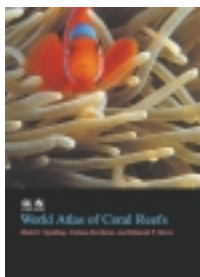


ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Atlas Maps the World's Fast Disappearing Coral Reefs

A major new book, the World Atlas of Coral Reefs - to be launched 11th September by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UK - provides the first detailed and definitive account of the current state of our planet's coral reefs. It reveals that these beautiful, diverse and highly productive ecosystems are highly threatened - disappearing before they can be fully documented.

Coral reefs are one of the most spectacular and fragile ecosystems in the world. Encircling tropical islands they provide subsistence and economic benefits to the inhabitants and a source of great enjoyment to millions of travellers and divers.

Reefs are among the most valuable assets of developing countries and if well managed can be a permanent source of foreign income. The Great Barrier Reef generated US\$ 700m in 1997 - more

than the Australian fishing industry.

This Atlas provides a science-base for coral reef management and protection. The Atlas presents the best available maps, and pictures taken from the space shuttle have been used to enhance the work. For many reefs information is still scarce, and the best published charts date back to the efforts of Captain James Cook and others in the 18th century.

This full colour volume is easily accessible to anyone interested in these vital environments. It includes the finest maps available, original descriptions of how reefs are created and of the organisms that inhabit them. Detailed information about key geographic areas is supported by case studies of good practice in protected areas and locations of good dive centres. Compiled by leading experts it will be a valuable resource for global travellers and scientists alike.

It contains 92 full-page newly researched and drawn colour maps, two hundred colour photographs of reefs,


reef animals and also images taken from space by NASA astronauts.

The Atlas has been prepared by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, England - the United Nations office responsible for providing authoritative information on the condition of global biodiversity. Authors Mark D Spalding and Edmund P Green, work in UNEP-WCMC's Marine and Coastal Programme and Corinna Ravilious is a geographical information systems technical officer at the centre.

Publication of the World Atlas of Coral Reefs is supported by international institutions including: the United Nations Environment Programme; the Marine Aquarium Council; The International Coral Reef Initiative; ICLARM - the World Fish Center; the Professional Association of Diving Instructors and the Aventis Foundation.

For more information please contact: University of California Press. Tel: (+510) 6424243; Website: <http://www.ucpress.edu>

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ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: "Fish for the People"

19 – 24 November 2001

The Sofitel Grand Plaza Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand (formerly known as the Central Grand Plaza Hotel)

Jointly organized by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Department of Fisheries, Thailand (DOF)

In the Southeast Asian region, the rapid population increase and economic growth have accelerated the pace of exploitation of the fisheries resources which have led to the decline of the resources in environmental integrity. It has been understood that these negative impact had threatened sustainable fisheries production. It should also be recognized that the contribution of fisheries to local food security, employment, socioeconomics, and trade

and environment for future generations are the major factors in the healthy well-being and economic situations of the ASEAN countries. It is therefore urgently required for the region to re-evaluate current fisheries practices and exploitation patterns and to formulate appropriate regional policies and strategies, to reconcile the current practices, and to promote the development of sustainable fisheries. To this end, ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC will convene a ministerial level conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium. This Conference will review the situation, analyse the problems and formulate policy and strategies for the better management of fisheries in Southeast Asian region.

For more information, contact Conference Secretariat **by 30 September 2001** through:

Fax: (+66 2) 9406336 (attn: Fish for the People 2001); E-mail: secretariat@seafdec.org; Post: SEAFDEC

Secretariat, Fish for the people 2001, P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office, Bangkok 10903 Thailand.

Concurrent with the Conference, an ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Fisheries Exhibition will be organized for four days to provide an opportunity for exhibitors to demonstrate new technologies in fisheries and fisheries management. The exhibition will be conducted in collaboration with ASEAN Fisheries Federation, Thailand, and an Australian company BAIRD Publications has been contracted to organise the Exhibition. In total, there will be 80 booths available for companies interested in exhibiting their products. The registration form for the exhibitors is now available. For those interested in exhibiting their products, please contact Mr. Michael Orr, BAIRD Publication, 135 Sturt Street, Southbank, Melbourne, 3006, Australia. Tel: (+61-3) 96450411, Fax: (+61-3) 96450475; Website: www.baird.com.au



International Conference on Impacts of Agricultural Research and Development "Why has impact assessment research not made more of a difference?"

4 – 7 February 2002

Meliá Confort Hotel, San José, Costa Rica Hosted by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the Special Panel on Impacts Assessment (SPIA), Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

The conference brings together researchers and other professionals interested in documenting and measuring the impact of international agricultural research and constitutes presentations and panel/working

group discussions in impact on agricultural productivity; impact on equity, poverty, social health and nutrition; impact on the environment; and, impact on institutions and human capital. Novel approaches to hard-to-measure impacts in such areas as training, networks, participatory research and policy research will also be discussed.

Interested individuals are invited to send abstracts for the conference by 15 August 2001. All abstracts must be in English. An International Steering

Committee with representatives of SPIA, CIMMYT, and experts in impact assessment will select and contact authors of selected papers by 1 October 2001. Papers must be completed and submitted by 15 December 2001.

Please visit the conference website www.cimmyt.org/research/economics/impacts for details for submission of abstracts and papers, updates on registration, the program and related information. You can also contact impacts@cgiar.org for additional information.

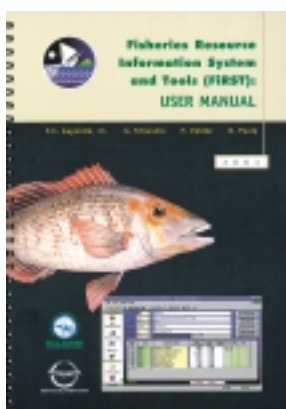
Proceedings of the 'First International Symposium on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Fishery Science'

A limited number of Proceedings of the 'First International Symposium on GIS in Fishery Science' is now available. The symposium was held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., 2-4 March 1999. It was the world's first global integrated fishery GIS conference, stimulating tremendous interest world-

wide-both pre-and post-Symposium- and providing a strong incentive for documentation of the discussions by publication of the proceedings. Those who want to know more about this publication and these who want to purchase this publication, please look at the following web-sites:

http://www.esl.co.jp/Sympo/sympo7_2.htm (Publication);
http://www.esl.co.jp/Sympo/sympo7_3.htm (Preface and Overview quoted from the Proceedings)
http://www.esl.co.jp/Sympo/sympo7_4.htm (Method to purchase the Proceedings)

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Fisheries Resource Information System and Tools (FiRST): User Manual

F.C. Gayanilo, Jr., G. Silvestre, F. Valdez and D. Pauly. 2001. Fisheries Resource Information System and Tools (FiRST):user manual. ICLARM-The World Fish Center Software Ser. 7, 126p.

The manual provides documentation of the database system which was developed under the Regional Technical Assistance (RETA 5766) on "Sustainable Management of Coastal Fish Stocks in Asia". This publication was made possible by a grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under RETA 5766 to ICLARM – The World Fish Center and its partners (fisheries institutions in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam).

As envisioned, the database system (FiRST) includes "data containers" for extant trawl surveys and socioeconomic information, as well as catch and effort statistics. Basic analytical routines such as models to approximate biomasses have also been developed

and made an integral part of FiRST. Analytical modules from other software needed for data analyses have been made accessible via the database system. These include, among others, FiSAT for fish population dynamics and fish stock assessment, and Ecopath for ecosystem modeling. To facilitate the use of these external softwares, modules have been developed to allow the saving of data in the required format.

Collectively, the database system contains about 21,000 hauls/stations from eight participating countries and published trawl data from Singapore and Myanmar. Access to this data is governed by access protocols. In addition to the trawl survey data, the FiRST 2000 release also include socioeconomic and related information from the eight participating counties. With the development of this database system, the Center anticipates the utility of the fisheries resource databases to provide solid foundations for appropriate strategies and action plans for improved management of fisheries resources at the national and regional levels.

New research suggests the world's coral reefs face a battle to survive in the face of warming and more acidic waters, with scientists behind the new study projecting that as much as 90 percent of them could disappear within a couple of decades. Experts are concerned Australia's Great Barrier Reef is on the brink of another severe bleaching event. tanyapuntti/Depositphotos. View 1 Image. 1/1. Experts are concerned Australia's Great Barrier Reef is on the brink of another severe bleaching event. tanyapuntti/Depositphotos. A hotter climate poses a threat to our environment in all kinds of ways, but one ecosystem that is really feeling the brunt of it is the world's coral reefs. Twenty-five percent of the world's reefs are already gone, and as they continue to go, the impact could be devastating. "Without the corals a lot of animals can't live, and without those animals the whole food chain breaks down and the whole cycle," Kipnis said, "the whole ecological cycle of the ocean collapses. If we lose the corals in the ocean, they are just like the forests, the ocean goes, we lose the oceans, mankind can not survive, we must have a healthy ocean for mankind to survive." "Its a daunting problem - with clear life consequences that some of In the Florida Keys, researchers have found an important new way to estimate what's been lost. Currently, the Florida Keys are very invested in restoring coral reefs, re-seeding baby corals on existing reef sites and researching ways to make species more resilient as oceans change. Knowing where the coral used to be could influence these plans. "If you don't know that it's there it doesn't make sense to look for it," McClenachan says. We depend on ad revenue to craft and curate stories about the world's hidden wonders. Consider supporting our work by becoming a member for as little as \$5 a month. Continue Using Ad-Block. A first-of-its-kind survey of how well the world's coral reefs are being protected was made possible by a unique collection of NASA views from space. Image to right: Hawaii's Pearl and Hermes Atoll, shown here in a 20-mile-by-20-mile Landsat 7 image, is part of the recently designated Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, the largest protected marine area in the world. + Larger image Credit: NASA. The global satellite mapping effort is called the Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project and was funded by NASA. The assessment found that less than two percent of coral reefs are within areas designated to limit human activities that can harm the reefs and the sea life living in and around them.