

Methods

- Citation analysis of publications to determine sources, frequency, and patterns; location of citing authors; and subjects of citing publications.
- Web analytics (usage statistics and web links) to determine awareness and use of publications.
- Content analysis of publications for characteristics promoting distribution and awareness.
- Questionnaires, interviews, and direct observations of stakeholders (policy and decision-makers, scientists, industry, general public) to determine information pathways.



Current Studies

- Partnering in research with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental bodies that publish marine environmental information to strengthen the interdisciplinarity of case studies and optimize findings.
- Interviewing public sector coastal/marine managers in Canada, US, Europe, the Caribbean, and other countries regarding their use of grey literature.
- Extending citation analyses and web analytics of selected organizations.
- Developing methods for evaluating the influence of such literature on policy and decision making in coastal/marine environmental fields.

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Environmental Information: Use and Influence

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Oceans of Information

Environmental Information: Use and Influence



“Grey Matters” Information Management for Environmental Solutions

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The EIUI Research Team

Overview

Globally, ecosystems are facing many serious problems requiring information-based solutions. While seeking solutions, organizations support considerable original research and annually produce many thousands of publications in the primary and grey literature, and in printed and digital formats. In finding and adopting solutions in a timely fashion, information must be accessible to managers, policy makers, politicians, industry leaders, and the interested public.

Our research addresses the use and influence of marine environmental and fisheries information (grey literature) produced by governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations. We are identifying what the organizations publish, and examining the dissemination, awareness of, access to, use, and influence of their publications. How the information life cycle is adjusting to advances in information communication technologies and

how information is now accessed and used by policy makers is also being investigated.

Our emphasis is placed on understanding the complex science-policy interface. Our research leads to recommendations to maximize the use and influence of information published as grey literature in policy and decision-making processes in the marine environmental and fisheries resource fields.

What is Grey Literature?

We use the definition of grey literature given by the *GreyNet Literature Network Service* (2012), namely, "Information produced by all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing, i.e., where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body."

Case Studies

Our study of the literature of governmental and intergovernmental organizations began with GESAMP in 2002. In the case studies to date, we are learning how organizations produce, publish, and disseminate grey literature on marine environmental and fisheries matters, and how they promote awareness, access, and use of this information by program managers, policy-makers, and decision-makers.

Case studies have included:

- United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) / Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
- The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment (GOMC) and the GOMC *State of the Gulf of Maine Report* with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- *2009 State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report* published by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service)

For more information on this project and its case studies, please visit:

<http://www.eiui.ca/>