

THE EBM TOOLS COLLABORATIVE: FOSTERING AN ON-LINE COMMUNITY OF ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONERS

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The Coastal-Marine Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Tools Network (www.ebmtools.org) is a voluntary alliance of EBM tool users, researchers, and providers to promote the awareness, development, and effective use of software tools that can help implement EBM in coastal and marine environments and their watersheds. In 2009, the Network is launching a new on-line resource for EBM tools- The EBM Tools Collaborative. The EBM Tools Collaborative will serve as a platform for dynamically linked databases of EBM tools, reviews of tools by EBM practitioners, descriptions of EBM tool projects, formal EBM tool case studies, and EBM tool practitioners. This forum will help EBM practitioners locate relevant tools, learn about other user experiences with EBM tools, share information about their own project, and find collaborators for EBM tools projects. Since the forum will cover the full spectrum of EBM tools (ranging from marine ecosystem models to stakeholder engagement tools), it will help promote interdisciplinary information sharing and collaboration. The EBM Tools Collaborative infrastructure is developed by PlaceMatters, an EBM Tools Network member, with support from the David & Lucile Packard Foundation.

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