

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BLACK SEA ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH

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The Black Sea is still ranked one of the most threatened basins of the World Ocean due to the high degree of anthropic pressure. The particular importance of sustainable drainage basin management, especially for such an endangered enclosed coastal sea, is emphasized by the connection between the River Danube and the contemporary dramatic changes in the Black Sea ecosystem. Land-based pollution sources are at the origin of most marine and coastal environment degradation and ecological disequilibria. Major environmental issues have been identified and need regional wide concerted action by multinational co-operation. Numerous successful research, monitoring and management projects / programmes, an adequate organizational infrastructure at national and international level, and sustained efforts to meet the contemporary expectations for adequate policy and integrated management aim at improving the present state of this unique marine ecosystem.