Assessing and managing multiple risks in a changing world — The Roskilde recommendations - DTU Orbit (17/02/2019)

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Roskilde University (Denmark) hosted a November 2015 workshop, Environmental Risk—Assessing and Managing Multiple Risks in a Changing World. This Focus article presents the consensus recommendations of 30 attendees from 9 countries regarding implementation of a common currency (ecosystem services) for holistic environmental risk assessment and management; improvements to risk assessment and management in a complex, human-modified, and changing world; appropriate development of protection goals in a 2-stage process; dealing with societal issues; risk-management information needs; conducting risk assessment of risk management; and development of adaptive and flexible regulatory systems. The authors encourage both cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to address their 10 recommendations: 1) adopt ecosystem services as a common currency for risk assessment and management; 2) consider cumulative stressors (chemical and nonchemical) and determine which dominate to best manage and restore ecosystem services; 3) fully integrate risk managers and communities of interest into the risk-assessment process; 4) fully integrate risk assessors and communities of interest into the risk-management process; 5) consider socioeconomics and increased transparency in both risk assessment and risk management; 6) recognize the ethical rights of humans and ecosystems to an adequate level of protection; 7) determine relevant reference conditions and the proper ecological context for assessments in human-modified systems; 8) assess risks and benefits to humans and the ecosystem and consider unintended consequences of management actions; 9) avoid excessive conservatism or possible underprotection resulting from sole reliance on binary, numerical benchmarks; and 10) develop adaptive risk-management and regulatory goals based on ranges of uncertainty.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Section for Marine Ecology and Oceanography, Department of Civil Engineering, Section for Structural Engineering, Roskilde University, Stockholm University, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, DHI Water - Environment - Health, Simon Fraser University, Delft University of Technology, Enviresearch Ltd, Halmstad University, Aarhus University, Norwegian Institute for Water Research, University of Aveiro, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Chapema Environmental Strategies Ltd., University of Gothenburg
Number of pages: 10
Pages: 7-16
Publication date: 2017
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
Volume: 36
Issue number: 1
ISSN (Print): 0730-7268
Ratings:
BFI (2019): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2019): Indexed yes
BFI (2018): BFI-level 2
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 2.87 SJR 1.178 SNIP 1.018
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 3.179
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 2.74 SJR 1.231 SNIP 1.021
Web of Science (2016): Impact factor 2.951
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 3 SJR 1.433 SNIP 1.056
Web of Science (2015): Impact factor 2.763
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
BFI (2014): BFI-level 2