

“A Practical Approach to Ecosystem-Based Management”
Segment 3A: Lessons Learned from implementation of ecosystem approaches at the national level in developed States

A conceptual framework has been developed to guide the national application of an ecosystem based approach to oceans management and Canada is implementing this approach in five large ocean management areas. This discussion will focus on the framework, the tools developed to advance its implementation, the caveats and lessons learned to date. One of the over-riding considerations in regards to Canada’s approach to oceans management is maintenance of ecosystem health with a focus on objective-based decision making. Ecosystem objectives address the ecosystem structure, function and physical-chemical properties of the system.