

DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report illustrates nicely the collaborative theme highlighted in the just-released 2001-2003 report of the Fisheries Centre, in which our units and their various activities are presented.

Here, two groups within the Fisheries Centre, the *Sea Around Us* Project, which I lead, and the *Back to the Future* Project, led by T.J. Pitcher, joined forces with a partner in San Diego, Ms. Karen Stocks, and Dr. Rainer Froese at the Institut für Meereskunde in Kiel, Germany, to jointly study and document seamounts and the challenge they pose for management.

Their contributions range from the identification and distribution of seamounts in the world oceans, to a detailed documentation of their biodiversity and the potential and actual impact of fisheries thereon. The result is a report that should serve as a major source of information for all those interested in protecting seamount ecosystems.

On behalf of all authors, I wish to thank the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and particularly Sarah Chasis and Karen Garrison, for inspiring the work that led to this report, and for funding some of the encoding work that enabled *SeamountsOnline* and FishBase to improve their coverage of seamount invertebrates and seamount fishes, respectively. We also thank the Pew Charitable Trusts for their generous support of the *Sea Around Us* Project, Canada's National Scientific and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) for support to D. Pauly and T.J. Pitcher, the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT, Portugal) and the European Social Fund for support to T. Morato, and the Sir Robert Black Trust Fund Scholarship for Overseas Studies for support to William W.L. Cheung.

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