

Scientific Input for Environmental Management of Coastal Areas: The Case of the Adriatic Sea

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Environmental management is the final implementation procedure for the rational use and protection of coastal areas, particularly in enclosed or semi enclosed seas. The success of management depends primarily on the nature and the quality of scientific data. Indeed, these data should be based on marine and environmental research, supplemented by data on the economic and social framework. In the final instance environmental management of coastal areas comprise management of human activities and resource use. As a model used to exemplify coastal management in the northern Adriatic area of Croatia, the region of the Rijeka Bay, will be discussed through data obtained in research in this area, considering the need to reconcile environmental protection and industrial, shipbuilding and port activities, and the booming tourist industries. The main natural constrain is a sheltered position of the Bay, isolated from the open sea by elongated islands. The new threat to the Bay ecosystem is a potential change of the oil import to the export one, with possible release of ballast waters within the Bay.