

Thomas Hruby

Valuing Natural Resources: The Difference Between Quantifying Functions and Values

Biography

Dr. Hruby is the senior ecologist for the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at the Washington State Department of Ecology, specializing in aquatic and coastal ecosystems. Although currently working mostly within the state, he has pertinent experience in Europe, Asia, and North America. He has developed methods to assess the functions and values of wetlands, studied the impacts of sewage and toxic chemicals on coastal, freshwater, and wetland ecosystems, supervised toxicity testing programs for industrial discharges and dredging, and developed regional aquatic monitoring programs. Dr. Hruby has also directed natural resource inventories ranging from the tidal marshes of Long Island to the inventory of marine ecosystems in the coastal islands of Singapore. Dr. Hruby has over 25 papers published in peer reviewed scientific journals on environmental research and assessment methods.

Dr. Hruby received a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Harvard University, a Master of Science degree in Oceanography from the University of Washington, and a PhD degree in Botany from the University of Glasgow (Scotland).

Presentation Abstract

- Introduction
 - The difference between functions and values
 - Why quantify functions?
- Approaches to quantifying functions
 - Scale issues
 - Time issues
- Rapid assessment methods – what they are and what they are not
- The science behind rapid assessment methods
 - What is science and what is belief?
 - Methods based on different scientific paradigms