

# The Current Status of the Seto Inland Sea and Corrective Measures: A Fisherman's Perspective

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## 1. Current Situation

The sea has changed from a storehouse of treasures to a place in which ecosystems have been destroyed.

Fishing catch	1985 :	490,000 tons
	1999 :	265,000 tons

Bottom dwellers and small fish have decreased, particularly the shrimp, sand eels, "maiwashi" sardines and other creatures upon which larger fish feed.

## 2. Causes

Waste water from factories and homes, seashore reclamation, unstable inflow from rivers, etc.

## 3. Restoration and Creation

(1) Deployment of an environmental preservation movement linking forests, rivers and seas  
Activities to increase awareness in each river basin, conducted with the participation of local residents

(2) "Hands on" school activities for classes devoted to the environment

(3) Stable water supply for the fishing industry and approach to dam discharges

(4) Measures to process factory and household waste water and garbage / wastes

(5) Processing of sludge from the ocean bottom

A national project must be implemented to remove garbage and sludge from the ocean bottom that has become polluted with PCBs, organic tin etc.