

The importance of healthy ecosystems for fisheries and coastal communities –

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Coastal communities in the US and around the world depend upon healthy and sustainable marine ecosystems for their economy, way of life and character. While it is often the case that critical sectors of the coastal economy such as fishing, tourism and transportation are thought of in isolation they all come together through the ecosystems upon which they depend. Therefore, to maintain or restore a sustainable coastal economy we need to understand and plan for how different sectors can co-exist while maintaining the underlying structure and function of the marine ecosystems. There are numerous examples of the social and economic impacts of the decline marine ecosystems, and the opportunity to take a different path is clear.



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