

Sato-umi Policy in Japan

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In Japan, Sato-umi is defined as a coastal zone where the livelihood of human beings and the blessings of nature coexist harmoniously with coastal area eco-systems. Sato-umi has long been important in supporting fisheries, transport and culture, while helping to integrate management of land and coastal sea areas and preserve high productivity and biodiversity in the wake of the human interaction.

Sato-umi has become rooted in Japan since "Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation in the 21st Century" and "The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan" made it national policy. "The Basic Plan on Ocean Policy" describes the embodiment of the concept of Sato-umi in the conservation and management of fishery resources.

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in Japan began supporting Sato-umi activities in 2008, based on a national strategy and policy, in order to achieve public consensus for marine environmental conservation and preserve high productivity and biodiversity in coastal sea areas. MOE projects to support Sato-umi Creation comprise the following.

- 1) Support of local activities for Sato-umi Creation (Model Project)
- 2) Execution of Sato-umi Creation plans
- 3) Execution of a Sato-umi Creation manual
- 4) Selection of examples of activities for advanced Sato-umi Creation
- 5) Construction of a website, "*Sato-umi Net*"
- 6) Publication of pamphlets, leaflets etc.
- 7) Holding of symposia

Such efforts by the Ministry of the Environment, in combination with efforts by local public organizations, environmental groups and local residents, have improved the awareness of Sato-umi and increased the momentum for Sato-umi creation activities in local areas. Moreover, the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), which was held in Japan in October 2010, included a COP 10 Side Event entitled, "*The Role of SATO-UMI in Preserving Biodiversity*", at which an exchange of views was held regarding the importance of Sato-umi as a venue for the provision of ecosystem services and the coexistence of human beings with nature etc.

Efforts to promote the creation of Sato-umi in Japan will be continued, and information on Japan's Sato-umi activities will be provided both domestically and internationally in an effort to help preserve coastal zone environments.

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