

Policy, advocacy, NGOs and the *Sea Around Us* project

by Jackie Alder and Daniel Pauly

A highly successful workshop, *Evaluating Marine and Fisheries Information Needs of NGOs*, held with representatives from various NGOs (see Box) occurred on October 5-6, 2005, in the lecture hall of our new Aquatic Ecosystems Research Laboratory (AERL) building. It was sponsored by the Lenfest Oceans Program (www.lenfestocean.org) and was devoted to identifying the data needs of NGOs for their policy and advocacy work, as well as to assessing how well the *Sea Around Us* project helps to meet these needs and what can be done jointly in the future. Twenty-six representatives from large to medium sized NGOs, which span Africa, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Asia, Europe and North America, spent two days sharing ideas and providing constructive feedback on the current and planned databases that are behind the *Sea Around Us* website (see www.searoundus.org), and which have been featured in previous newsletters.

The workshop allowed the project to showcase the last six years worth of work, and to give greater exposure to our web products. Some participants were not aware of our work until they received the invitation to the workshop, but left enthused and full of ideas about how the information contained in the website can help them in their

campaigns for better fisheries management and marine conservation. The workshop also provided NGOs with opportunities to increase their awareness of the breadth and depth of the work of the *Sea Around Us* project. Many ideas for future projects were hatched between the *Sea*

Around Us staff and NGO representatives.

The workshop ended with a round table between students and NGO representatives (see *FishBytes* Issue 11-5, p. 2), followed by cocktails, giving students and workshop participants ample opportunity to network.

Continued on page 4 - NGOs

Non-governmental organizations represented at the NGO-*Sea Around Us* Workshop.

October 5-6, 2005

1. American Bird Conservancy
2. Caribbean Conservation Association
3. David Suzuki Foundation
4. Environment and Conservation Organizations of Aotearoa (New Zealand)
5. Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International
6. Greenpeace Australia Pacific (Fiji)
7. Greenpeace International
8. Humane Society International
9. Island Press (Washington, DC)
10. IUCN Netherlands Committee
11. Lenfest Oceans Program
12. Lewis and Clark Law School
13. Marine Conservation Biology Institute
14. Marine Fish Conservation Network
15. National Environmental Trust
16. National Research Defense Council
17. Oceana
18. Regional Marine Conservation Project
19. Sea Turtle Restoration Project
20. State of the Salmon - Ecotrust
21. State of the Salmon - Wild Salmon Centre
22. The Ocean Conservancy
23. WWF - Eastern Africa Region
24. WWF - Latin America and Caribbean Regional Program
25. WWF - US
26. WWF Sulu-Sulawesi Region

Some participants were not aware of our work until they received the invitation to the workshop, but left enthused and full of ideas

NGOs - Continued from page 3

One of the most significant outcomes from the two-day workshop was participants' confirmation that the *Sea Around Us* project is meeting its mission of providing useful scientific

information for assessing the impacts of fisheries, i.e., information that advocacy groups can use. Our consistent focus on creating global datasets from reliable sources and expressing the information through our mapping system has

ensured that we are on the right track, and no doubt we will continue to improve and expand our data and associated research.

We thank the Lenfest Oceans Program for initiating and funding this activity.



Photographs from Evaluating Marine and Fisheries Information Needs of NGOs. Left: Daniel Pauly addresses representatives from 26 Non-Governmental Organizations. Right: Participants during discussions. Photos by Sherman Lai.