

THREATS TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND EMECS

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Deterioration of the marine environment, particularly of enclosed coastal areas, has been one of serious issues both in developed and developing countries. Based upon the recognition of these serious situations around the world and with the will of promoting environmental conservation of these areas EMECS conference series was established in 1990. In the first part of the paper the author summarizes the past history of EMECS briefly with its background.

The second part of the paper deals with the threat of global warming. Climate change has a lot of effects in oceans and marine environment in various ways. A typical serious example is the possible breakdown of the thermohaline circulation in the northern Atlantic ocean which may give rise to severe cooling of Europe. Another example is the sea level rise due to rise in sea temperature and melting down of snow and ices on lands. IPCC made a survey of its impacts on human society and the paper briefly summarizes what will be expected in future.

At the end of the paper the emphasis is placed again on the importance of environmental management of coastal areas which is the spirit of EMECS conference.