

<p align="center">Report on the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment in 2016</p>	<p align="center">“Cercetari Marine“ Issue no. 47</p> <p align="center">Pages 5-147</p>	<p align="center">2017</p>
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REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT IN 2016

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CONTENTS

1. State of marine and coastal ecosystems

1.1. State of marine protected areas (V. Niță, M.I. Nenciu, T. Zaharia, A.D. Spînu, D. Micu)

Marine sites in the Natura 2000 European Ecological Network (*D. Micu, A.D. Spînu*)
Vama Veche - 2 Mai Marine Littoral Aquatory (*V. Niță, M.I. Nenciu*)

1.2. State of ecosystems and marine living resources

Phytoplankton (*L. Boicenco, O. Culcea, E. Pantea*)

Zooplankton (*F. Timofte, E. Bișinicu, G.E. Harcotă, C. Tabarcea*)

Phytobenthos (*O. Marin*)

Zoobenthos (*C. Dumitrache, A. Filimon*)

Marine living resources (*V. Maximov, E. Anton, A. Țoțoiu*)

Observations Regarding the Shore Monitoring of the Coastal Zone during the 2016 Summer Season (*O. Marin, A. Filimon, E. Bișinicu, G.E. Harcotă, E. Pantea*)

1.3. Status of marine and coastal environment pollution

1.3.1. Eutrophication indicators

Nutrients

Phosphates (*L. Lazăr*)

Nitrates (*L. Lazăr*)

Silicates (*L. Lazăr*)

Chlorophyll *a* (*L. Boicenco*)

1.3.2. Contamination indicators

Heavy metals (*A. Oros*)

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (*V. Coatu, N. Damir*)

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (*V. Coatu, N. Damir*)

Organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (*V. Coatu*)

Microbiological load (*E. Stoica*)

1.3.3. Impact of climate change on the marine and coastal environment

Sea state (*E. Mihailov*)

Temperature (*E. Mihailov*)

Water masses (*E. Mihailov*)

Transparency (*L. Lazăr*)

Salinity (*L. Lazăr*)

pH (*L. Lazăr*)

Dissolved oxygen (*L. Lazăr*)

Coastal processes (*A.D. Spînu, S. Petrișoiaia, D. Diaconeasa*)

Sea level (*E. Mihailov*)

2. Anthropogenic pressures on the marine and coastal environments (*A.D. Spînu*)

3. Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Maritime Spatial Planning

3.1. Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) (*M. Golumbeanu, S. Nicolaev*)

3.2. Maritime Spatial Planning (*L. Alexandrov, A.D. Spînu, G. Radu, R. Mateescu*)

Overall conclusions

SUMMARY

This paper is an outline of the current state of the main components of the marine environment of the Black Sea in 2016. The data is part of the national Environmental State Report.

The seawater temperature at Constanta, during the 12 months of the analyzed period was 1.49°C higher than the reference temperature (1959-2015). There is an increasing trend of 0.02°C/year throughout the period 1959-2016.

Concerning the seawater transparency, the influence of the Danube in the northern part was strongly felt. The salinity ranged within the characteristic variability range of the Romanian coast, being influenced by the fresh water input.

As far as eutrophication indicators are concerned, phosphate concentrations in coastal waters recorded in 2016 values close to those of the reference period of the 1960s, being only slightly higher. It was noted the risk of not achieving the target values for GES of Romanian Black. The comparison with GES target values highlighted the moderate risk of not achieving good status in coastal and northern marine water bodies.

The results of the investigations carried out in 2016 on heavy metals in water, sediments and biota show differences in distribution between different sectors of the Romanian seashore, reflecting the potential impact of natural or anthropogenic pressures generated by coastal and offshore sources and activities.

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) concentration indicated in 2016 a low level of pollution in seawater and a moderate level of pollution in sediments. In case of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH), 78% of the values of individual compounds in water and 42% of total content the sediment exceeds the maximum admissible limit imposed by the current legislation, which shows a high level of pollution. Anthracene was the dominant compound in both water and sediment. In biota, concentrations of benzo[a]pyrene indicate a low level of pollution with PAHs.

The biological components (phytoplankton, zooplankton, benthos) maintained the same tendency as in previous years. However, it must be noted that algal blooms had lower intensity and frequency compared to previous years. Concerning the marine living resources, in recent years the catches recorded an increasing trend, due to increasing *Rapana venosa* catches.

In conclusion, the evolution of the monitored biotic parameters confirmed the restoration trend of the marine environment in recent years.

Key-words: marine environment, eutrophication, contamination, biological components, marine living resources

**For any further information on the
STATE OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT
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