A Manual for Regional Seas on the Ecosystem Approach to Managing Human Activities Affecting the Marine **Environment**

Questions

- Would the Regional Seas find a "Manual on the Ecosystem Approach" helpful?
- Does the initial sketch cover the right issues?
- How can we best develop such a manual?

Why a Manual?

- The Johannesburg Summit commitments
- Need for a common understanding
- Need to share successful approaches
- Need to share outcomes

What could a manual give?

- A framework for thought
- = we know that we share a common approach in avoiding gaps and overlaps
- Confirmation of essential tasks
- = a tool for persuading others of the importance of those needs
- A tool-box of techniques
- = to save us each having to re-invent the wheel

Questions for a manual?

- Why adopt the ecosystem approach?
- What is the ecosystem approach?
- Who needs to be involved and how to organise them?
- How to specify the content of an ecosystem approach?
- How to analyse the ecosystem?
- How to analyse human activities?
- How to integrate the whole picture?

Background

- Longstanding concern with commercial fisheries and pollution
- AGENDA 21 emphasised need for integration
- Protecting biodiversity added a new focus
- Integration is not enough need for a common frame of reference

How to get a common framework?

- Action has to be sectoral:
 - UN Convention on the Law of the Sea sets up sectoral machinery
 - National structures are sectoral
 - Management of human activities is sectoral
- Nevertheless, the sea is one environment
 - How do we integrate and show that we are integrating everything?

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