

## **Questionnaires of Evaluation**

**Question 1: Overall comments.**

**Question 2: Good points**

**Question 3: Weakness**

**Question 4: Usage of ME.**

**Question 5: Additional functions needed in ME:**

**Question 6: Any other matters**

## Participant 1

### 1) Overall comments.

- The training was very interesting. I really learned a lot and I wish to thank Dr. Nishida and Dr. Itoh for organizing and hosting this course, as well as the very helpful and energetic staff.
- ME is a very good software. It incorporates a lot of very useful and practical tools for fisheries and aquatic sciences. I would surely find it very applicable in any study.

### 2) Good points:

- Fast, easy to use, quick response and result display, supports common spreadsheet-type file, powerful feature-set, direct integration with external tools like Surfer, satellite data, and available online info.
- It is a good idea that the input method for most features like CTD, flow, distribution, etc. follow the same dialog box.

### 3) Weakness:

- User-friendliness is only about 70%. Some tools, buttons, input method are quite difficult to decipher without proper guidance. It needs some time to be familiar with. Perhaps a dynamic “right-click” pop-up description for the buttons and other parts of ME, will quickly help the user even without going into the Help Menu.
- Not being able to import personal base map into the global map. It would be great to be able to import custom shape files directly as part of the global coastline.

### 4) Usage of ME.

- I am doing stock enhancement studies. Spatial presentation and analyses is very important – from water parameters to catch data distribution. I am surely going to try to apply ME using my own data and I expect very good results.

### 5) Additional functions in ME:

- Import of customized shape files
- Direct link with Google map for free satellite images

### 6) Others:

- any complimentary FULL version copy for us??? Or SUPER discount perhaps? ☺

Hontou ni arigatou gozaimashita.

## Participant 2

1-2) I found this workshop to be a very enlightening experience- in many ways. The introduction to the Marine Explorer GIS software was very well-paced (not too fast, and with lots of patience for the class), and the attitude of the instructors and the assistants was very positive and enabling. It was very nice that there were so many assistants available for us during the workshop, as well- their help made things very smooth and ensured that no-one fell behind along the way. Also, I personally appreciated the help during lunch break times for finding vegan food! ☺ Thank you. You were all very accommodating and kind.

I will emphasize the “accommodating and kind” phrase from above to extend for the entire workshop’s proceedings. The environment was very positive and engaging from the start, and it was very nice to have the experience with such a diverse but commonly propelled group of people. I am very anxious to see what kind of work will come out of my class-mates’ experiences here (e.g., application of the software, expansion of ideas, etc.).

3) No weaknesses from my point of view. And the English was not so bad, guys! ☺ Dr. Nashida’s translation was very good, and the assistants were patient with understanding us, too... Everyone did great and the event was well organized.

4) Yes, I very much want to use ME in the future. For my own research which is pending from the Antarctic, and in my lab back in VA: I think that it could add an additional element to our current stock assessment efforts and to several of the individual projects going on in the Chesapeake Bay and Eastern Shore (Atlantic Ocean) waters.

5) The integration of oceanographic data on currents (direction and velocity) is of particular interest to me, as well as very refined bathymetry and coastline tracing of, e.g., the geographic locations that I mentioned above- the Antarctic and the coast of VA. I may contact the workshop’s organizers for assistance in achieving these goals, and perhaps have more refined requests on the functions in ME at that time.

6) THANK YOU! ;D

### Participant 3

#### 1) Over all comment

Since I was only using airphoto and field point data of tidal flat, it was interesting using real oceanography data using specific software.

In addition communicate with young mind people (incl. Itoh san and Nishida san :) was really nice to improve my interest using GIS in aquatic and had a lot of fun. Schedule of taking much rest time was very nice.

#### 2) Good

As I mentioned above, it was good for me to know many kind of format of marine dataset and its availability. I also realized Menu of ME has some systematic way to work with aquatic data. It was good to me thinking the flow of working for such dataset. I would like to thank member of company and daughter of Nishida san for good help for using ME and lunch place etc...

#### 3) Weakness

It always happens in such tutorial seminar, but for me the speed of teaching was little bit slow. Slow speed itself is ok but if there is optional advanced tutorial or data it would be good to work by myself during weighting. (Actually objective problem for me was that PC could not read PDF file of tutorial and sample data itself was sometime not real data; real data will be more fun for us to see detail when weighting.)

#### 4) Use Me?

Honestly we storage data in ArcGIS now, so difficulty of exporting data to Arg GIS shape file is the most week point to buy expensive software. But I think even if it was not possible when I use data loggers for oceanography like ACDP etc... direct reading and exchanging the data format into csv or mdb file seems very useful. Also for satellite image we don't define a lot of things. Thus when I use such marine data I think I will use it.

#### 5) Want in Me?

As shown above

I am just wondering relation ships between assignment and function of ME. I think before fix the way of spatial statistic Me not necessary to include much spatial statistics but if there is any stratificated way to do in Fishery or Oceanography I think good to include it. I think such spatial statistic is really increasing on command line software (like R or IDL), if ME have some convenient interface with such software will makes ME more competitive compare to other GIS software.

#### 6) others

I was very fascinated final talk about next GIS&Spatial conference. I think I will start dealing oceanography data somehow. If there is any good textbook or clearing house about data in oceanography. It will be useful for us. If ME will have direct connection with data source it will be good.

#### Participant 4

##### 1. Overall Comments

- This was an excellent prepared training, even only in two days but provide an effective results according to its goals.
- ME software is one of the best software deal with the marine information problems.

##### 2. Good Points

- The training provide with a number of practical examples of research works that support by the ME software.
- Organizer provide trial version of ME that giving best opportunity to all participants to follow up the potential of ME to be a tool in participants future works.

##### 3. Weakness

- The duration of the training to short where some beginner participants have difficulties to catch the deep technical aspects of the topics.
- Lack information on procedure to purchase the ME software and the after sale service that user can get from the developer.

4. Yes, I plan to use the ME software as main tool for my GIS class in Sam Ratulangi University, Indonesia, and in my research works.

5. It is nice if we have conversion function to base maps in shape file form that mostly available in underdevelopment countries.

6. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to involved in this training. I believe, that the experience gain in this training will help to increase my research capacity.

## Participant 5

### 1. Overall comments

I had a good time learning GIS. It is my first time to learn GIS. I thought GIS is very hard to learn for a "computer-heta" like me. But I found ME not so difficult though not so easy as well. I am overwhelmed by the amount of functions and many things we can do with ME especially in fishery research. I think ME is still evolving and will develop more.

### 2. Good Points

- easy handling
- user friendly
- can handle large data
- can use many kinds of data

### 3. Weakness

- needs more options in functions
- How much is the software?
- I just hope we have more time to learn ME. I am not sure if I can do it by myself.

### 4. Do you want to use ME in the future?

Definitely YES. I need ME in my present research. I am working on isotopic studies of water and benthic organisms, with spatial and temporal variation. However, the problem with stable isotopes is that at present we have very limited studies, so maybe we cannot make a distribution map yet, maybe only in specific area where we have enough data, but ME will be very useful in this field in the near future.

### 5. Specify is you want some functions in ME

I would like to ask how to make time series map of chlorophyll and stable isotope of sediment for example. If I get chlorophyll data from internet, can I overlay my stable isotope data?

I want to have river bank shorelines, not only sea coastlines. How can I do that? Can I overlay google earth river data on ME map?

### 6. Other comments

I like the staff of ME, very friendly, helpful and you really know your staff. Thank you very much. Always have new eyes to see the world always fresh.

## Participant 6

### 1. Overall comments

It is very good chance for me to attend GIS training course. The course was helped for only 2 days but I understand many things that I had no idea before. Actually, my field is quite different from GIS, the knowledge from the course help me learn many things from different areas of studies. I hope in the future many people have chance to understand the knowledge of GIS for ecology and fisheries.

### 2. Good points

- Teaching method is easy to follow.
- Materials are very good for the learners.
- The software is easy to use with many functions
- Good chance for exchange the knowledge.

### 3. Weakness

- Short time for beginner to practice in the class.
- Many important functions from the ME software did not discovered by the learners at the moment. It may become difficult for us later.
- The price may be high for buying the ME software.

### 4. Do you want to use ME in the future?

Yes, I want to apply ME in the future.

### 5. Specify if you want some functions in the ME.

It is difficult for me to know all functions in the ME so I can not give any idea for this question. However, I think it is very useful if we can combine all kinds of data, for example catch, WT, SST, current, ect ...for our purposes of mapping, locating, predicting the strategy in the future.

Thank you very much for organizing the GIS course.

## Participant 7

### 1. Overall Comments

- It was an excellent two-day course, but as we know time was our enemy.

### 2. Good points

- A free course for all (including postgraduate students)
- Course directed to people from developing countries (i.e. Ecuador)
- People who assist us throughout the two-day course were very important to follow the instructions. Thanks for thinking on that!

### 3. Weakness

- Short time (two days was not enough). The software is an excellent tool for helping us in our fisheries and marine ecology researches, but I think that it was not friendly enough in the way as it was showed us.
- Laboratory time was not included (it was a really shame!!!)
- Translation was confused. It is a very important piece, students must receive key words before to follow, because power point copies are not enough to understand and follow to the teacher at the same time.

### 4. Do you want to use ME in the future?

- Absolutely. Yes I would like to understand better how to use this software to apply it in my fieldwork (e.g. fishery and ecology of coastal and marine wetlands)

### 5. Specify if you want some functions in the ME

- To include several functions involving community and biodiversity index for management
- To include a strong statistical program with components such as ANOVA, MANOVA and serial analysis for communities

### 6. Other comments

- I would like be part of this research group and be in contact for future events
- To obtain information about how can I buy this software



## Participant 8

### 1. Overall comments

The GIS course was great, I simply enjoying learning GIS and meeting new people (from different countries). Nishida sensei was very cheerful and funny, witch made this course even more pleasant. Ito sensei did very good when it came to explain the program features.

### 2. Good points

I am particularly happy that the Marine Explorer group is concerned about bringing GIS knowledge to developing countries. And also, ME focus on normal people ;-P (hahaha), I mean, the people who cannot develop your own GIS programs and they need some user-friendly softwares to develop their research.

### 3. Weakness

About the course, I guess two days are not enough for a course like this. There are so many functions in the program that would be great to see a bit more of that. And also, some students have no idea on how even to start analyzing the data, so my advice is to first get the data file, explain each column, then show the final result done in GIS, and then start showing step by step how to get the result from the specific data file.

About ME, I guess it needs a few adjustments in the English version. First, it would be better to change the name of some functions to a more appropriate name or names that are more familiar to the people who use other GIS programs, this way they won't find any problems at all in using ME too. Second, it would be good to correct some names that are misspelled. Third, some of the functions are not available in the English version, so I guess it would be better if both versions are exactly the same.

### 4. Do you want to use ME in the future?

Yup, I am looking forward to use ME in my data. I am so excited that now I am able to have some nice figures from my own data. I am planning to use in population genetics (allele frequency instead of catch data), so I will let you know if it turns out good!

### 5. Specify if you want some functions in the ME.

Hummm... I have to use a bit more of the program to say something about it.

### 6. Other comments

Thank you so much for this rare opportunity to learn about GIS. In times like this where people are always busy working in your own research and problems, it is really hard to find people kindly willing to teach us about how to use programs , do analysis, etc. and this course was really great, I wouldn't be able to find any other opportunity to learn about GIS if it wasn't for this course. Thanks for taking your time and for preparing this course for us. And I am sure going to ask Kitada sensei to buy ME for our lab!!!!

Thank you and I hope to see you soon.

Muito obrigada. (if you are a woman, you say "obrigada", if you are a man, you say "obrigado" )

#### Participant 9

1. Thank you very much for opportunity to attend in this training. First time and as beginner for GIS Marine Explorer, this good experience to know, to study and I hope, I can use and more familiar for GIS Marine Explorer.
2. Marine Explorer is not complicate tools analysis, easy to understand. However, I need more time to study this analysis.
3. Time of training (two days), it is not enough to get good result.
4. Yes, I want to use.
5. –
6. –

#### Participant 10

1. Thank for the opportunity and I am very happy to joint this course. Many think and idea I could got from this short course and I trust that was give new idea for me in the future for my carrier.
2. The good points are; it is easy to understand and follow the instruction of ME as well from the instructor, the facility (computer, materials and nice hot drink).
3. The organizer could not manage well the time schedule, so we should postponed to star the course.
4. Yes I want to use ME in the future as a one of tools for my research.
5. Related to my interesting of field it will be came nice for me if you could create the tools for coral reefs monitoring. Because for the present to observed and monitoring the coral reefs condition we need much time and money.
6. For us come from the developing countries it is difficult to buy ME, so may be if there is any oppportunity for me to get ME with the cheap price please inform to me.

Yours sincerely

## Participant 11

### **1. Overall comments:**

The training is very useful and effective. I think ME software could improve very much user's working quality, save time and money.

### **2. Good point:**

- Easy to use
- Friendly
- High quality of performance

### **3. Weakness**

- Do not know the price for software?? People just said that "it's very expensive"

### **4. Do you want to use ME in the future**

- Yes, very much!!!

### **5. Specify if you want some functions in the ME**

At the moment no but after 3 months using trial version I will tell you if more function is needed

### **6. Other comments**

Thank you very much for your effort to organize the training, thank for your lectures and very kind support staff. Wishing ME will be more and more success in the future.

For developing country it is not easy to have budgets to buy expensive software even it is very useful. Is there any way to apply for funding from development agency? If so, please show us how to do that.

## Participant 12

### 1. Overall comments.

Quite user friendly software for spatial analyses and especially for most us fisheries scientists and ecologists who have little interest in programming and mapping passé

The training was a great start to the use of ME as both GIS software and for data analyses and its compatibility with data sources over ht web such as NASA etc is also encouraging! However there is a need to incorporate more interfaces for data compatibility with various data loggers such are commonly available in the developing world. Moreover the development of a compatible user interface for shape files and easily digitizable maps is needed as this may be the only way to get up to date data on coastlines and other features in map layering and data analyses

### 2. Good Points

- Very user friendly (not much skills in mapping required) and quite easy to startup
- Easy compatibility with commonly used spreadsheets such as Excel and Access

### 3. Weakness (except broken English)

- Lack of detailed shape files compatible with ME for other areas outside Japan

### 4. Do you want to use ME in the future

Definitely yes, but am not sure of how much it would cost, the licence terms (permanent of annual renewal, etc).

### 5. Specify if you want some functions in the ME added

- Easy conversion of JPEGs to ME shape files using simple latitude and longitude would make it more friendly especially in our world, in the developing countries where a lot of information and data is lacking, and even map digitizers are scarce

### 6. Other comments

I would like to thank Dr. Nishida, Dr Itoh and the ME team for the warm welcome and start training for the ME, and I do look forward to utilizing the training for my future research and help further develop the ME software by feedback. It was great training and lots of interest in the use of this software during my future research both in Japan and Kenya when done with my training here!

## Participant 13

### **Overall Comments**

The training program was really good for the present and future analysis. The two day course is not sufficient for the beginners like us who are learning for the first time. It was really a great experience here to have a practical demonstration and lecture from the specialists. Finally thanks for all the team members for their hard work and application to make this training program success.

### **Good Points**

There are numerous good points like

- Trainers put all their efforts to make us understand the concepts.
- All the associated members were guiding us to clear our doubts during the practical work (Using the Marine Explorer and all the functions of it).
- The organizers have provided prior soft copy via mail for all the participants to prepare themselves and understand the concept of training material, which was really useful.
- I thank the organizers for providing the hard copy and also soft copy of all the details, more importantly for providing the two month valid version to practice the details of training at home.

### **Weakness**

To be frank the weakness is negligible compare to advantage or benefits we are getting with this training program.

Still to pen

- The Duration of our program – the participants were all beginners and needed much more time to understand the detailed concept.

### **ME in future use**

Will definitely want to use ME in future and it provides so many important details to analyze and compute the vast details which is amazing.

### **Functions in the ME to be added**

It is very early for us to specify other functions to add, if ME contains the functions like auto validation of different geographic are will be great.

Thanks for all the members associated in the Training Program and the Organizers for providing wonderful opportunity to attend and participate in the course which was so amazing for the future use.

Participant 14

- (1) Thank you for making this opportunity to experience the ME. As far, I use only Arc GIS, so it is very good training course to know another systems. In ME, there are many functions, so I can't learn and remember all, but I understand the characteristics of ME.
- (2) You were so kind to teach how to use ME with good samples, I could understand easily (and maybe because I'm Japanese). Usually I don't use satellite data for my thesis, this was the good experience to know about such data.
- (3) I would like to see more samples to use functions such as spatial analyzing.
- (4) The spatial scale of my current thesis looks too small for ME, but in the future I will analyze the seagrass ecology in larger scale, at that time ME seems to be a good tool for research. After this training course, I will try to use trial version of ME for the data that I've ever analysed and to know what I can do with ME.
- (5) Because I'm not sure exactly for all functions of ME, after I use it in my lab I will send you questions.
- (6) This is first time for me to join fishery meeting, so I would like to see presentations that treat spatial topics in my inexperienced field. For that purpose, this course was very good chance. I really appreciate Dr Nishida, Dr Itoh and other staffs.

## Participant 15

### 1) Overall comments

I would like to thank the team of the organizers and congratulate them on a very successful workshop.

The presentation was very good. The information presented in the workshop was very clear and to the point. The instructors and coordinators were very helpful and patient. All did a very good job in making each and every member to understand and practice on the individual computer systems provided to them.

### 2) Good Points

All through the workshop Dr. Tom and Dr. Itoh and also the other members of the instructors were on their toes to explain the minute details of the questions asked and cleared doubts of the members.

The subject GIS contained the latest information available. I am sure it will be very useful to the members and with the help of the training provided all of us will benefited.

### 3) Weakness

I could not find any weakness!!

### 4) Do you want to use ME in the future?

Yes! This training is very much required in our country..

### 5) Specify if you want some functions in ME.

I will prefer to use the CTD functions and also would like to have a software which will help me to locate the distribution of various marine species in lakes which are getting polluted in the course of time.

### 6) Other Comments

The workshop was well conducted, excellent presentation, and very well designed.

The access to the individual computers had made learning very easy.

I thank the organizers for providing good and up-to-date knowledge information.

With this I would add my Motto about Fish

“Fish for all forever”

THANK YOU