

42. See note 41, V2-3.
  43. See note 41, V3.
  44. D. J. Devine 'Law enforcement in maritime zones' in *Proceedings* (see note 22) D1 at D7-8.
  45. For a catalogue of these and the statutory legislation which they enforce see Devine (n58) D6.
  46. Devine (see note 44) U7.
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## SAVING THE BLACK SEA

The Black Sea is an enclosed sea which is fed by a number of major rivers including the Danube. These rivers bring along significant amounts of pollutants of agricultural, industrial and domestic origin into the basin. The Black Sea flushes out to the Mediterranean through the Strait of Bosphorus and via the Sea of Marmara. This water flow is severely controlled by the water depths along the Bosphorus (at most being around 50 m). This depth limitation causes the waters at the lower layers of the basin to be stagnant and thus anoxic.

The industrial and urban developments which have been taking place at a steady pace in the coastal regions during the last few decades, also contributed to pollution of the Black Sea. Illegal dumping of hazardous wastes from pirate ships has also caused concern in recent years as barrels filled with toxic chemical wastes floated ashore along the Turkish coast. In short the Black Sea, which used to be a very alive basin, producing about 85% of the total fish catch in Turkey, has been dying under the heavy pollution load.

An international effort has recently been launched to improve the condition of the Black Sea. The Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, held in Bucharest (Romania) from 21 to 22 April 1992, in which the riparian countries of the Black Sea (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine) participated, produced the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution with three protocols, namely:

- Protocol on Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution from Land-based Sources;
- Protocol on Cooperation in Combatting Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations;
- Protocol on the Protection of the Black Sea Marine Environment Against Pollution by Dumping.

Parallel to this effort, in a Programme Coordination Meeting held again in Bucharest from 22 to 23 May 1992, it was decided to commence immediately a 'Project for Environmental Management and Protection of the Black Sea', jointly supported by the riparian countries and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). This three-year GEF project will be implemented by a Project Coordination Unit (PCU), to be located in Istanbul (Turkey). The GEF project is considered to be the starting step of the UNEP long-term Action Plan which will follow up.

One of the first activities to be carried out in conjunction with the GEF Project is the preparation of an 'Environmental Quality Declaration for the Black Sea', to provide environmental goals and a time frame to guide management regimes and associated investments. Some of the other activities considered in the GEF Project are:

- Capacity-building of the leading institutes in the riparian countries to serve as the Technical Focal Points, which will then support the program management and implementation of the project;
- Preparation of national reviews on various aspects of pollution, critical habitats and endangered species, fish stocks and fisheries, water supply etc.;
- Preparation of recommendations on the strategy for rehabilitation and advancement of fisheries, tourism, drinking water supply and quality;
- Strengthening of data management systems;
- Enhancement of public awareness;
- Preparation of a regional contingency plan for marine pollution in the Black Sea.

It is stated that the project will carry out activities in the framework of integrated coastal zone management, integrating nature conservation, protection of human health, tourism, agriculture, and other coastal and marine activities. Active participation of non-governmental organizations is also envisaged.

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