

Biology Seminar

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Value of Aquatic Ecosystem Goods and Services

Biological systems have intrinsic values, and that is why many biologists entered the field in the first place. However, more recently methods have been developed to assign economic values to ecosystems goods and services, such as greenhouse gas cycling, self purification, production of commodities, recreation activities as well as determining how human activities influence these values. These values can then be applied to assess the relative importance of various human influences on natural environments and their ability to provide humanity with the properties we desire. Given that there are no pristine habitats left on earth, strongly grounded ecological understanding of how humans influence the world around them is required to make wise management decisions. Aquatic ecosystems are among the most valuable to people and can exemplify the different approaches that can be taken to valuation.

