Applying systems analysis to support marine spatial planning in Algoa Bay, South Africa

5th IMCC 2018 Kuching, Sarawak

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Research Aim:

To apply a **systems analysis** framework to marine spatial planning and to explore the use of **system dynamics modelling** as a decision support tool.

Huching, Sarawak

Objective:

Develop **system dynamics models** to simulate the complex biophysical marine environment in Algoa Bay spanning certain habitats, physical oceanographic processes and levels of biodiversity to identify and evaluate trade-offs between human and environmental needs.

Systems Thinking approach :



Systems thinking is a **holistic approach** to analysis that focuses on the way that a system's constituent **parts interrelate** and how systems work **over time** and within the context of larger systems. The systems thinking approach differs from traditional analysis, by breaking systems down into their separate elements. Systems thinking can be used in any area of research (e.g. medicine, environment, politics, economics).



Scenario matrix

MSP Governance: Good



MSP Governance: Poor

Modelling the marine environment using system dynamics



Diagram: Enserink, B et al., 2010. Systems Analysis. In *Policy Analysis of Multi-Actor Systems*. 6

Ruching, Sara





Offshore bunkering vs. Marine Protected Area

Application of System Dynamics Modelling in Algoa Bay



How does systems analysis support MSP?



- Sustainable development
- **o** Ecosystem-based management
- Spatial efficiency
- Collaboration and responsible ocean governance
- **O** Precautionary approach
- Adaptive management
- Coherent planning and management
- Use of best available science and information



Source: Ehler, C. & Douvere, F., 2009. Marine spatial planning: A step-bystep approach toward ecosystem-based management.

"Models are most useful when they lead to counterintuitive results that force the planners to reexamine their intuitive understanding" – Jay Forrester



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Thank you Estee Vermeulen esteever01@gmail.com