

# Concept and Practices of Sato-umi in Japan and Lessons Learned

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A new concept for coastal sea management called "Sato-Umi", defined as "High productivity and biodiversity in the coastal sea area with human interaction", is proposed. To establish the Sato-Umi, it is necessary to realize comprehensive material cycling and appropriate fish resource management in coastal sea areas.

It is said that "Nature takes its best state without mankind". Would it be true that no environmental problems would exist if mankind was not present on Earth? However, there would be no meaning to a discussion regarding environmental problems without the presence of mankind.

Nature does exist that takes its best state under mankind's interaction. In Japan, it is called "Sato-Yama". In Japanese, "Sato" means the area where people live and "Yama" means the forest. Sato-Yama is thus the forest near where people live. In 1987, the area of Sato-Yama in Japan was about 4,500,000 ha making up about 20% of Japan's total area of forest of 25,000,000 ha.

In this paper we discuss a new concept for coastal sea management that is based on the ideas of Sato-Yama. Is it possible to create a "Sato-Umi" similar to Sato-Yama? In Japanese, "Umi" means the sea, so "Sato-Umi" is defined as "High productivity and biodiversity in the coastal sea area with human interaction" (Yanagi, 1998, 2007).

To establish the Sato-Umi, we first need to understand quantitatively material cycling in the coastal sea area. That is, we need to know the quantity of nutrients that are loaded from the coast, and what are the primary, secondary and tertiary productions in the area. We need to clarify what kinds of actions by mankind are permissible or prohibited in the coastal sea area from the viewpoint of increasing production and biodiversity. The important focus is to establish comprehensive material cycling in Sato-Umi.



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