



UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on
Oceans and Law of the Sea
Ecosystem approaches and oceans

Demystifying the concept and understanding its implications

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Different Approaches - the angle

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EBM is:

“Management of the uses and values of ecosystems in conjunction with stakeholders to ensure ecological integrity is maintained, and recognising that ecosystems are dynamic and inherently uncertain.” (WWF Definition)

- Most importantly, across different frameworks there are common, widely agreed on elements, i.e. bycatch reduction, harvest strategies, the precautionary approach...
- However, we need together to agree the serious and catalytic steps that must be taken, now, to apply all elements of EBM to enable ecosystems, threatened species and associated target fish populations to recover.



Principles





EBM is a realistically holistic approach to management

WWF believes that the management of a target stock or stocks is not the sole purpose of EBM.

Related and dependent species including predatory fish, seabirds, marine mammals and habitats that affect or are affected by fisheries, are all within the framework of an effective EBM system.

Similarly, EBM is not a tool for manipulating the ecosystem to the lowest common denominator by removing predators. It is overfishing which has reduced fish populations not natural predators.

EBM restores the health of the ecosystem and therefore restores target fish populations and predators alike.

The essence of EBM is the recognition that maintaining the natural structure, health and function of all levels and components of ecosystems is the central purpose of management.



Practical Building Blocks

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Conclusions and transition

