



Report

**WORKSHOP:
MODELS AND MASS BALANCE CALCULATIONS FOR
THE GULF OF MEXICO**

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with

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Pauly, D. 1997. Toward a stratified trophic mass-balance model of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem. Abstract, p. 867 In: Q.R. Dokken (compiler) Workshop Report: Models and Mass-Balance Calculations for the Gulf of Mexico. EPA/NOAA/Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Metairie, Louisiana

Toward a stratified trophic mass-balance model of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem

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Mass-balance trophic models of aquatic ecosystems can be constructed in a straightforward manner using the Ecopath approach and software, and primarily utilizing existing data bases. Numerous applications now exist for the southern Gulf of Mexico (GOM), and more are forthcoming. U.S. researchers are now also adopting this approach, and their models of various areas of the inshore and offshore ecosystems from Florida to Texas will soon complement the Mexican models. This amalgamation of models will lead to a comprehensive coverage of the entire GOM.

In addition, a methodology and software is presently being developed for coupling of Ecopath models, i.e., of lagoon models with the continental shelf counterparts, and of shelf models with a central GOM model. It is expected that an initial version of an integrated, stratified meta-model of the GOM as a large marine ecosystem will be available in late 1998. At least one of its subsequent versions will be available as a CD-ROM and on the world wide web, including animations and the files documenting all component submodels.

The author will gladly supply the Ecopath software, sample files and relevant publications to colleagues interested in participating in this effort.