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Coastal ecosystems management

Community Led Coastal Management - Lessons From Down Under

Peter Lawless [1]

(1) The Lawless Edge Ltd, 7010 Nelson, New Zealand
Telephone: +6435391074 Email: thelawlessedge@gmail.com

Integrated coastal management in New Zealand is emerging under leadership from local communities rather than from central and regional government. Four case studies are detailed at stages of development from pre-initiation research to completed special legislation and implementation. After 21 years the Fiordland Guardians case shows the full development of a community led programme. It is now six years into implementation under special national legislation. Reviewed and found to be successful in 2012, this initiative provides integrated management to 1500km of coastline in the most remote part of New Zealand adjacent to the largest national park and World Heritage Area. In its eighth year, the Kaikoura integrated coastal management programme is focused on the premiere marine mammal tourism area in New Zealand, and one of the top sites in the world for sperm whale and dolphin viewing. An integrated strategy for this 90km of coast has the agreement of all major stakeholders and is now under consideration by central government for implementation. This programme was initiated by an indigenous Maori tribe, Ngati Kuri. The Marlborough Sounds at the top of the South Island are one of the largest natural harbours in the southern hemisphere and include over 2000km of coastline. They are the centre for aquaculture in New Zealand and face numerous resource use conflicts. Experience in Fiordland and Kaikoura is being adapted and scaled to this more complex situation. Unique governance structures are emerging. Tasman Bay next to the Marlborough Sounds is one of the largest lee shore bays in New Zealand. Benthic communities of shellfish have collapsed under a cloud of sediment eliminating $90millon of fisheries per annum. Research programmes and ecosystem services valuation techniques are being used as a basis for integrated coastal management to emerge. These four case studies are compared and contrasted to draw out commonalities, lessons learned, and the potential for these approaches to be applied elsewhere. Systemic, sociometric and structural analyses are used to define the elements needed for consensus to emerge at the local level and to be translated into regional and national administrative systems.