How governance can help to build long term management plans?

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Horst W.J. Rittel and Melvin M. Weber: "Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning." Policy Science, 4 (1973), 155-169.

Distinguish between what they call "tame" and "wicked" problems, and argue that most social problems belong to latter category.

- ➤ Tame problems are easy to define, easy to separate from other problems, and have a right (or wrong) solution.
- Wicked problems no definite definition, depends on who defines it, and the context. They have a good (or bad) solution. Do not know when or if the problem is solved. Tend to reappear. Solutions leave traces.

Governance approach for wicked problems:

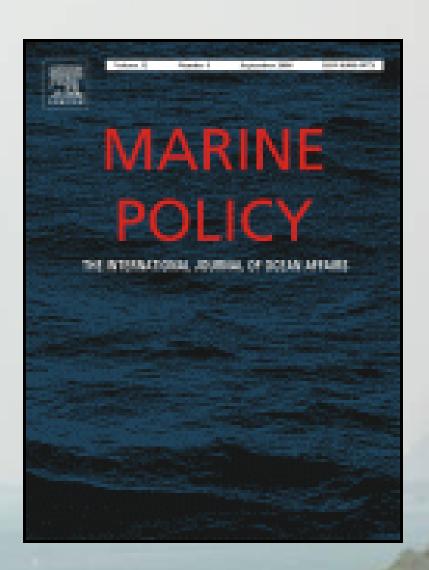
"Wicked problem solving must be understood as an argumentative process: one of raising questions and issues towards which you can assume different positions, with the evidence gathered and arguments built for and against these different positions" (Rittel 1973:395)".

Definition: Interactive governance

"The whole of public as well as private interaction taken to solve societal problems and create societal opportunities. It includes the formulation and application of principles guiding those interactions and care for institutions that enable them."

(Kooiman et al. 2005:17)

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Interactive governance: Some critical questions

- 1. Who are eligible to participate in the decision-making process?
- 2. Should stakeholders have real power?
- 3. Can stakeholders be trusted?
- 4. Are more participation always better?
- 5. Is participation efficient?
- 6. Are some issues more suitable for stakeholder- participation than others?

Thank you for your attention!