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Review: Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management

By Biliانا Cicin-Sain and Robert W. Knecht

Reviewed by [Kenneth Carriveau](#)
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Cicin-Sain, Biliانا, & Robert W. Knecht. *Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management: Concepts and Practices*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 1998. 517 pp. ISBN 1-55963-603-3 (hardcover); 1-55963-604-1 (softcover). US\$65.00 hardcover; US\$32.50 softcover. Recycled, acid-free paper

Integrated coastal and ocean management, more commonly referred to as simply integrated coastal management or ICM, is an extremely complex process that looks for a delicate balance between the preservation of natural resources and ecosystems and acceptable use of those resources to meet the needs of human society. Cicin-Sain and Knecht, who are co-directors of the University of Delaware's Center for the Study of Marine Policy and, combined, have over 60 years of experience in academic and governmental development of marine use policy, have created a clear, concise guide to ICM that should help policy planners, community leaders, ecologists, and students navigate through the shoals towards a successful ICM plan. Readers should note that this publication is not a detailed "how-to" manual, but rather an introduction to the key concepts identified by various United Nations conferences and summits as essential to a successful ICM plan and a general description of how to incorporate these concepts into an ICM program. Readers should also note that ICM, as presented here, is not a substitute for single-sector resource management planning, but instead a means to ensure that the single-sector plans are complementary to each other.

The development methodology presented is divisible into four distinct phases or parts, each of which is treated separately in the text. Part I: The Need for Integrated Coastal Management and Fundamental Concepts encompasses the first two chapters and includes discussions on what ICM means, what types of interactions and use conflicts exist that support the implementation of ICM, and what responsibilities and obligations are entailed in the development of an ICM plan. Phase One, in essence, is the process of evaluating current coastal marine development policies and determining whether a need exists to formulate an ICM.

Chapters 3 and 4 comprise Part II: Evolution of International Prescriptions on ICM and discuss, in depth, the international legislative policies developed between the 1970s and early 1990s that form the foundation for modern ICM policy development. Particular attention is given to the UN Conference

on the Law of the Sea, the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, and, perhaps the most influential global development session, the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Part III: A Practical Guide to Integrated Coastal Management is a detailed explanation of the methodology Cicin-Sain and Knecht have developed to guide policy planners. Chapter 5 looks at the preparatory work facing planners, i.e. convincing community leaders and the general public that ICM program success depends on everyone taking an active position on the issue and contributing as appropriate. Chapter 6 discusses the organizational issues associated with successful ICMs such as the need for cooperation between national and local governments, understanding that responsibility and accountability for ICM success falls on everyone in the community, the legal frameworks needed to guide appropriate action and behavior in implementing an ICM plan, and understanding the costs/benefits associated with ICM programs. Chapter 7 reviews the data, methodology, analysis, and process tools needed in order to develop an ICM program. Chapter 8 walks through the program formulation process. Finally, Chapter 9 highlights the execution, maintenance, and evaluation of ICM programs to ensure that they are working as intended and as planned.

Part IV: Country Case Comparisons and Lessons Learned completes the main narrative of the text with a summary of good ICM development practices and provides examples of successful and unsuccessful ICM efforts in twenty-two nations around the world, with representatives from developed, middle developing, and developing countries. Readers interested in obtaining greater detail on the ICM efforts of the nations profiled are directed to the appendices which contain fuller descriptions of each country's policy planning and implementation practices as well as a list of all the participants surveyed in this study that were used to develop the country profiles.

Readers will also appreciate the handy tools provided at the end of the volume including a brief glossary of terms, an excellent index, and a substantial list of references and additional readings.

Highly recommended for public through university research libraries, especially those serving coastal and island populations. Community leaders and policy planners living in coastal marine or island areas would do well to add this text to their personal libraries and study the contents closely. Should be considered required reading for students involved in marine policy, environmental science, ecology, marine biology, and coastal development programs. Recommended as a strong supplemental source for political science and economics courses where coastal and marine

development issues are treated in some detail.

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