

# Gulf of Maine Ecosystem-Based Management Toolkit Survey

The *Gulf of Maine Ecosystem-Based Management Toolkit Survey Report* provides region-specific information on

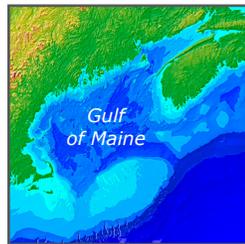
- management issues to which practitioners seek to apply ecosystem-based management (EBM),
- critical obstacles to implementing EBM, and
- tools and information needed to put EBM into practice.



Many government agencies and non-governmental organizations from the United States and Canada are collaborating to advance EBM in the Gulf of Maine.

The Gulf of Maine EBM Toolkit Survey was conducted in 2007 to help determine the types of tools and information needed to put EBM into practice.

The survey included 55 people involved in ocean and coastal management in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and U.S. and Canadian federal waters.



The Gulf of Maine is renowned as one of the world's richest marine ecosystems. Because of the growing variety and intensity of human uses of the Gulf of Maine, effective management is imperative to support ecosystem integrity and economic prosperity in the region. Using the results of this survey, regional organizations can better work to bridge the science-management interface by providing tools and information to meet current management needs.



COMPASS



The survey was conducted by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS), in association with the EBM Tools Network.



Listed below are a few of the main findings of the survey. The survey report provides all data and written responses for the 32 survey questions.

## Major Obstacles to Implementing EBM

- Lack of money, time, or people to do EBM.
- Lack of established methods for implementing EBM.
- Lack of understanding or information on the ecosystem.

## Important Management Issues

- Coastal habitats assessment and mitigation.
- Stakeholder and/or community engagement.
- Habitat restoration.
- Marine protected area management.
- Biodiversity conservation.

## Management Capacity Needed

- Understanding how the ecosystem functions.
- Engaging stakeholders in decision-making.
- Communicating management processes to stakeholders.
- Visualizing possible development and resource use scenarios.

## Types of Information Needed

- Case studies of present-day management situations in the Gulf of Maine region and how EBM could be or has been applied.
- Forward-looking assessments of how the Gulf of Maine ecosystem is likely to change and implications for management.
- Spatially explicit information about human activities affecting the Gulf of Maine and its watershed.
- Information about how the Gulf of Maine ecosystem functions.

## Training Needs

- Training to understand conceptual framework of EBM and general approaches for putting EBM into practice.
- Training to better understand the ecosystem context in which management occurs and that management decisions affect.

For the survey report and complete survey findings, go to [www.gulfofmaine.org/ebm](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/ebm)