Glossary

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. FAO-formulated code, which sets out principles and international standards of behaviour for responsible aquaculture and fisheries practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity.

DEPOMOD. A particle tracking model used for predicting the sinking and resuspension flux of particulate waste material (and special components such as medicines) from fish farms and the benthic community impact of that flux.g

Ecosystem. An organizational unit consisting of an aggregation of plants, animals (including humans) and micro-organisms, along with the non-living components of the environment.

Ecosystem approach to aquaculture. The ecosystem approach to aquaculture is a strategic approach to development and management of the sector aiming to integrate aquaculture within the wider ecosystem such that it promotes sustainability of interlinked social-ecological systems. This is essentially applying an ecosystem based management as proposed by CBD (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23/ decision V/6, 103–106) to aquaculture and also following Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) indications.

Fuzzy classification. Any method for classifying data that allows attributes to apply to objects by membership values, so that an object may be considered a partial member of a class. Class membership is usually defined on a continuous scale from zero to one, where zero is no membership and one is full membership. Fuzzy classification may also be applied to geographic objects themselves, so that an object's boundary is treated as a gradated area rather than an exact line. In GIS, fuzzy classification has been used in the analysis of soil, vegetation, and other phenomena that tend to change gradually in their physical composition and for which attributes are often partly qualitative in nature.

Geographic Information System (GIS). An integrated collection of computer software and data used to view and manage information about geographic places, analyze spatial relationships, and model spatial processes. A GIS provides a framework for gathering and organizing spatial data and related information so that it can be displayed and analyzed.

Global Positioning System (GPS). A system of radio-emitting and -receiving satellites used for determining positions on the earth. The orbiting satellites transmit signals that allow a GPS receiver anywhere on earth to calculate its own location through trilateration. Developed and operated by the United States of America Department of Defense, the system is used in navigation, mapping, surveying, and other applications in which precise positioning is necessary.

Landsat. A series of US polar orbiting satellites, first launched in 1972 by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), which carry both the multispectral scanner and thematic mapper sensors.

Mariculture. Cultivation, management and harvesting of marine organisms in their natural habitat or in specially constructed rearing units, e.g. ponds, cages, pens, enclosures or tanks. For the purpose of FAO statistics, mariculture refers to cultivation of the end product in seawater even though earlier stages in the life cycle of the concerned aquatic organisms may be cultured in brackish water or freshwater.

Modelling. The representation of a system by a mathematical analogue, obeying certain specified conditions, whose behaviour is used to simulate and interpret a physical or biological system.

Multi-Criteria Evaluation (MCE). Decision support tool for Multi-Criteria Evaluation. A decision is a choice between alternatives (such as alternative actions, land allocations, etc.). The basis for a decision is known as a criterion. In a Multi-Criteria Evaluation, an attempt is made to combine a set of criteria to achieve a single composite basis for a decision according to a specific objective. For example, a decision may need to be made about what areas are the most suitable for industrial development. Criteria might include proximity to roads, slope gradient, exclusion of reserved lands, and so on. Through a Multi-Criteria Evaluation, these criteria images representing suitability may be combined to form a single suitability map from which the final choice will be made.

Remote sensing. Collecting and interpreting information about the environment and the surface of the earth from a distance, primarily by sensing radiation that is naturally emitted or reflected by the earth's surface or from the atmosphere, or by sensing signals transmitted from a device and reflected back to it. Examples of remote-sensing methods include aerial photography, radar, and satellite imaging.

Resolution. The detail with which a map depicts the location and shape of geographic features. The larger the map scale, the higher the possible resolution. As scale decreases, resolution diminishes. The dimensions represented by each cell or pixel in a raster.

Stakeholder. Any person or group with a legitimate interest in the conservation and management of the resources being managed. Generally speaking, the categories of interested parties will often be the same for many fisheries, and should include contrasting interests: commercial/recreational, conservation/exploitation, artisanal/industrial, fisher/buyer-processor-trader as well as governments (local/state/national). The public, the consumers and the scientists could also be considered as interested parties in some circumstances.

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