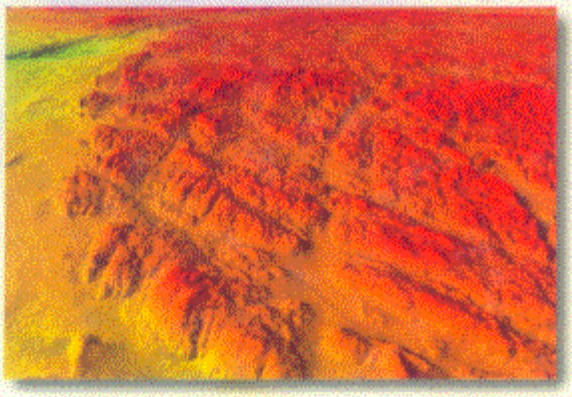
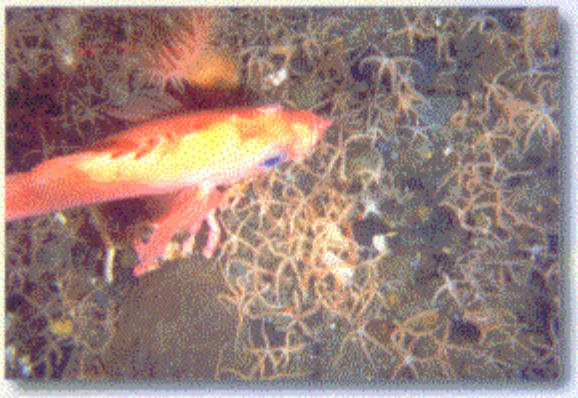
GEOHAB
Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping





The coasts and oceans of the world are under increasing pressure from the effects of climate change and from multiple human impacts such as population increase, industrial development, fishing, and transportation. Maps of habitat – in its simplest sense, where plants and animals live – are recognized as crucial knowledge that can be used for informed decision-making as we adapt to changing coastal and oceanic environments, and as we manage our use of this space.

This volume is an outgrowth of papers and posters presented at GeoHab conferences since the organization's inception in 2001. GeoHab (Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping; www.geohab.org) brings together scientists from around the world working on the development of new thematic maps linking acoustic mapping and geological sampling to marine biology in a Geographical Information System environment to underpin sustainable ocean management. The thirty-five papers presented here cover a broad spectrum of habitat studies in the ocean. Technologies are emerging that enable us to collect marine physical and biological data in unprecedented quantities with unprecedented positional accuracy. These technologies are being adapted to innovative mapping techniques that provide new views of seafloor habitat. At the same time, the effort to classify these habitats is ongoing, with a number of classification schemes developed. Mapping case studies from the Pacific and Atlantic oceans highlight the breadth of mapping activity around the world. Insight gained through habitat mapping has enabled national governments to enact more informed marine policy.

The papers in this volume represent the latest results in the field of marine benthic habitat mapping, characterization and application. This volume is intended as a useful reference for mapping practitioners and as a supplement to students of marine habitat mapping.

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