MARINE ECONOMICS

Black & Veatch’s proven expertise in marine economics is used by our clients to demonstrate the economic contribution of their proposals, projects and programmes. Our work contributes to economic growth in coastal communities, seeking innovative ways to mitigate and adapt to changing economic opportunity, and working towards a more sustainable use of our marine resource.

OUR WORK UNDERPINS THE ROBUST BUSINESS CASE NEEDED TO SUCCINCTLY COMMUNICATE THE CLEAR RATIONALE FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS (CBA) quantifies the change in economic welfare (to society as a whole) of a proposal, based on an assessment of market goods and non-market goods. It compares the economic efficiency of different resource options and informs options appraisal, investment planning or the business case for a scheme, in order to understand the merits of introducing a policy or delivering a project.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Marine Conservation Zones Impact Assessment | Defra
A cost-benefit analysis of 127 proposed Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in English waters. This involved close engagement with Defra economists and social scientists, as well as marine industries and environmental NGOs. Our economist was the national lead in developing methodologies (assumptions, unit costs, sensitivity analysis) for ten sectors including renewable energy, ports and harbours. The assessment was used by the Secretary of State to decide which MCZs to put forward for designation in 2013. This included an extensive Ecosystem Services Valuation of marine features in 127 MCZs, on a site-by-site basis, to assess the anticipated change in overall economic welfare associated with the change in condition of species and habitats.

“YOU HAVE BEEN AMAZING. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE.”
Mansi Konar | Defra Economist

We use ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT to estimate the contribution of a project, programme or strategy to economic activity in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) and job creation outputs (direct, indirect and induced impacts). This has helped our clients to access funding and obtain planning consents.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Fish Processing Park Feasibility Study | Torbay Development Agency
Black & Veatch (B&V) estimated the economic contribution of providing industrial space to develop the marine fish processing sector in Torbay to the South West of England economy. The study used multipliers to estimate changes in jobs and GVA.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Economic Impact of Designating MCZs
B&V sponsored research undertaken by the University of the West of England, Bristol, to assess the impact and significance of designating MCZs in the Irish Sea upon the Northern Ireland fisheries sector. An economic impact assessment modelled the effect of a decrease in fisheries landings upon jobs and economic activity (measured by GVA), focusing on the activity of fish processors.

“All of the methods, assumptions and limitations give a lot of weight to a very comprehensive argument”
(Cumbria Wildlife Trust, 2015)
OUR EXPERTISE HELPS OUR CLIENTS TO MEET AND EXCEED REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND TO DEMONSTRATE EXEMPLAR SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR MARINE RESOURCE

Recent developments in marine planning, MCZs and marine licensing have only emphasised the critical role of economics in marine resource use. We have established relationships with Defra, MMO, Natural England, JNCC, NRW and the Environment Agency which helps us to streamline the marine licensing process. We have been working on MCZ Assessment requirements ahead of published guidance. As such we have a thorough understanding of the licensing authorities evidence needs. We also produce socio-economic impact assessments for EIA, utilising our detailed knowledge of marine activities including fisheries, around the UK.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Holyhead Breakwater Refurbishment Feasibility Study | StenaLine Ports

B&V completed a feasibility study including an economic cost-benefit analysis and a socio-economic impact assessment as part of a funding application to the Welsh Assembly Government.

B&V are socio-economic lead on the Welsh Assembly Government Fisheries and Marine Evidence Framework, covering economic, fisheries and marine environment studies.