

New Measures for Environmental Conservation and Restoration in the Seto Inland Sea

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Abstract

The Seto Inland Sea is the largest semi-enclosed sea in Japan and blessed with scenic beauty and abundant fishery resources. The sea has been suffering from the environmental deterioration, such as frequent occurrences of red tide, in particular during the high economic growth period in Japan between 1960 and 1975. Although the various measures of the Environment Agency of the Government of Japan have resulted in the great improvement of the environmental situation concerning the occurrences of red tide, the area of reclamation and so on, problems of current measures have been identified: achievement of environmental quality standards of water has not been improving very much recently; valuable natural environments such as seaweed beds, tidal flats and natural seashores were reduced.

Therefore, the Seto Inland Sea Environmental Conservation Council has submitted to the Environment Agency the advice of the new measures for environmental conservation and restoration of the Sea. The Environment Agency is going to take new measures based on this approach which consists of the three key words "Strengthening of Conservation Measures", "Development of Measures to Restore Favorable Environments Damaged" and "Promoting Wide-Ranging Cooperation and Participation."