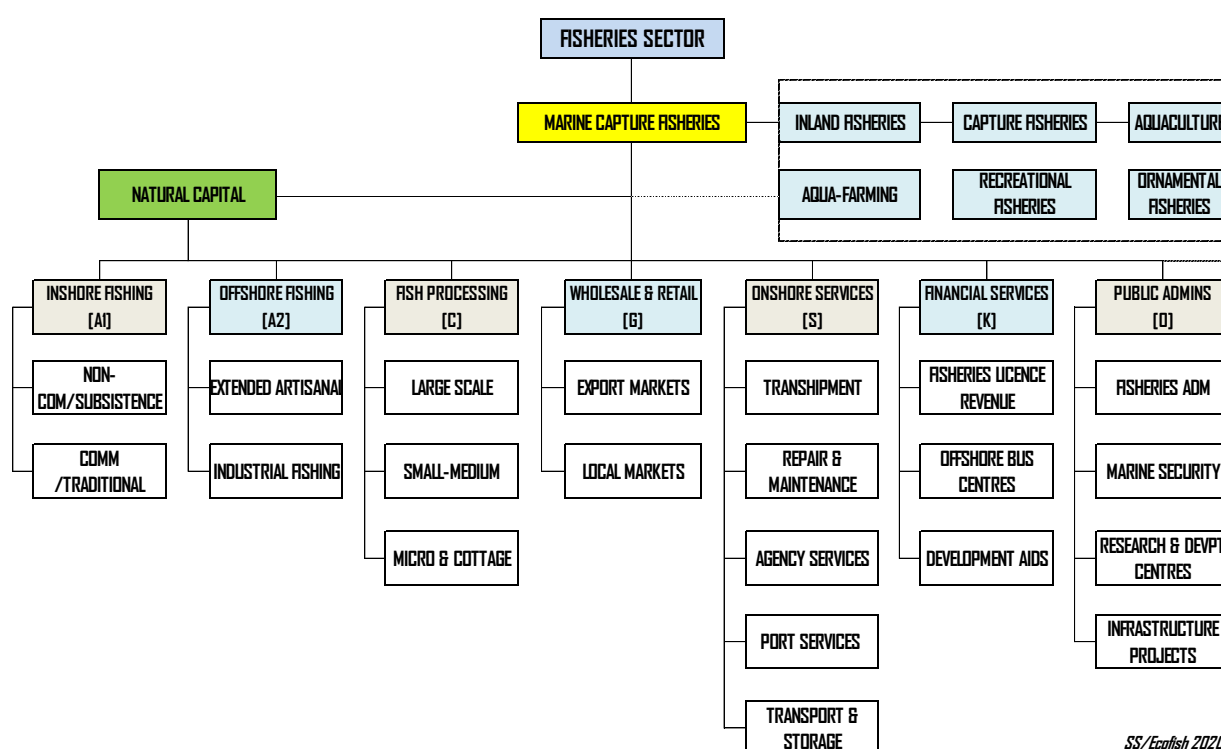
Besides the above components, it is important to integrate the significance of Science-Technology-Innovation (STI) that has the potential to be a game-changer for sustainable fisheries.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Non-produced fish stocks have several characteristics that make them difficult to measure reliably. Stock levels are generally not observable but are inferred from remote sensing, modelling and fish catch and effort records in any period. Individual fish stocks may include migratory species, straddling stocks, and fish that live permanently in the high seas, making them difficult to observe and monitor. In practice, it is generally only commercially targeted fish stocks with economic values where sufficient information is collected and available for compiling accounts.

Accounts may be compiled in either physical or monetary units, or a hybrid combination of both. Hybrid accounts are often used for fish accounting as the combination of physical and monetary information reflects the range of data collected by both fisheries management agencies and national statistical offices.

Since there are observed lack of disaggregated data to cover the whole value chain of the fisheries sector, and not just the fishing sector as is common in the national accounts, a detailed split of the activities as required, as in the figure below.



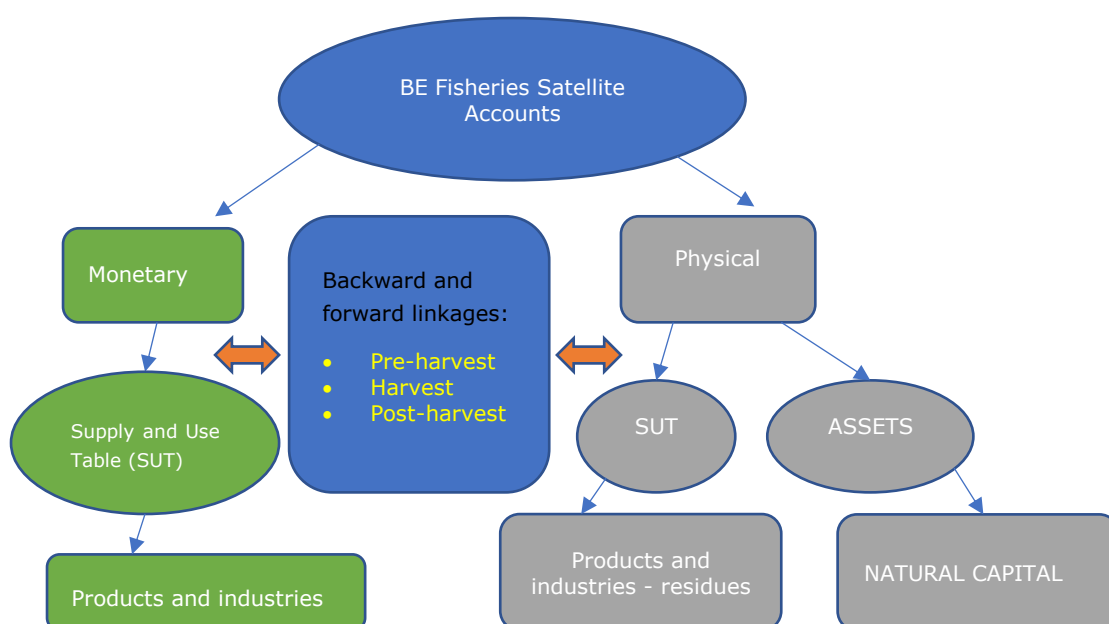
Moreover, the [FAO](#)⁸ has developed the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA AFF). It integrates information on the environment and economic activities of agriculture, forestry and fisheries using the structures and principles laid out in the SEEA Central Framework. These activities depend directly on, as well as have an impact upon, the environment and its resources. Integrating information about fisheries facilitates the understanding of the trade-offs and dependencies between these activities and their related environmental factors. Understanding this complex relationship is critical for the analysis of sustainable food and agriculture. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Accounts are one of the many types of accounts covered by the SEEA Central Framework. These accounts use the same accounting concepts as the SEEA and can be considered an application of the SEEA but with a specific focus on agricultural, forestry and fisheries activities, and in the case here, for fisheries.

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The components to be included in the Fishery Satellite Account includes the benefits of a certain economic activity. Two types of economic contributions can be considered. One is values derived from harvested fish and their parts, which includes fresh and frozen fish directly sold at markets, processed fish food, non-food products (e.g. fish meal and fish oils, chemical extracts), ornamental parts, and a few others. The other one is economic activities providing essential support and services to enable fisheries and fishery-related activities, which includes production and marketing of gears, fuel, machineries, port services, ingredients for processing, and a few others. In the System of National Account (SNA), the former is taken as value added of relevant activities, while the latter is considered as a cost, i.e. an intermediate, needed for production (of fish and fish commodities). The satellite account would help the latter type of contribution and economic flow more visible and transparent.

The Structure of Fisheries Accounts includes physical and monetary accounts.

⁸ FAO:



The monetary part can be enhanced by the inclusion of all the values chains, including the backward and forward linkages. This can be interpreted as **the pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest** activities.

Users and compilers of the accounts will have a choice from several of the formats and concepts to be provided in the regional framework and its accompanying manual from a few examples below.

SIMPLIFIED ACCOUNTS (Monetary)

	Output (1)	Intermediate consumption				Gross value added
		Water	Energy	Other	Total (2)	= (1) – (2)
Fisheries (Grouped ISIC classes)						
Fishing - marine	3032	538	269	985	1792	1240
Fishing - freshwater	12127	2105	1075	3942	7167	4960
Aquaculture - brackish*	7848	2087	696	1855	4638	3210
Aquaculture - marine	15	3	1	5	9	6
Aquaculture - freshwater	4050	1077	479	838	2394	1657
Total fisheries	27072	5855	2520	179	8553	11073

Physical use table for fish and aquatic products (t)

		Output							
		Capture fisheries			Aquaculture			Other catch (including household production)	Total output
		Gross catch	Discarded catch	Nominal catch	Harvest	Harvest loss	Nominal harvest		
Fish and other aquatic products									
Fish	Freshwater fish	3 062	43	3019	4036	57	3979		6998
	Diadromous fish								
	Demersal fish	1152	16	1135	71	1	70		1205
	Pelagic fish, including Tunas, bonitos, billfishes	1590	22	1568	9		9		1577
	Other pelagic fish	164	2	162					162
	Marine fish, other				599	8	591		591
Crustaceans		401		401	921	1	920		1321
Molluscs	Cephalopods	188		188					188
	Other molluscs excl cephalopods								
Aquatic animals, other	Marine mammals								
	Reptiles								
	Other aquatic animals								
	Pearls, sponges and corals								
Aquatic plants, algae	Algae				10748	200	10548		10548
	Macro plants								

Input-Output model

Table 1 A condensed input-output table for the economy million (LCU or USD)

Row no.	Column no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Aquaculture	Fishing	Manufacture of aqua feed	Manufacture of fishing boats	Fish processing	Fish marketing	Rest of the economy (ROE)	Import	Gross value added	Total input (Sum of rows 1 to 9)
1	Aquaculture										
2	Fishing										
3	Manufacture of aqua feed										
4	Manufacture of fishing boats										
5	Fish processing										
6	Fish marketing										
7	Rest of the economy (ROE)										
8	Import										
9	Gross value added										
10	Total input (Sum of rows 1 to 9)										

SUT

Physical or monetary units	Industries (and govt)	Households	Accumulation	Rest of the world	Ocean Services (From Environment)	Total
Supply table						
Ocean Services					Flows to economy from ocean assets (including ecosystem services)	Total supply of ocean services
Products	Output			Imports		Total supply of products
Flows to the environment (residuals)	Output flows generated by different industry sectors	Output flows generated by final household consumption	Output flows from scrapping and demolition of produced assets			Total supply of residuals

Use table						
Ocean services	Extraction, harvesting or capture of natural inputs					Total use of ocean services
Products and services	Intermediate consumption	Household final consumption	Gross capital formation	Exports		Total use of products
Flows to the environment (residuals)	Collection and treatment of waste and other residuals		Accumulation of waste in controlled sites		Flows to environment (of which direct to the ocean)	Total use of residuals

Operationalisation

Planning for the next steps

The technical report will serve as a groundwork for the activities to be undertaken. It will follow the measures to be adopted by the activities to meet the intended objective.

It will include a Capacity Development Strategy and a time-bound action plan as well as recommendations and the way forward (which can include further extensions of the BEFSA).

Back-stopping support

The BEFSA development will necessitate a participatory approach whereby **pilot countries**, and if possible, others, have to be brought on board. The back-stopping will be provided when the countries start to identify and collect existing and available data related to the BEFSA.

Towards the end of the project, and even afterwards, the pilot and if possible, other member countries will be provided with any requested technical support for the publication of improved fisheries economic indicators and periodic Satellite Account.

Thematic Technical Working Group

The Thematic Technical Working Group (TTWG) will need be to set up with strong footholds. This will require an enhanced inter-agency and cross-sector collaboration, including stakeholders from Fisheries, Environment, Industries, Marine Security, National Statistics Office, research organisations, NGOs and others, for improving the fisheries economic indicators.

Policy Brief and advocacy

The policy brief will be developed to showcase improvement of fisheries and BE data use and the significance of the BEFSA for evidence-based policymaking, analysis and monitoring. It will highlight the purpose of the BEFSA, key messages, the importance of sustainable fisheries and BE, key challenges, policy actions based on BEFSA, with case studies, actual and forecasted demands and supply gaps, and the benefits to people, the economy and the environment.

Besides, a PowerPoint presentation will be prepared to highlight the salient points of the BEFSA project.

Communication and visibility materials

Throughout the process of developing the BEFSA, Communications and Policy dialogues will enhance participation from different stakeholders. Therefore, Communication and visibility materials will be developed through the programme. This may include newsletters, and the use of infographics and other means of attractive information dissemination techniques.

Conclusion

With the development of the framework and its manual, the process for assisting target countries is initiated. The different segments of this technical paper provided the groundwork for this development process.

The good coverage of the economy, social and environmental aspects and their integrated model, will ensure that evidence based policy decision are taken care of.

The operationalising of the process that is presented here, with the manual serving as the technical guidance document, will support countries. Capacity building and backstopping will be part of the process in the medium term, until the implementation is achieved gradually.



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