

**ACTIVITIES OF WAKAYAMA RESEARCH ORGANIZATION OF MARINE  
ENVIRONMENT**

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Wakayama Research Organization of Marine Environment was founded in 1999 as a base of research for the conservation and remediation of marine environments.

Guided by the aim of "living with the sea, preserving the sea, and handing a fertile sea over to future generations," Wakayama Research Organization of Marine Environment conducts research on the conservation and remediation of marine environments and carries out long-term monitoring to cover wide sea areas. At the same time, we are making efforts to collect and disseminate knowledge and information about the conservation and remediation of marine environments.

The research being conducted at our organization is classified into the following three themes: (1) Research on currents in the Kitan Straits and substances flowing into and out of the straits; (2) Research on the ecosystems of estuaries and tidal flats; and (3) Monitoring of ecosystems of artificially developed shoals, tidal flats, and seaweed beds. We are proceeding with research on these themes in cooperation with specialists, universities, and other institutions.

Since 1999, we have been engaged in field investigations on currents and water quality in the Kitan Straits as well as research on the structures and functions of the tidal flats facing the Kii Channel in Wakayama Prefecture. Also, since 2000, we have started to collect data on birds at estuaries and tidal flats at the same site.

We will utilize the data collected through this research for the conservation and remediation of the environment of estuaries and coastal areas in and around the Seto Inland Sea.