

**FINAL SUMMARY****Social Values of Ecosystem Services and Resource Uses in the Coastal Zone**

**Title of the study:** Mapping Social Values of Coastal Use relative to Ecosystem Services

This report contains the final results summary from three iterative Delphi rounds. These sequential questionnaire rounds have focused on developing three themes specific to the coastal zone: 1) a typology of social values of ecosystem services, 2) a priority listing of resource management issues, and 3) a workable definition of social values of ecosystem services. Results and key messages are presented below. In total, thirty-seven coastal ecosystem service experts completed the final survey round (97% response rate).

**THEME 1: Social Values of Ecosystem Services**

**Table 1 – Social Values Typology (alphabetical order)**

<b>Access</b>	Places of common property free from access restrictions or exclusive ownership/control.
<b>Aesthetic</b>	Enjoyable scenery, sights, sounds, smells, etc.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Provision of a variety and abundance of fish, wildlife, and plant life.
<b>Cultural</b>	Place for passing down wisdom, knowledge, and traditions.
<b>Economic</b>	Provision of fishery (commercial/recreational), minerals, and tourism industry that support livelihoods.
<b>Future</b>	Allowance for future generation to know and experience healthy, productive, and sustainable coastal ecosystems.
<b>Historic</b>	Place of natural and human history that matter to individuals, communities, societies, and nations.
<b>Identity/Symbolic</b>	Places that engender a sense of place, community, and belonging; represent a distinctive “culture of the sea”.
<b>Intrinsic</b>	Right to exist regardless of presence; value based on existence (being rather than place).
<b>Learning</b>	Place of educational value through scientific exploration, observation, discovery, and experimentation.
<b>Life Sustaining</b>	Provision of macro-environmental processes (i.e. climate regulation, hydrologic cycle, etc.) that support life, human and non-human.
<b>Recreation</b>	Place for favorite/enjoyable outdoor recreation activities.
<b>Spiritual/Novel Experience</b>	Places of sacred, religious, unique, deep, and/or profound experience where reverence/respect for nature is felt.
<b>Subsistence</b>	Provision of basic human needs, emphasis on reliable, regular food/protein source from seafood.
<b>Therapeutic</b>	Place that enhances feelings of well-being (e.g. “an escape”, “stress relief”, “comfort and calm”).
<b>Wilderness</b>	Place of minimal human impact and/or intrusion into natural environment.

**THEME 2: Important Resource Management Issues**

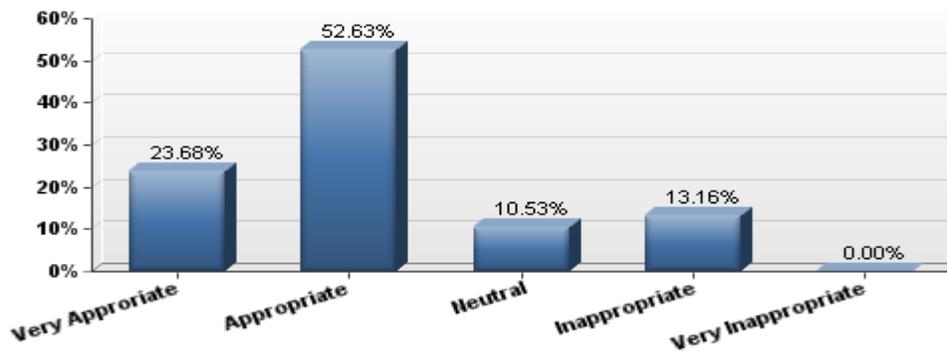
**Table 2 – Coastal Zone Issues (rank order)**

1. Coastal Development	11. Public Education
2. Habitat Loss	12. Sectoral Management
3. Pollution	13. Freshwater Inflow
4. Fisheries Overharvesting	14. Unsustainable Management/Policy
5. Competing Interests/Resource Uses	15. Oil/Gas Exploration
6. Sea Level Rise	16. Shore Hardening
7. Water Quality	17. Alternative Energy
8. Climate Change	18. Public Access
9. Decreasing Biodiversity	19. Enforcement Efficacy
10. Wetland Loss	20. Beach Nourishment

**THEME 3: Workable Definition of Social Values of Ecosystem Services**

Working Definition Presented: *"The ways in which humans value landscapes and the places therein for reasons ranging from instrumental (e.g. places that provide sustenance) to emblematic (e.g. places that represent ideas) and intrinsic (regardless of humans) to contributory (as human resources), with consideration of the human ecological landscape as defined by individual and group perceptions, attitudes, and values toward a given ecosystem."*

**Figure 1 – Appropriateness of Working Definition**



**Key Critiques:**

- Too academic/obtuse/complex/wordy
- Jargon falls outside understanding of general public
- Circular (i.e. using value in the definition)
- Limiting terminology (e.g. landscape, human ecological landscape)

**Final Working Definition:**

*"The human importance of places, landscapes, and the resources or services they provide, defined by individual and/or group perceptions and attitudes toward a given ecosystem."*