

In this collaboration we are working together with representatives from markets and civil society and leaders from government on **policy and industry relevant research**. The study supports decision-makers to make better decisions and to enable Ireland to successfully harness Energy from the Ocean. In this context, we are looking into the decision-making process for large scale developments for Marine Energy projects in Ireland. By means of in-depth case study analysis we are assessing how decisions were made in the past, in cases such as the Corrib Gas, the Shannon Foynes or other energy related strategic infrastructure.

Context

Ireland is aiming to become an early leader in the full scale commercialisation of Marine Renewable Energy (MRE). Innovations in policy and planning are needed to set up a system for decision-making fit for the purpose to realize full potential of the sector. Here co-evolutional approaches are needed addressing not only technical but even institutional innovation. These must provide the enabling conditions to achieve long term plans for marine energy (both offshore and renewable). A major ingredient of this is to address the power to influence decision-making in governments together with civil society.



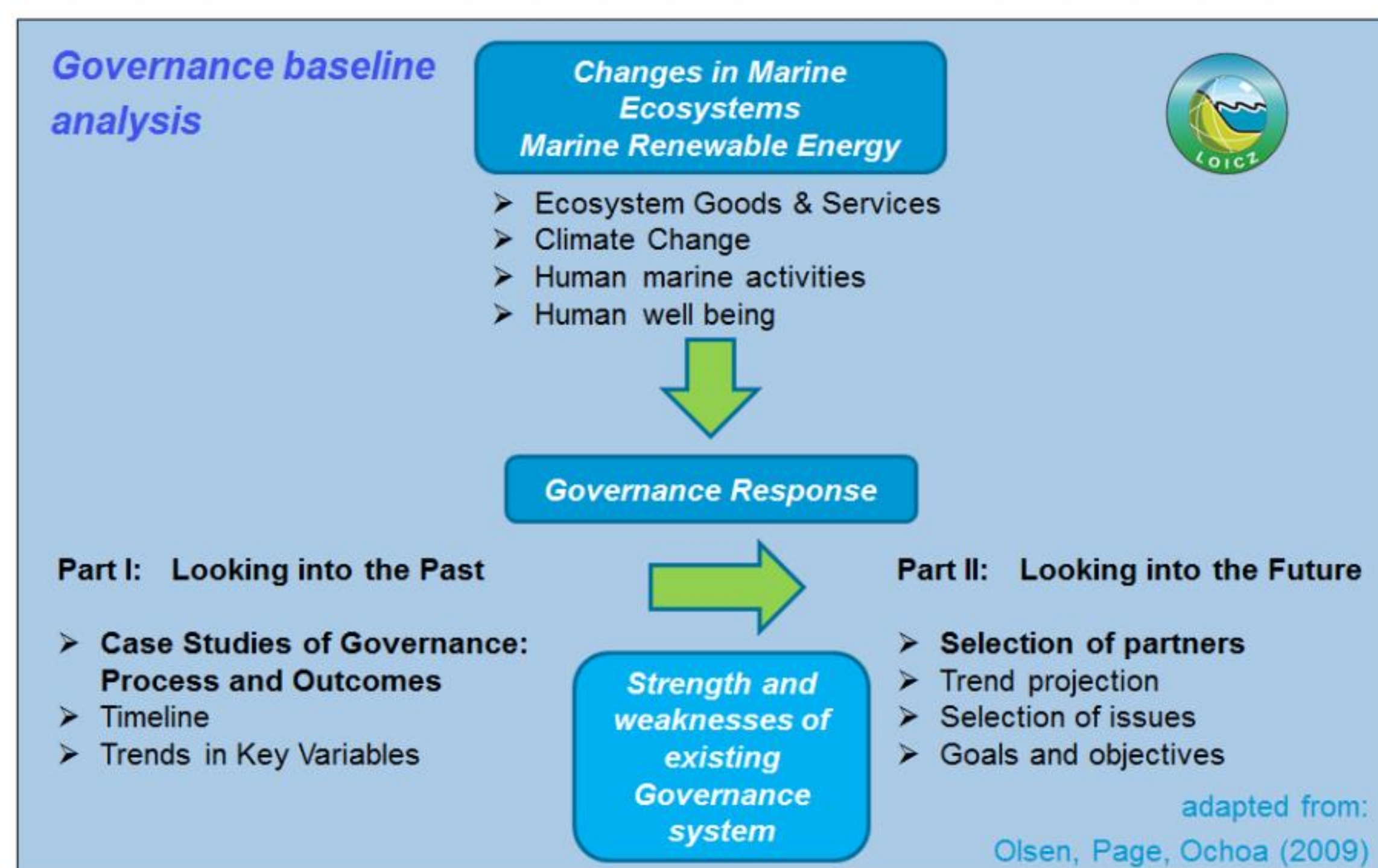
Photo: Pelamis Wave Power, Schaeffler Technologies

The approach

We are undertaking research analysis on 'Governance arrangements towards Transformation' using baseline approaches, such as those ones developed from scientific peers within the international Future Earth Coasts programme

Two major components form the basis of the analysis:

- Based on national and international case studies the approach aims at taking stock of how decisions were made, identifying the player at multiple levels and where influences lay with regard to institutional arrangements.
- Based on collaboration (including workshops and interviews) the research seeks to build an integrated understanding within constituencies from government, industry and civil society involved in decision-making



Adapted from: Olsen, S. B., et al. (2009). The analysis of governance responses to ecosystem change. LOICZ R&S, Geesthacht, Germany.

The **study outcome** will provide a common agreement on what needs to change in terms of institutional behaviour and a roadmap to bring about change. The formulation of common principles will be undertaken to underpin future institutional frameworks. The **analysis of best and worse practices**, such as those outlined in the introduction, will be central to improve the understanding of governance dynamics focussing on critical constraints to effective decision-making, such as community engagement, sustainability, pace of change, inadequate planning, integrating institutions, and dispute resolution, and to consider governance innovations towards transformations.

MARINE ENERGY GOVERNANCE Workshop

A first stocktake of Governance arrangements relevant to Marine Energy was the focus of a workshop held in early 2015. The workshop brought together twenty experienced leaders from across industry and government in both the offshore oil and gas, and the marine renewable energy arenas with governance experts who also served as process facilitators. The meeting achieved agreement that Governance arrangements in terms of policy-making, regulation and legislation and particularly public engagement need to fundamentally change in order to move into Marine Energy Futures. It was recommended to facilitate continued dialogue through this group.