

# WS 7 Marine Research in Fragile and/or Protected Ecosystems

**This ASSEMBLE workshop will be held at the Interuniversity Institute for Marine Sciences, Eilat, Israel, from January 28-30, 2013 (3 days, excluding arrival/departure days).**

Scientists wishing to engage in research in fragile and/or protected marine ecosystems may find themselves limited or restricted in what can be carried out. The number of individuals involved, sampling and destructive sampling, disturbance, and long-term studies can contribute to degradation of and damage to such environments. Government agencies usually become involved in order to regulate access and research, and to cope with threats such as from pollution, tourism, coastal zone development, etc. For this Workshop we focus on the northern-most part of the Gulf of Aqaba, which has an endangered coral reef ecosystem, but will include other case studies.

The aims of this Workshop are to provide participants with perspectives on (not exclusive):

- dilemmas in carrying out short - and long - term research in fragile and protected ecosystems
- legal and regulatory issues
- conservation issues
- approaches to minimize in situ sampling
- approaches to reduce destructive sampling needs
- monitoring of fragile and protected ecosystems
- public access to such ecosystems

Presentations will also be requested from participants on respective problems/issues they face in their home country or institution.

Priority is given to participants applying from ASSEMBLE partner marine stations. Such participants will receive a contribution towards flight and accommodation costs.

Individuals from non-ASSEMBLE partners can submit applications but no financial support is available.

Workshop agenda, information about travel and accommodation, and registration forms and procedures will be announced later on the Assemble web site <http://www.assemblemarine.org>, or contact the local organizer, Simon Berkowicz [berkowi@vms.huji.ac.il](mailto:berkowi@vms.huji.ac.il).

