

Promoting awareness, development, and effective use of tools for ecosystem-based management in coastal and marine environments and their watersheds.

Arising tide of stories about climate change, beach closures, and depleted ocean fisheries is focusing public attention on the health of coastal and marine environments. Conserving these imperiled ecosystems requires a holistic approach to planning and management. Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) is an innovative management approach that considers entire ecosystems, including humans and the environment, rather than managing one issue or resource in isolation.

The Ecosystem-Based Management Tools Network is a voluntary alliance of tool users, developers, and training providers to promote awareness, development, and effective use of technology tools for EBM in coastal and marine environments and the watersheds which affect them. The Network includes members from universities, research institutes, governments, conservation groups, foundations, independent consultants, and for-profit tool providers.

■ EBM TOOLS

The EBM Tools Network works with technology tools, primarily software, which can facilitate a variety of EBM processes including:

- Collecting, managing, and processing data about ecosystems and human communities
- Generating and visualizing scenarios of potential consequences of different management decisions on natural resources and the economy
- Facilitating communication with the public and stakeholder involvement in planning and management processes.

When used in an effective process, tools can:

- Help incorporate a wide array of ecosystem and human considerations into decision-making
- Save time and help explore a wider range of alternatives by automating analyses or processes that occur repeatedly
- Help build collaboration among diverse project participants by creating a forum where stakeholder groups learn about and need to account for each others' goals and concerns.

■ EBM TOOLS NETWORK WEBSITE

The EBM Tools Network website (www.ebmtools.org) provides the most comprehensive information available on EBM tools to planners, managers, and scientists from around the world, including:

- Searchable database of EBM tools
- Case studies, EBM tool training material, and best practices for using tools
- Information on funding opportunities, technical assistance offers, meetings and conferences, data sources, and much, much more.

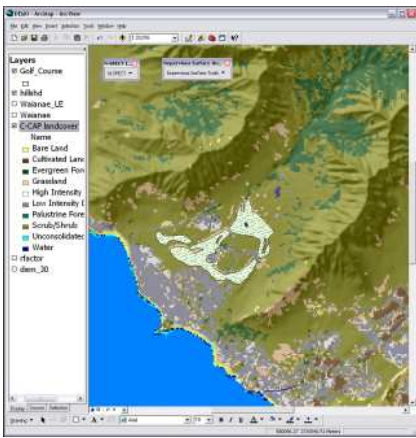
Sign up for monthly updates from the Network at www.ebmtools.org/contact.html.

Roatan Island development © Wolcott Henry 2005 / Marine Photobank



For More Information

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Left: NOAA Coastal Services Center's Nonpoint Source Pollution Erosion Comparison Tool



Right: Menhaden fishing. © John Surrick, Chesapeake Bay Foundation / Marine Photobank

EBM TOOLS TRAINING PROGRAM

The EBM Tools Network has recently established an EBM Tools Training Program which provides tools awareness trainings at professional meetings and conferences. These awareness trainings provide EBM practitioners with an understanding of how technology tools can facilitate EBM, what tools are currently available to help implement EBM, how EBM tools have been used in previous projects, and the range of resources available for selecting and using EBM tools. The EBM Tools Training Program also provides web-based training materials and fee-based tools trainings tailored to specific projects or regions.

AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

EBM Tools Network members work throughout the world. Network members include:

- American Museum of Natural History
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation
- ARC Centre of Excellence for
Coral Reef Studies
- Boston University
- Brown University
- Center for Watershed Protection
- Coastal Development Centre
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial
Research Organization (CSIRO)
- Conservation International
- Conservation Planning Institute
- The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
- DHI
- Duke University
- Ecotrust
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Florida Sea Grant
- Intelligent Marine Planning
- Mappamondo GIS
- MarineMap
- Memorial University
- National Center for Coral Reef Research
- National Center for Ecological Analysis
and Synthesis (NCEAS)
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)
- National Ocean Economics Program /
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- NatureServe
- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials
(NEMO) Network
- Pacific Marine Analysis and Research
Association (PacMARA)
- PlaceMatters
- Sea Around Us Project
- University of California at Santa Barbara
- University of Queensland
- University of Texas Marine Science Institute
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

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