



Economic Valuation of Damage by Ship/Boat Grounding on Coral Reefs

Title of the workshop:

Concept and approach for regional and national compensation of coral damage by ship/boat grounding.

Background:

The reefs of the RSGA region are suffering from different impacts due to the use of the RSGA as a transit route for a significant percentage of the world's petroleum, dry bulk and other cargoes. In addition the vast tourism development on the coastal areas of most of the countries of the region, create another dimension of reef impacts. Reef groundings by ships or boats are one of the vital hazards on corals and coral reef ecosystem. The damaged reef area resulted from ship or boat grounding varied according to several factors, such as the strength of the grounding, the volume of the ship or boat, the bio-richness of the reef area, the environmental conditions in the grounded reef area, and the ability of the reef community in the area to naturally rehabilitate or recolonized. All these factors are considered when the evaluation of the damaged reefs are calculated, in addition to another factor which is the economical value of the damaged reef area (e.g. fishing area, diving area, marine park area). The calculation of the compensation rate is very important because all the above mentioned factors plus some other more should be carefully estimated.

In RSGA region some of the countries have good experiences and regulations for the reef damaged compensation issue, while others do not have such regulations yet. Nevertheless, most of the compensation cases are facing some obstacles when it goes to the courts where the procedures of the coral damaged and area recovering estimates could be countermand.

Accordingly, it is urgent at the national and regional levels to formulate standard guide for reef grounding compensation procedures, taken in consideration two goals:

- 1- Standardise the survey methodology of the damaged area, archiving the accident circumstances, reporting, monitoring the recolonization of the damaged area, rehabilitation measures of the area (e.g. cleaning up the debris, coral transplantation); and
- 2- Applied the most common international procedures in this field to cope with the international roles and lows of the compensation procedures, hence the ownership of the ships are mostly belonging to international companies and that reflected in the courts when the national and international points of view controversialied.

Objectives of the workshop:

The concerned issue needs more than one workshop and the present one will be focus on:

1. Discuss the concept of the compensation and its relative biological, ecological, economical, and legal subjects;
2. Exchange the countries experience in the compensation issue;
3. Pilot approach to standardize general regional guide for compensation;

Participants:

Participants of this workshop will be nominated by their national focal points, and they should be chosen from the authorities/departments which are responsible for the implementation of compensation procedures (e.g. marine park directors, legal department of the ministry of environment, Living Marine resources department). The participants should have good experience about the concerned procedures in their relative country/authority in order to formulate preliminary regional approach for compensation, which could be fine-tuning in the



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future and through other workshops. According to the above needs, a maximum of 15 participants (1-2 from each country) are the proposed number of participants. For the purpose of the workshop, the participants of each country will prepare in advance one presentation about the compensation procedures for coral reef damage in their country, including the positives and negatives. This presentation will be the core information for exchanging experiences and formulate the preliminary approach of Regional Guideline.

Date and duration:

The duration of the workshop is three working days and will be conducted during 27-29 July 2008.

Location:

PERSGA HQ, Jeddah, KSA.

Language:

The workshop languages are English and Arabic.

Training Materials/References:

Under-preparation