

**Managing human impacts on the marine environment –
a challenge for Government and for science**

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The World Summit on Sustainable Development committed Governments to develop and apply an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities which impact on the marine environment. But how do we do that in practice?

Do we know enough about marine ecosystem and about the impacts of different activities to make rational management decisions? And how do we apply what we do know so as to set rational objectives? What role does science have in this?