

Climate Change and Coastal Zone

Coastal marine systems are among the most ecologically and socio-economically vital ecosystems on the planet and there is a strong scientific consensus that these ecosystems, along with the resources and services they provide, are threatened by anthropogenic climate change.

Naturally occurring stressors and those resulting from human activities can fall into five general categories: pollution, invasive species, extreme events, land and resource uses, and climate change.

Any stressor under these five categories can cause ecosystem damage but often they occur in combination and have a cumulative impact. Although we are still learning about the impacts of each stressor individually, it has become increasingly important to tackle the challenge of understanding the combined effects of multiple stressors.

The IPCC provided the mean global temperature projections for the period 1990-2100 based on IS92 emission scenarios, considering three different values for climate sensitivity: a lower value of 1.5°C, a 'best estimate' of 2.5°C and a higher value of 4.5°C.

As society faces the consequences of rapid changes in the Earth's climate resulting from human activity, a major challenge before the scientific community is not only to understand how natural and managed marine ecosystems have responded historically to changes in climate, but also to develop methods that measure and predict ongoing and future impacts of these factors.



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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM CLIMATE CHANGE AND MARINE RESOURCES IN COASTAL ZONE

TOOLS FOR:
RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY MAKING MANAGEMENT

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