



Marine Ecosystem Based Management in the Caribbean: an essential component of Principled Ocean Governance

Regional symposium sponsored by the Nippon Foundation, organized by Dalhousie University, the International Ocean Institute and the University of the West Indies, held at the Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, 10-12 December 2008

EBM symposium messages for CARICOM fisheries policy-makers and other fishing industry stakeholders

What is marine ecosystem based management (EBM)?

EBM is an integrated, comprehensive approach to the management of all human activities in the seas and oceans. Human systems and marine resource systems are managed as being closely linked and affecting each other. It also links the various sectors that share use of marine ecosystems, e.g. fisheries, tourism, shipping, energy, and addresses complexity.

What is principled ocean governance?

Principled ocean governance will become a reality for the Caribbean when all decisions that affect the Caribbean Sea are guided by a set of shared principles. These principles are drawn from several international, regional and national statements of policy and law. They are needed to guide marine resource decisions at multiple levels involving resource users, managers, policy-advisers and ministers.

Symposium vision for marine EBM in the Wider Caribbean

Healthy marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean that are fully valued and protected through strong institutions at local, national and regional levels providing effective governance that involves everyone, is fully understood and supported by the public, and enhances livelihoods and human well-being.

Why hold the regional symposium at this time?

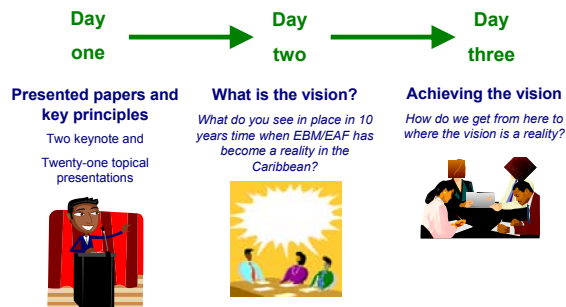
Marine ecosystems of the Caribbean provide considerable economic and other benefits for the people of the region. Sustainable use of marine resources cannot be approached piecemeal. There must be a holistic approach, NOW, that recognizes ecosystem complexity and how systems function at large scales. This approach is essential to deal with upcoming challenges such as climate change.

What did the symposium set out to achieve?

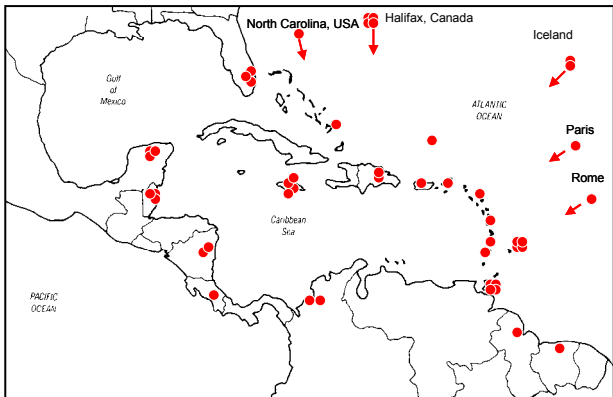
The purpose of the symposium was to bring together a wide cross section of leaders in living marine resource governance to explore the extent to which they are working from common principles, to develop a shared vision for EBM in the Wider Caribbean Region and to identify key strategic action to implement EBM. Keeping the EBM shared vision alive and in sight will help coordinate efforts regionally.

Symposium specifics

The flow of the symposium....



Symposium statistics

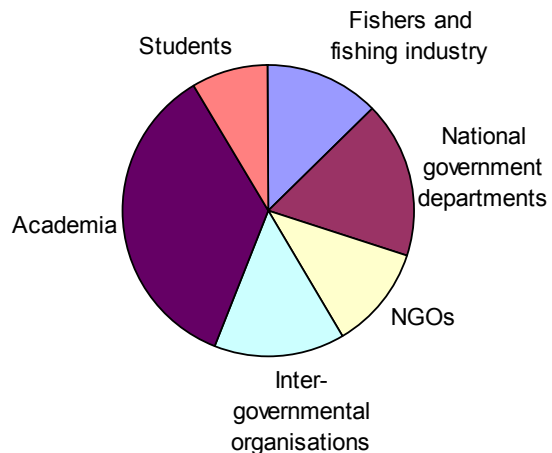


What happened on each day

The ecosystems and governance

- Reef ecosystems
 - Inshore fishing, tourism, pollution
 - Multiple use, coastal development
- Pelagic ecosystems
 - Offshore fishing, oceanic issues
 - International jurisdiction, exports
- Continental shelf ecosystems
 - Shrimp and groundfish, rivers
 - Industrial and small scales, export
- Governance
 - Organisations, institutions, people
 - Livelihoods, civil society, choices

Where participants came from



What the groups were working on

What are we going to do?

Our goal is to make the vision become a reality by strengthening policy networks for decision-making at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. This includes focusing on marine ecosystem-based management (EBM) as an essential component of principled ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean and turning the vision into practical action.

Who the participants were

How are we going to do it?

- Policy makers take leadership roles in initiatives such as the CLME project and CRFM Common Fisheries Policy
- All stakeholders start incorporating marine EBM and principles in practice
- Involve fisher folk organizations and other stakeholders in governance
- Incorporate marine resource valuations into inter-sectoral decision-making

Visit the EBM Symposium web site: http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/MAP_Projects/EBM_Symposium.php
Symposium presentations, titles and abstracts of chapters, the list of participants and more can be downloaded