Newsletter No 1 May 2005

Global International Waters Assessment

Dear GIWA friends,

A number of GIWA regional reports are in their final production phase. During this spring we will publish our reports on regions such as South China Sea, Russian Arctic, Yellow Sea, Canary Current as well as other waters. Each has its specific issues, yet they all provide strategic guidance for actions on the problems.

Also our Global Report is soon to be published. Our bottom-up approach has created a strong foundation for transboundary ecosystem-based management. In almost every region, local experts led each regional assessment, with a scientific core team providing coordination and support. This regional emphasis has built strong local ownership of the assessments and fostered trust among scientists and policy-makers from neighbouring countries. The Global Report will conclude the findings and highlight some issues of special importance.

In this issue of our newsletter we publish a compiled version of the regional assessments, sorted by continents. It indicates the severe problems facing different parts of the world. It gives guidance to the GEF and the international community, as well as to regional and national institutions, when making priorities for the future.

Dag Daler,
Scientific Director

Global Report Coming Soon

The production of the GIWA Global Report is in its final stage. It will summarise this truly global GEF project that has had a considerable impact in building greater understanding of the driving forces and causal relationships behind environmental pressures on transboundary waters.

Around 1500 regional experts prepared a large number of reports assessing the state of the water bodies and their resources, as well as identifying priorities, impacts and root causes of water issues. This process has helped build national environment and social assessment capacity in many regions. Perhaps more importantly, GIWA has already been an essential catalyst to the implementation of ecosystem-based policies and management. The majority of the GIWA reports have only been published in the last few months, but they have already had tangible impacts on water related policies in several GEF-eligible regions.

The GIWA Global Report will conclude the assessment and its bottom-up and multidisciplinary process. It will highlight the findings and the root causes identified. The report aims to inspire actions to obtain global food security and ecosystem health in international waters.

Discussions on the final version of the GIWA Global Report: David Moffat, Dag Daler, Sanna Mels and Elina Rautalahti-Miettinen.

Youth Learn About GIWA

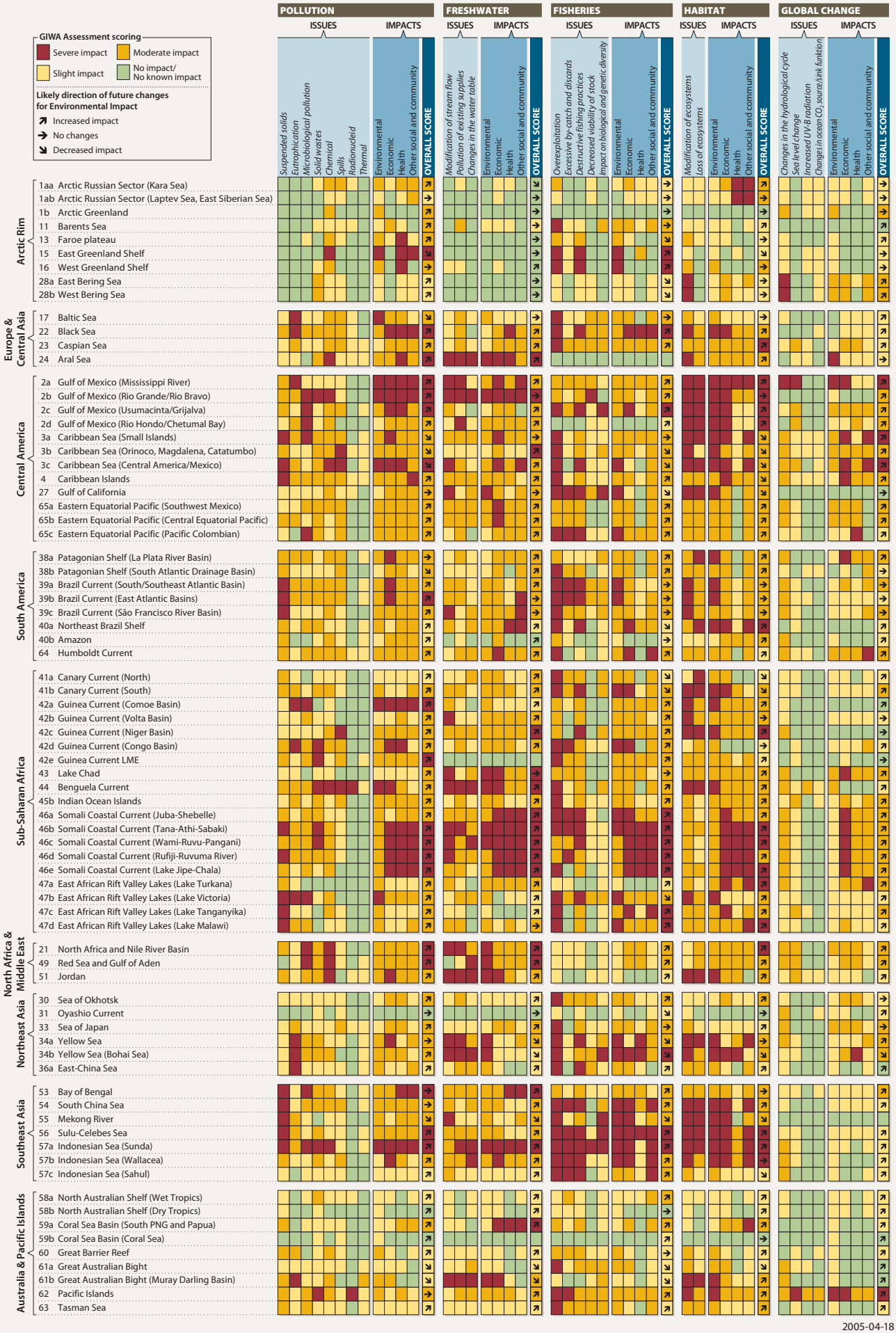
GIWA has participated in high school activities in the Kalmar region during the spring semester. The Model UN of Stagnelius school was a three day event, attracting high school students from Sweden, Lithuania, Latvia and Italy this year. GIWA Information Officer Elisabet Idermark gave the opening speech and the water issues were discussed by several of the delegates.

Model UN delegates Gustaf and Carl learned about GIWA…

In the Torsås high school the students focused their studies on the Baltic Sea. They produced and performed a play on the threats to the environment. During a panel discussion they demanded answers from representatives of authorities and organisations, including GIWA. The GIWA regional assessment on the Baltic Sea was welcomed as a contribution for the advice on actions to the future.

…as did student actors Linn and Rebecka, here with GIWA intern Anne Gydesen at left.

The GIWA Scoring Matrix by continent



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Read more about the GIWA results in the upcoming GIWA Global Report.

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