

Title: Environmental and Fisheries Data Management, Access, and Integration (R)

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Enhanced integration of diverse fishery, oceanographic, and other marine environmental data, and tools to enable fishery and environmental assessments are needed to respond to the requirements for ecosystem-based management initiatives. The growing number of databases and data sources requires new approaches to be developed for efficient access to data – and especially to data in distributed databases. Management of the data also requires new approaches to meet enhanced requirements and take advantage of ever-evolving technologies, for example, GIS-based systems and the internet.

At the ASC 2006, a theme session on data management, access and integration clearly demonstrated the importance and intense interest in this area provide by attracting more than 50 presentations – the most of any session that year. This theme session provides an update on new approaches and endeavours by inviting database specialists, distributed data specialists, visualization specialists, end-users and others to present and/or demonstrate:

- technical solutions for data integration;
- novel ways to merge/integrate/distribute disparate data;
- experience with use and visualization of integrated data;
- data quality assurance and indicators;
- improved methods for displaying complex data sets;
- examples of successful applications;
- experience with (historic) data rescue.

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