

Natural Capital, Ecosystem Services and Valuing our Marine Environment

(i) *Should we be trying to put a monetary value on nature?*

Before the talk, 64% of the audience felt that we should put a monetary value on nature, with 29% disagreeing. Almost two thirds (63%) maintained their opinion after the talk, although 23% became less certain of their view (particularly in terms of being less sure they were in favour of monetary valuation). Four people completely reversed their option having heard the talk.

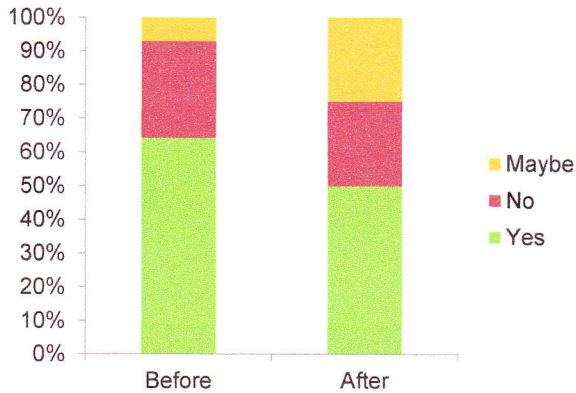


Figure 1. The percentage of the audience holding different viewpoints on whether we should place a monetary value on nature before and after the talk

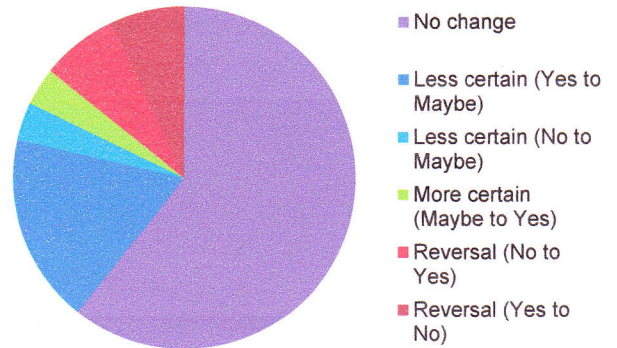


Figure 2. The proportion of the audience maintaining or changing their view after the talk

(ii) *List three things about the coastal and marine environment of North Devon that you consider to be special, significant or valuable*

Responses on the theme of recreation and leisure were most common (22 responses), particularly walking (6), watersports including surfing (4) and rockpooling (3). The local wildlife (15) was also important, especially birds (3). People also valued the wildness and tranquillity of the area (9), the land- and sea-scapes (6), the air and water quality (4) and the cultural value of maritime history and the fishing industry (4). It was also noteworthy that three responses concerned the impression made on others by being in the environment, such as the delights of children introduced to rockpooling and the opportunity to use shores as outdoor learning centres.

Where a particular location was referred to, Lundy was the most frequently mentioned (5), with Crow Point, Horsey Island, Morte Pointe and Saunton Sands each mentioned twice.

(iii) *List three things about the coastal and marine environment of North Devon that you consider to be unpleasant, neglected, challenged*

People were most concerned about pollution (27), especially from plastic (9), general litter (7), and land run-off (6). Excessive or poorly planned development also attracted criticism (15), particularly related to building (9), but also to the associated impacts of increased population such as overcrowding, increased traffic and a proliferation of second homes. The impacts of fishing (6) as well as those related to erosion (5), flooding and climate change were also mentioned. People were also concerned about wildlife disturbance (4) including by watersports participants, dogs and those showing a lack of care while rockpooling, and by the loss of species and habitats (3).

Specific locations were rarely mentioned, and only Croyde (2) and the Taw (2) received more than one reference.