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Connotation and classification of marine ecosystem services

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This paper presents the published concepts and classifications of the marine ecosystem services. Based upon the characteristics of the marine ecosystem, the connotation on the marine ecosystem services was identified from 4 aspects. Those are the service object, substance foundation, production processes and realization approaches. The services provided by the marine ecosystem are reduced to 15 items. The specific descriptions of each item are also presented. According to relativity of contents and comparability of effects, services are classified into four categories: provisioning services, regulating services, cultural services and supporting services. The services also can be classified as the coastal and open ocean ecosystem services due to the consideration of their spatial diversity. We suggest that the appropriate classification system should be adopted depend on the characteristics in the study area and the purpose of research.

【Key Words】 : **ecosystem services marine connotation classification**

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