

Ningaloo

Collaboration Cluster

Supporting coastal stakeholders for a sustainable future

Sustainable coastal zone management is desired by all coast users including management agencies, industries and society, so information to support this outcome is crucial.

While models can appear complex, they can also clarify system understanding, layout potential outcomes and highlight contradictory, uncertain or missing information.

CSIRO Wealth from Ocean Flagship researchers are developing a regional management model for the Ningaloo-Exmouth region that involves looking at the physical environment, ecological components, human industries and communities in the region.

The model will be used as the basis to assess implications of alternative futures, enable different management options to be tested and to compare results.

This information will aid industries, managers and communities in future management decisions.

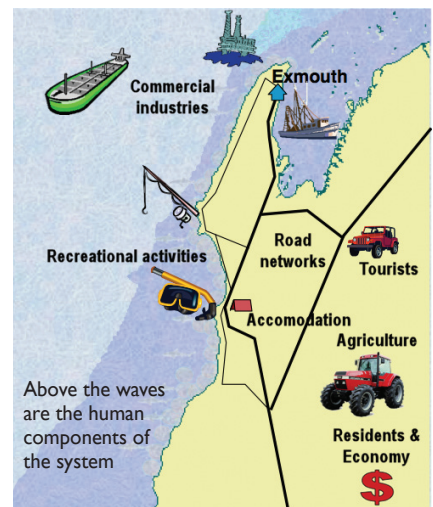
Developing the model

While developing the final model, we used a prototype model in conjunction with the Ningaloo Destination Model (from Curtin University) to look at the ecological impacts of potential future tourism developments, including the potential long-term impacts of activities such as:

- pro-surf competitions
- catch-and-release fishing competitions
- the introduction of a large scale marine resort.

Once complete it is anticipated that the model will provide significant knowledge that can be used to assess alternative management options for the region.

This information will facilitate decision-making and effective sustainable adaptive management in the region as well as help to avoid frustrating clashes between different interest groups.



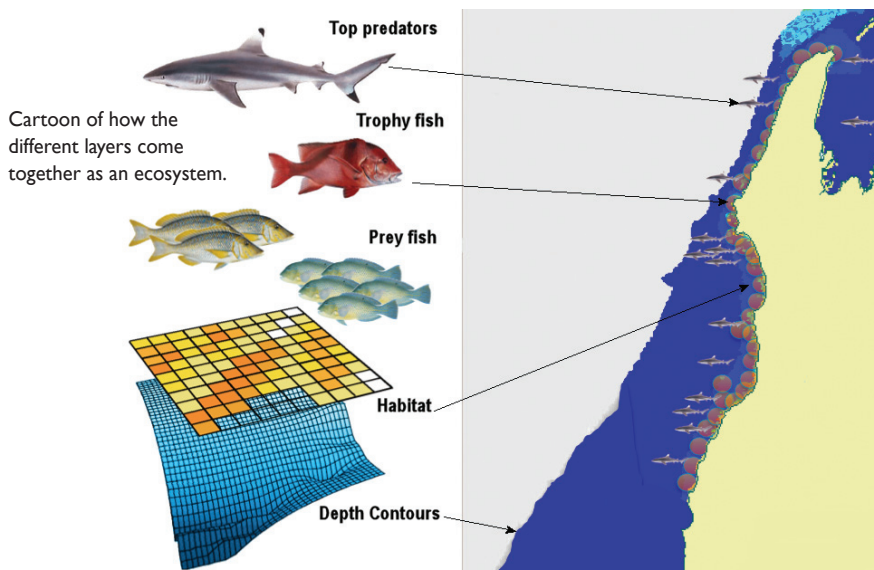
Progress

The project is due to be completed in late 2010, so outcomes from the model are not yet available.

However, preparatory work has already shown that the majority of stakeholders interested in the Ningaloo-Exmouth region share similar concerns i.e. cumulative impacts of development, and have more in common than originally anticipated.

Once the model is delivered its success will come down to making sure it is effectively communicated and implemented in the region.

As the system changes the model will need refinements to capture these changes and remain relevant. Also, the model itself has the potential to identify other future research needs.



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