



National Oceans Office

ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT (EBM) WORKSHOP

Radisson Plaza Hotel, Cairns, Australia
20 June 2003

Welcome to the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Workshop, hosted by Australia's National Oceans Office and the Australian Antarctic Division. Ecosystem based management is an approach for managing human activities in the ocean in a way which promotes ecological sustainability while maintaining ecosystem integrity. By definition, an EBM approach is adaptive, and recognises our limited knowledge of marine ecosystems.

The aim of this one-day workshop is to build on undertakings expressed in the APEC Seoul Ocean Declaration of May 2002, where Ministers representing 21 economies bordering the world's largest ocean resolved to develop "a shared understanding of the concepts and practice underpinning the ecosystem-based approach to management" at both the domestic and regional levels. This workshop aims to provide APEC and others with a broad direction for real progress on EBM.

The outcomes from the workshop will contribute to a report on *Ecosystem Based Management of Ocean Activities*. The report will focus on the regional and domestic principles and practices underpinning an ecosystem based approach, and will explore solutions to the challenges facing the global delivery of EBM for ocean activities. At all levels of oceans governance, from global to domestic, the main challenges facing an EBM approach to ocean activities relate principally to information sharing, coordination and an effective framework for management. The aim of this workshop is to develop these themes, and pose solutions to the challenges identified.

Discussions in the working groups will focus on the use of an ecosystem-based approach to achieve sustainable development through the following questions:

1. What are the challenges to implementing an EBM approach?
 - ♦What are practical measures to deal with these challenges?
 - ♦How can an EBM approach assist in achieving a balance between ecological and economic outcomes?
2. How can an EBM approach contribute to the conservation and management of regional oceans?

Further details may be obtained from Bernadette O'Neil (0418 650 203) and Frances Verrier (0411 027 285) of the National Oceans Office, who will be attending the High Seas Biodiversity Workshop and will be available to answer your questions.