

More on the DVDs and how to obtain them

Two DVDs have been produced to demonstrate current stress on the oceans of the world, and the utility of the LME approach to initiate ecosystem recovery:

“Turning the Tide – Sustaining the Earth’s Large Marine Ecosystems”

Around the world, coastal habitats provide over 80% of the marine fish that humans consume. The uncontrolled use of large-scale industrialized vessels has put nine of the World’s seventeen major fishing grounds in serious decline. The demand for marine protein has devastated marine resources. Nitrogen pollution running down rivers into coastal ecosystems is increasing. Marine mammals are in trouble, and coral reefs are threatened.

However, there is hope for a common global understanding of how to address the world wide crisis of marine life degradation. Pioneering work by lead scientists has identified 64 large marine ecosystems (LMEs) determined by ecological functionality and physical parameters rather than political boundaries. The large marine ecosystem approach blends science and stewardship to reduce coastal pollution, restore damaged habitats, and recover depleted fisheries. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) assists developing countries working together in planning and implementing LME projects.

The DVD includes interviews with Dr. Al Duda, Senior Advisor for the International Waters focal area of the GEF, Dr. Kenneth Sherman, expert on large marine ecosystems, and Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, Director of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, and footage of the Benguela Current, Antarctic, Agulhas and Somali Current, Humboldt Current, and Baltic Sea LMEs.

The DVD has been screened in elementary, middle and high school classrooms on the American continent and in Africa. “After watching this film, I want to do something to help the marine life that has helped us” (Emily, age 11). “It has really been brought to my attention that I should be a part of protecting Large Marine Ecosystems” (Namita, age 11).

Produced by IW:Learn.

To obtain a copy of the DVD, please contact: NOAA Large Marine Ecosystem Program, 28 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882, USA. Tel: +1 401 782-3211. FAX: +1 401 782-3201. Emails: Kenneth.Sherman@noaa.gov, MC.Aquarone@noaa.gov.

“Africa on the Cutting Edge – Leading Global Marine Ecosystem Recovery”.

A five module LME approach based on ocean productivity, fish and fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socioeconomics and governance has been adopted in the Guinea Current LME (GCLME) Program, which brings together 16 countries extending from Guinea Bissau to Angola on the West African coast. The GCLME is ranked among the most productive coastal and offshore waters in the world with rich fishery resources, an important reservoir of marine biological diversity of global significance, oil and gas reserves, precious minerals and a high potential for tourism. Approximately 20% of Africa’s total population lives in the coastal areas of the GCLME, close to lagoons, estuaries, creeks and inshore waters. Their wellbeing and food security depends on the sustainable use of the goods and services of the ecosystem.

Through the diplomatic efforts of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem Program and the newly established Interim Guinea Current LME Commission, scientists and policy makers are working side by side to recover and sustain the coastal ecosystem of the Guinea Current. The DVD includes interviews with Professor Chidi Ibe of the GCLME Program and Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General, UNIDO.

Produced by UNIDO.

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