



## SPONSORS

### UNEP

United Nations Environment Program



### IOC/UNESCO

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
of UNESCO



### GEF

Global Environment Facility



### NOAA

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



### IUCN

International Union for the Conservation of Nature



### UNDP

United Nations Development Program



### UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organization



### FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization



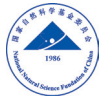
### MOST

Ministry of Science and Technology



### CAE

Chinese Academy of Engineering



### NSFC

National Natural Science Foundation of China



### QMG

Qingdao Municipal Government



### MSRCQD

National Marine Sciences Research Center, Qingdao

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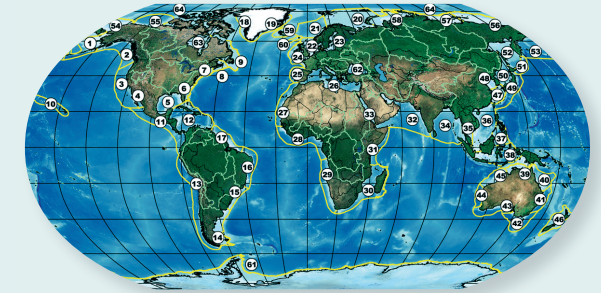
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## Second Global Conference



on

## Large Marine Ecosystems

**Qingdao, China**

**September 11–13, 2007**

*Second Announcement*

*LMEs annually produce 95% of  
the world's marine fish catch.*

## Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs)

Over the past two decades, the coastal areas of the world from coastlines and estuaries to seaward boundaries of continental shelves and major coastal current systems have been examined, and on the basis of ecological criteria, 64 Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) have been identified. They comprise regions of the order of 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> or greater. Each LME is characterized by distinct bathymetry, hydrography, productivity and trophically dependent populations. Some LMEs are relatively closed systems, (e.g. Baltic Sea) whereas others are more open (e.g. Guinea Current LME).

The LME approach to the assessment and management of marine resources was first introduced in 1984 and the first international LME conference was held in 1990 in Monaco. Since then, the approach has been further developed utilizing the methods of marine science, policy, law, economics, and governance into a modular strategy for assessing, managing, restoring, and sustaining marine resources and their environments.

The LMEs are important sources of goods and services contributing greatly to the global economy, food security and welfare. They produce 95% of the world's marine fisheries yields and host large parts of global marine biodiversity. However, many of the coastal habitats (e.g. seagrasses, corals, and mangroves) are degraded by pollution, intensive fishing, and other human activities. In the LMEs, the effects of Global Climate Change are particularly noticeable in interactions with the effects of demographic and economic development in coastal regions.

Since the mid-1990's, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in partnership with several UN agencies, has supported many economically developing coastal countries with start-up funding to support the introduction of Large Marine Ecosystem assessment and management methods for projects directed to the recovery and sustainability of marine resources and their environments. The results of these projects together with LME research in other parts of the world have been reviewed at 10 regional LME symposia; in 14 published volumes on LME case studies; and in synopsis of LME methods and theory. During the 7th Annual IOC/UNESCO-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on LMEs in 2005, the need was recognized for a second international LME conference to:

1. Examine scientific advances made in ecosystem assessment from LME activities around the globe
2. Analyze the role of the LME approach to marine science in general and for science capacity in developing regions
3. Introduce LME assessment and management methodologies for experts interested in ecosystem-based approaches to recovery and sustainability of marine resources
4. Increase interaction between LME activities in different parts of the globe and between the different disciplines and stakeholders in LME research and management.

The 2nd Global LME Conference will provide review lectures on the results of the GEF supported LME projects underway in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. Invited lectures will deal with the theoretical background of the LME approach and its role in present day marine science. Conference linked papers and posters are invited on each of the 10 Themes.

## Conference Themes

1. **The Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) Approach to Assessment and Management of Marine Resources: Theory & Background**
2. **Practical Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach in LMEs**
3. **Assessment and Monitoring of LMEs and Development of Indicators and Their Application**
4. **State of Environment and Ecosystem Information Systems in LMEs**
5. **Integrating Socioeconomics, Science and Governance in LMEs**
6. **Developing International Partnerships in Science and Management in LMEs**
7. **Changing States of LMEs in Regional Seas: A Global Perspective**
8. **LMEs at Risk: Adaptation to Climate Change**
9. **Complementarity among LME Assessments, GOOS-GEOS and GLOBEC**
10. **Toward An LME Network**

## Submission of Papers

Persons interested in submitting papers or posters relative to the 10 Conference Themes are invited to contact either of the two Conference Conveners listed on the back of this brochure.