Spatial Planning for Blue Economies

About half the Earth's population lives on less than 200 kilometres from the coast, in a footprint that covers less than three percent of the planet.

Coasts and oceans provide food, transport, recreation, waste disposal and cultural inspiration. But these resources are diminishing due to harvesting, habitat loss, pollution, and climate change, while the demands of a growing human population continue to rise.

This imbalance will worsen unless we change our use of the oceans, especially close to the coast, and work to restore the resources needed by coastal populations.

Blue Economy refers to an ocean economy that balances economic activity with the long-term capacity of ocean ecosystems to support this activity and remain resilient and healthy.

Achieving this balance requires understanding the long-term capacity of ocean ecosystems, identifying tools that communities, industry and government can use to adjust resource use, and providing access to this information.

CSIRO, in collaboration with partners, has developed and tested various marine spatial planning approaches to help individual governments (in developing and industrialised countries) to build a **Blue Economy.**

This comprehensive expertise is being used to support governments and other responsible agencies to prioritize and systematically implement the components of the ecosystem approach most relevant to their current situation and desired future. We assist governments, communities and international organisations to develop marine spatial planning leading to the emergence of Blue Economies.

Our expertise in marine spatial planning and capacity building

1. *Why should we care?*
   Working with governments on local, national and regional frameworks to describe environmental and social values, based on the Convention on Biological Diversity criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, and Wellbeing values derived from an understanding of ecosystem services.

2. *Is there anything to be concerned about?*
   Identifying pressures and activities that affect these values and the economic and social values that these activities can generate, including existence values. This allows informed decision making on the economic, social and environmental values of an area and is key to environmental impact assessments.

3. *What do we agree to try and achieve?*
   Identifying relevant subsystems for management within the larger ecosystem, and agreed targets and thresholds for the health and return from each subsystem.

4. *How to we achieve these outcomes?*
   Designing spatial management strategies, including spatial fisheries management and marine protected areas. This includes offshore implementations involving a small number of national and international stakeholders, to community based implementations in coastal regions.

5. *Are we on course?*
   Developing monitoring and assessment frameworks and tools to measure progress towards agreed targets adapted to local and regional capacity.

6. *Let's do this together*
   Information technology software systems that support the elicitation, use, management and publication of spatial data on values (environmental, social and economic) and the pressures on those values. This supports the delivery of policy relevant data and information in thematically organised aggregations tailored to meet specific requirements. An example of this can be found at msp.csiro.au. These tools are open-source and freely available.

CONTACT US
t 1300 363 400
+61 3 9545 2176
e csiroenquiries@csiro.au
w www.csiro.au

Oceans and Atmosphere
Piers Dunstan
t +61 3 6232 5382
e piers.dunstan@csiro.au
w msp.csiro.au