MEDCOAST 99 – EMECS 99 Joint Conference, Land-Ocean Interactions: Managing Coastal Ecosystems
9 – 13 November 1999; Antalya, Turkey, E. Özhan (Editor)

Setting-up an Observational Strategy for the Submerged Archaeological Site of Alexandria

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Abstract

Alexandria with its famous Light House (PHAROS) and its library suffered series of tectonic instabilities and mostly disappeared through its subsidence. Series of recent underwater discoveries revealed the importance of these sites. In addition, these reference submerged sites can provide a scientific and historical knowledge about the natural processes and man-made impacts through the different eras. Submarine archaeological and historical surveys took place to investigate these sites. Besides, several punctual oceanographic studies had been performed in the coastal and offshore waters of Alexandria. The data obtained from previous studies showed that these precious sites are suffering from risks of deterioration as a result of the increase degradation of the coastal water quality (YOUNES, 1997 & YOUNES et al., 1997). The rapid urbanization, overpopulation and continuous wastewater dumping in Alexandria coastal waters which contains most of the submerged ruins necessitate a special strategy to observe and monitor the sites in order to manage this valuable economic and touristic resource. A quick intervention with the aid of the concerned national and international scientific organisms is the only way to implement durable measures for the sustainable protection and preservation of these sites. This could be done by applying simple and low cost technologies as well as setting-up a small scale periodical survey (punctual multidisciplinary studies and monitoring) coupled with large scale screening strategy.