

## **Databases in the East Asian Seas Region and the Need for Enhanced National and Regional Access**

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### **Abstract**

Comprehensive marine and coastal databases are essential for management of the seas of East Asia. Maps of resources found in marine and coastal environments, the sources of potential damage and data to guide managers are the means by which resources can be assessed and managed to maintain marine resources.

This paper describes the uses of databases, their contents and the problems of accessing data and information. The concept of metadata, which are data about data, is explained. Some of the advantages of metadata bases are pointed out and ways to overcome some of the problems of inaccessibility of data are discussed. Freely available and accessible data are keys to regional and national marine and coastal management. The current situation in terms of publicly accessible data is described through a compilation of online databases, metadata bases and information systems for marine and coastal environmental reporting in East Asian Seas. The other presenters in this seminar are briefly introduced.

**Keywords:** database, metadata base, monitoring, management, mapping

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