

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)

An introductory session on
SEA: what it is, review of
experiences to date, the
role of SEA in
mainstreaming and its
contribution to sustainable
development.



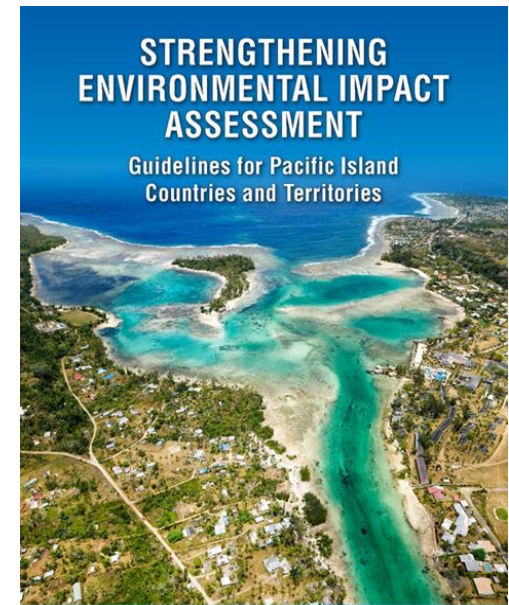
Content

- What is SEA?
- EIA and SEA
- SEA Guideline Consultancy



What is SEA?

- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA), policy, plan or programme scale – a higher-level process that can be used in three main ways:
- (1) to prepare a strategic development or resource use plan for a defined land and/or ocean area;
- (2) to examine the potential environmental impacts that may arise from, or impact upon, the implementation of government policies, plans and programmes; and
- (3) to assess different classes or types of development projects, so as to produce general environmental management policies or design guidelines for the development classes/types.



EIA and SEA

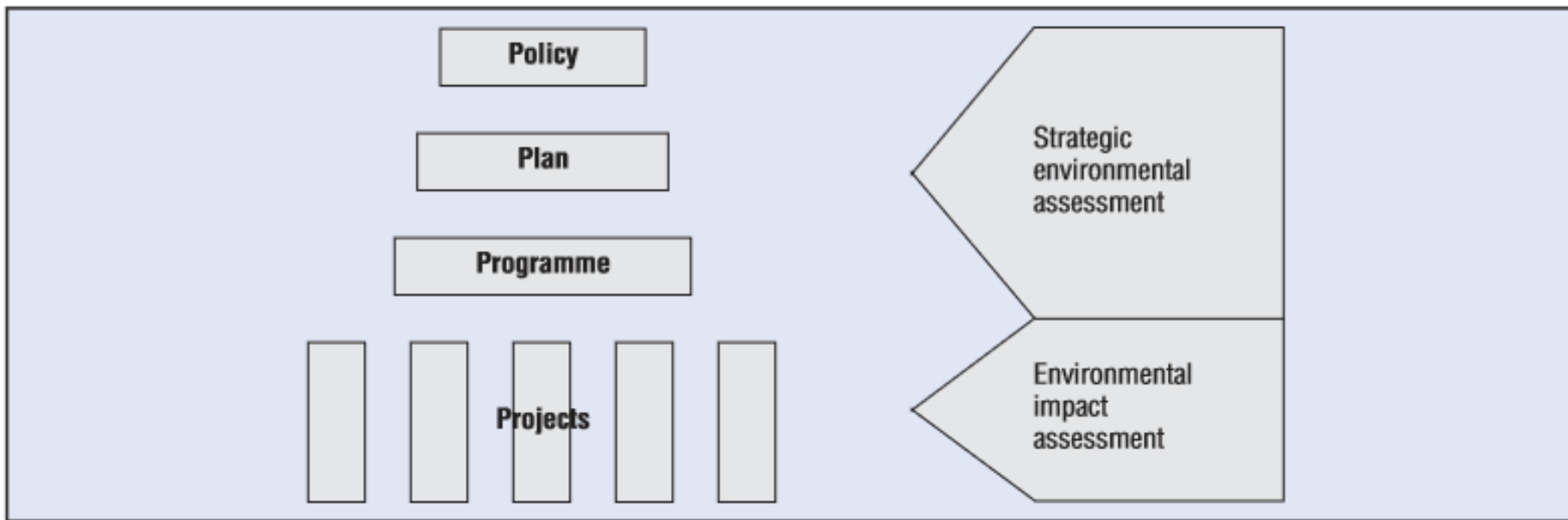
	EIA: PROJECT SCALE	SEA: POLICY, PLAN AND PROGRAMME SCALE
OBJECTIVE	To minimise and mitigate environmental impacts for projects, by setting specific environmental performance and management standards	To promote sustainable and resilient development by embedding sound environmental management within policies, plans and programmes
SCOPE	Identifies environmental impacts for a specific project and location	Identifies environmental impacts related to a broad policy, plan or programme for development
PERSPECTIVE	Narrow perspective, high level of site-specific detail	Broad, strategic perspective, more general environmental details
TYPE OF PROCESS	Well-defined process, clear beginning and end	Multi-stage, flexible and iterative process
ALTERNATIVES	Considers a limited number of feasible development alternatives, within the scope of a project	Considers a broad range of feasible development alternatives across a development sector, theme or land/oceanscape
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	Limited review of cumulative impacts	Early warning of cumulative impacts
MONITORING	Focuses on measuring actual impacts	Focuses on the outcomes of policy, plan and programme implementation



- Development of guidelines for Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) for Pacific island countries and territories.
- The guidelines should be developed based on best practices and should be relevant and appropriate to the Pacific context.
- Some key elements to of the guideline:
 - ✓ Important concepts under the Strategic Environment Assessment
 - ✓ Definition of key terms
 - ✓ History of Strategic Environment Assessment
 - ✓ Strategic Environment Assessment in Practice



EIA and SEA



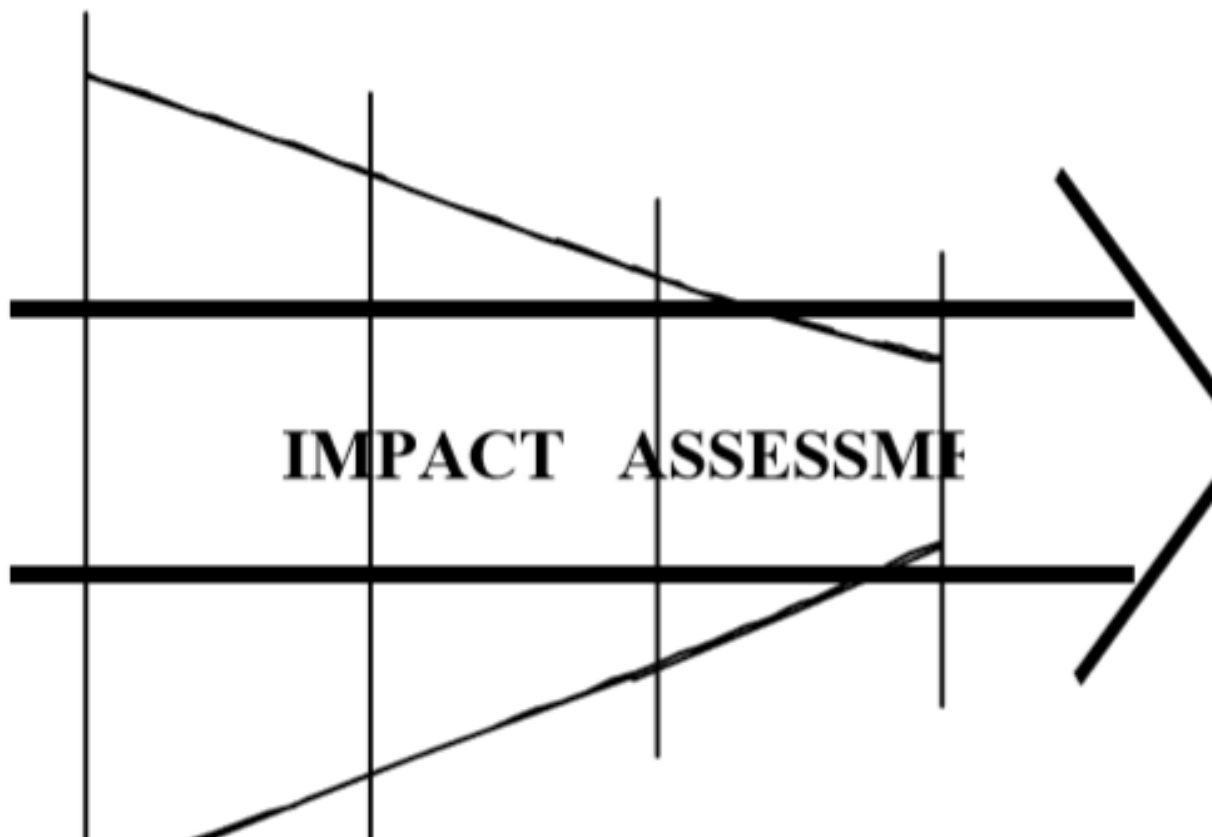
Impact Assessment

POLICI

PLAN

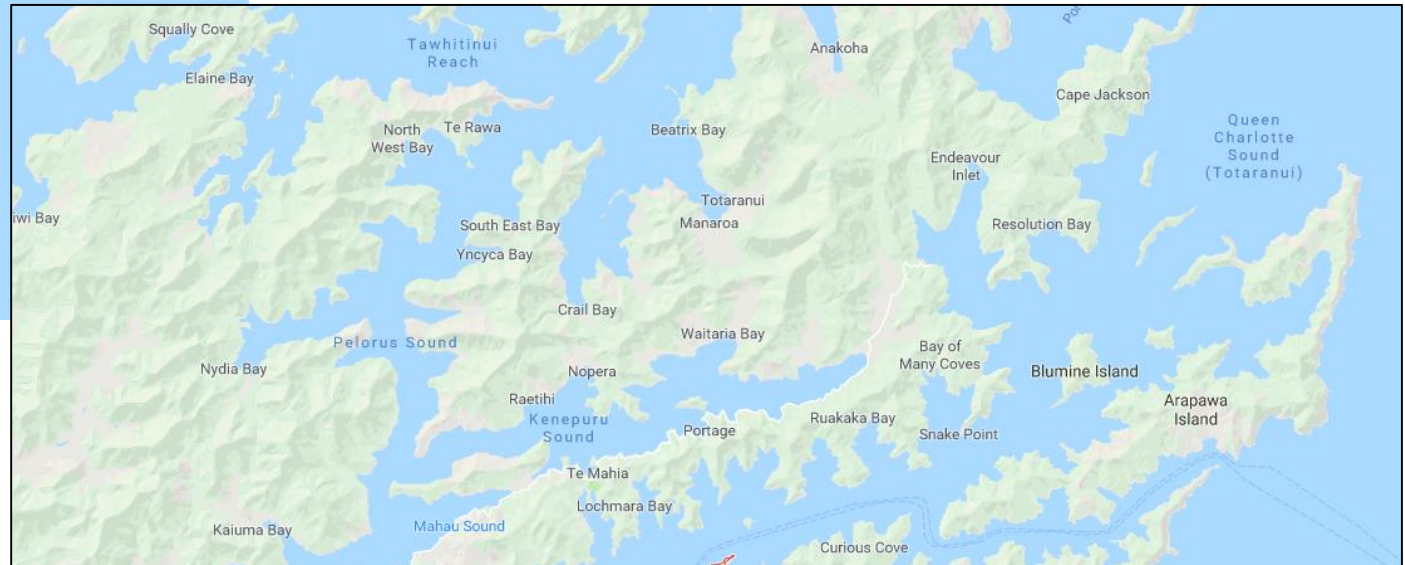
PROGRAM

PROJEC



Example – EIA Salmon Farm

- Marlborough Sounds
- Top of the South Island
- New Zealand



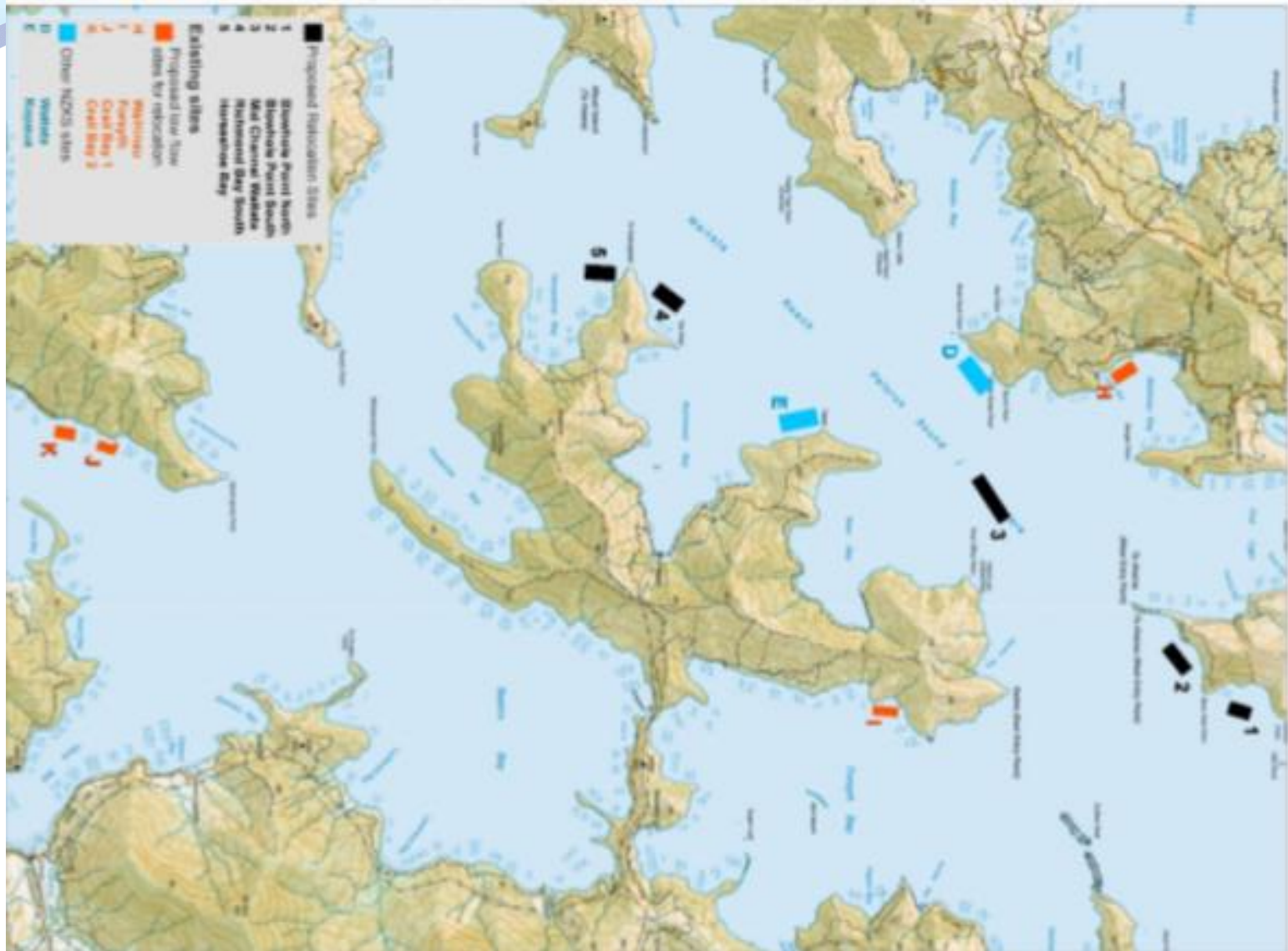
Example – EIA Ruaka Salmon Farm

- What are the baseline conditions?
- What are the predicted effects?
- Are they acceptable?
- How can they be managed?
- Possible outcomes:
 - Application accepted
 - Application accepted with changes
 - Application rejected

Example – SEA Marlborough Sounds



Example – SEA Marlborough Sounds



Example – SEA Marlborough Sounds

- But what about the environment?
- What about other people that use these areas?
- What about the local heritage?

Example – SEA Marlborough Sounds

What we did

- Scoping
- Analysis
- Consultation
- Adopting recommendations

What we did

- **Scoping**
 - Impacts on seafloor
 - Cultural Impacts
 - Navigation
 - Water quality
 - Landscape and visual amenity
 - Impacts on indigenous species

What we did

- **Analysis**
 - Looked at impacts at each site
 - Considered cumulative impacts of all sites

What we did

- Consultation
 - Engaged with the community
 - Talked with iwi
 - Spoke with the relevant authorities

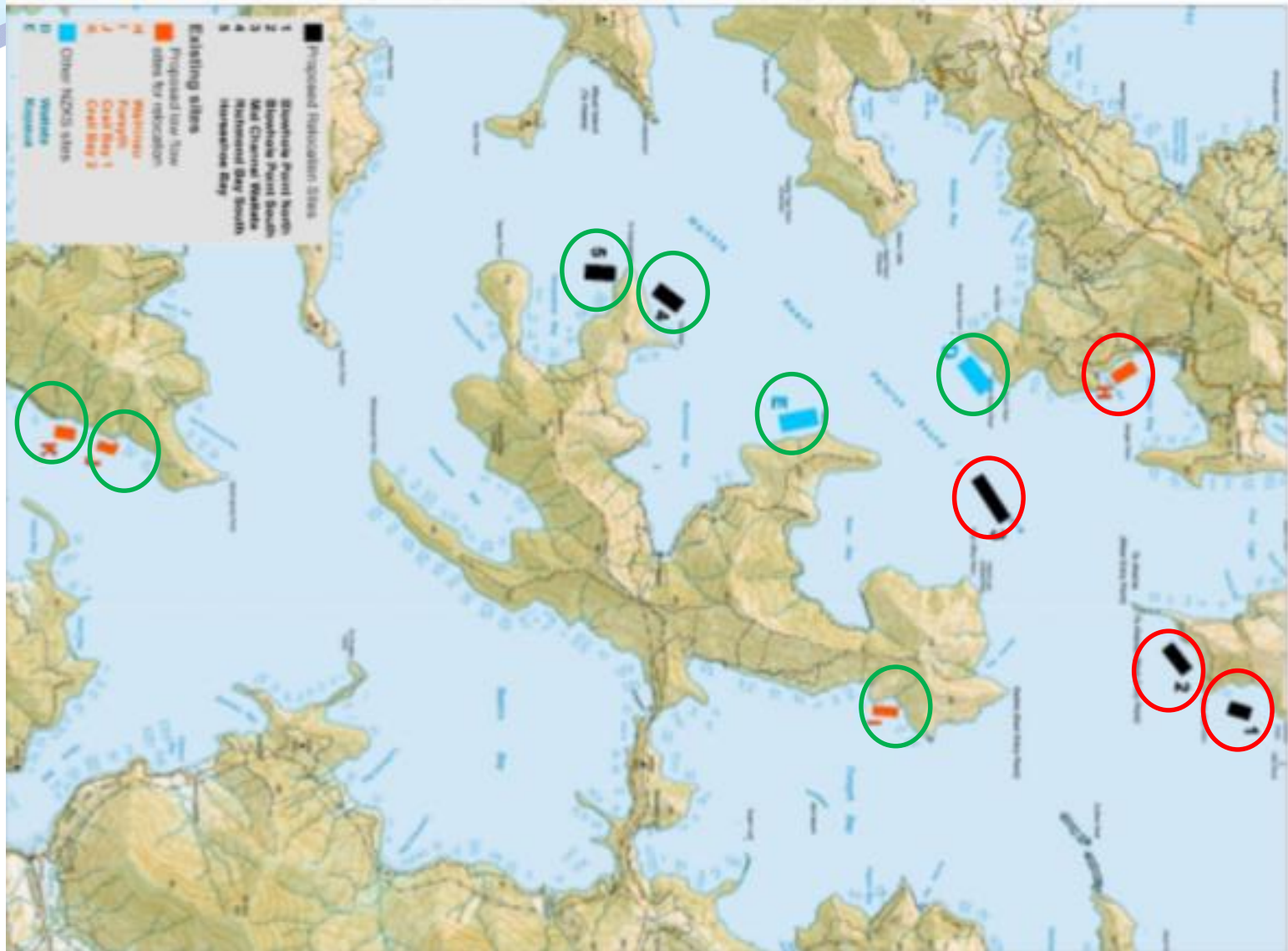
What we did

- Adopting recommendations
 - We considered the analysis and the views of the community, iwi and authorities and we made changes to the plan

Example – SEA Marlborough Sounds



Example – SEA Marlborough Sounds



The benefits

- We have determined how much farming could be done in the area in a sustainable way
- We understand the views of the community and iwi
- We have identified areas to avoid farming
- Alternative technologies have been identified for farming to address community concerns

The benefits

- We are helping to avoid any large obstacles that an EIA would have identified
- We are also simplifying the EIA process for this area

Why did I share this example?

- SEA is not mandatory in New Zealand
- This does not mean SEA thinking cannot be used
- This is all being done through good planning process
- And so it does not have to mean more work for you



Work Group Session 1

- Talk about some examples
- Policy, plan or programme
- Pick 1 example:
 - What was it?
 - Who was it being done by?
 - Were the environmental issues considered? If so, how?
 - What was the outcome?
 - Are there things that could have been done better? If so, what?

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Work Group Session 2

- SEA Guidance
- What will help you the most to understand and use SEA in your countries

