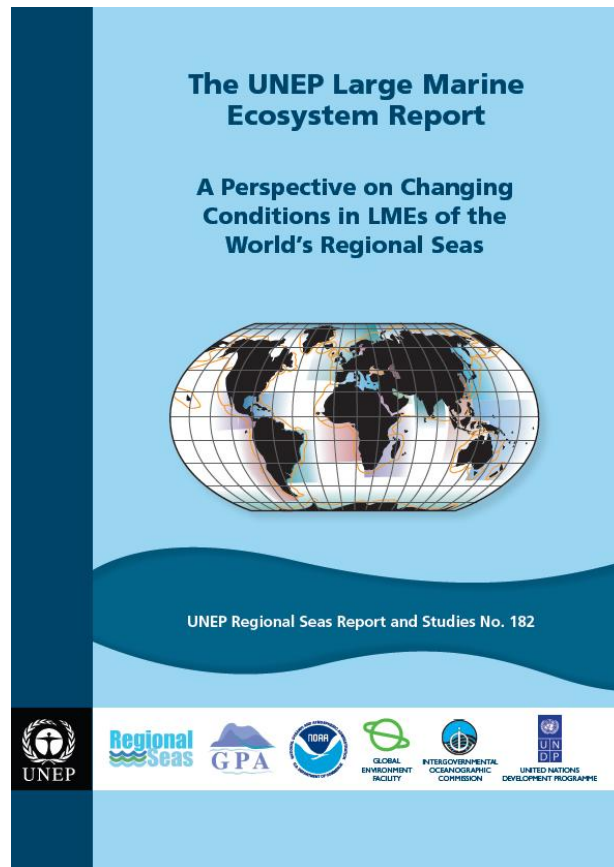


**More on the UNEP LME Report, “A Perspective on Changing Conditions of the World’s Regional Seas” (2008)**



The 852 page [UNEP Large Marine Ecosystem Report](#) is the result of a collaborative effort with NOAA’s Large Marine Ecosystems Program and five UN Agencies (UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, IOC-UNESCO, FAO) to promote a global view of baseline ecological conditions of the World’s 64 LMEs, based on the five module LME assessment framework of i) productivity, ii) fish and fisheries, iii) pollution and ecosystem health, iv) socioeconomics, and v) governance.

Each LME is described in relation to each of the 5 modules and is identified in terms of its major characteristics and transboundary issues. The 64 synopses of LME ecological conditions include standardized information on productivity ( $\text{gCm}^{-2}\text{yr}^{-1}$ ) and ocean fronts, sea surface temperature (SST) and anomalies in SST, 50 years of annual fisheries biomass yields, value, mean trophic levels, fisheries conditions relative to stock conditions and amount of primary productivity required to support the mean annual catch levels. Evidence of over-enrichment is resulting in the increasing frequency and extent of coastal eutrophication, hypoxia, and dead zones, reported for the first time for each of the world’s LMEs.

***Outreach and educational uses of the UNEP LME Report:***

By identifying the impacts of ecosystem drivers of alteration such as nutrient over-enrichment, pollution, over-fishing, and global warming, the UNEP LME report serves as a useful scientific reference as well as an educational and outreach document. The information is both quantitative and comparative, with lessons to be learned from comparing the marine geography, upwelling systems and climatic variability between and amongst the 64 LMEs. The briefs pertaining to the 16 LMEs for which the GEF has funded projects provide further detail on their progress in turning the corner to recover depleted fisheries, reduce coastal pollution, and restore damaged habitats.

Each of the 64 LME briefs is available at: <http://www.lme.noaa.gov/>). To obtain a hard copy of the UNEP LME Report, please contact: NOAA Large Marine Ecosystem Program, Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882, USA. Tel: +1 401 782-3211 FAX: +1 401 782-3201.

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