

# Measures for Environmental Conservation in the Seto Inland Sea

**Hideaki Koyanagi**  
*Environment Agency, Japan*

The Seto Inland Sea is the largest enclosed sea in Japan, and it is favored with good natural conditions as it is a site of excellent natural beauty as well as a valuable treasury of fishery resources. At the same time, however, it is an enclosed sea surrounded by areas with high concentrations of industry and large population. Beginning around 1965, the sea became rapidly polluted, which led to demands for vigorous enforcement of measures for environmental conservation. Thus, the Interim Law for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea was enacted in 1973. The law was revised in 1978 to include new policies and became a permanent law under a new name of the Law Concerning Special Measures for conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea (Seto Inland Sea Conservation Law), under which overall measures have been taken.

Main measures taken under the law are as follows:

- Basic Plan for Environmental Conservation of the Seto Inland Sea decided by the Central Government in 1978
- Permission System and Environmental Impact Assessment System of Specific Plant by Prefectural Governor to plants discharging effluents of more than 50 m<sup>3</sup> (max.)/day
- Total COD Load Control for improvement of water quality
- Cutting-off measure of phosphorus and its compounds for prevention of damages caused by eutrophication
- Conservation of Natural Seashore
- Environmental considerations in Reclamation