

PACO – Projeto Atlas COsteiro do Estado de São Paulo - Brasil

The São Paulo Coastal Atlas Project still in concept stage and have been discussed by a multidisciplinary group in technical level.

Several studies involving oceanographic processes and its relation to antropic occupation has been developed at the São Paulo Coast (southeastern Brazil) in the last years. Although Technical and Scientific works have been published since the 50's part of all data and information collected have been lost or kept in private issues. During the last decade, however, the academic, military and civil society started to make some efforts in order to normalize and systemize marine data and information in Oceanographic Databases.

The propose of “Project of São Paulo State Coastal Web Atlas – PACO (*Projeto Atlas COsteiro* de SP”) have been conceived during the “protected marine areas workshop” held in Ilhabela City, Brazil in 2009 when more than 100 researches have been meeting to discuss the development of a research project to create and sustain a structure of coastal information System for conservancy proposes. The basic idea was first to establish a central database to organize and share all information and also provide a clear and direct platform to receive, integrate, analyze and deliver marine and coastal data.

The project structure is based on a partnership between research teams from various institutions and involves different knowledge areas that require interfaces with professionals, researchers and students involved.

The project activities will evolve in three levels of approach:

- Technical - This role will involve the development and implementation of specifications and technological support of the Atlas, such as Operational system, Web Servers, Databases, Metadata standards etc..
- Scientific– Focus on process of scientific knowledge production and it is related to the data modeling and environmental issues: It can involve development of new mapping methodologies, ontologies and developing of new environmental indices and models;

- Management – Based on the use of the Atlas to improve the understanding of the inter-relationships between the natural and socio-economic variables in order to improve decision-making processes. I.e. Boundaries Recognition for protected areas, tracking processes and activities with potential environmental risks, and levels of sensibility in marine and coastal areas.