

No paper
available

Theme: Development
Session: FrD2 - Markets

Title: **Presentation of the newly launched INCOFISH portal at
www.incofish.org**

Author(s): Silvia Opitz

Abstract: INCOFISH is an acronym for "Integrating Multiple Demands on Coastal Zones with Emphasis on Aquatic ecosystems and Fisheries". In the scope of the EC funded INCOFISH project 35 partners from 22 countries worldwide are conducting specifically targeted strategic research towards reconciling multiple demands on coastal zones with special emphasis on developing countries. Overall objective is to evaluate and integrate data, tools and concepts suitable to contribute to the goals set by the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, such as restoring healthy fish stocks and ecosystems by 2015.

The INCOFISH web portal (to be launched by the end of February 2006) at www.incofish.org is presented providing public access to all data and tools relevant for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) issues: historical performance of ecosystems to deal with the 'shifting baselines' syndrome and provide sound reference points for resource restoration; electronic maps for all coastal species to establish authoritative species inventories and explore scenarios of global change and invasive species; spatial ecosystem models for the coastal systems treated in this project as a basis for understanding the resource; guidelines and tools for best sizing and placement of marine protected areas; impact of ecotourism on coastal ecosystems including best-practice guidelines; simple indicators to promote and monitor sustainable fisheries; valuation of coastal ecosystem products and services and of different management regimes; legal instruments with regard to their usefulness for sustainable fishing in coastal zones; coastal transects as a tool for structuring and understanding multiple demands on coastal zones.