CIESM Congress Session : Marine geo-hazards

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Moderator's Synthesis

Geohazard is defined as a geological event that can lead to damage or disaster, causing loss of life and property. In marine areas such as the Mediterranean Sea, located on or near plate boundaries, the common geohazards are: earthquakes, submarine landslides, tsunamis, and volcanic explosions and collapses. The session theme was briefly introduced by the moderator, underlining the importance of risk assessment and mitigation for marine areas with potential geohazards by high resolution mapping, characterization and seafloor monitoring.

Discussion followed the introductory talk and the five presentations, covering various scientific problems and issues. They included the role of fluids in submarine geohazard dynamics, links between geological triggers and preconditioning factors, identification and dating of sedimentary geohazard records, parameters that could be precursory signs of geohazard events, and communication of the results to public, government and industry. Within the allocated time, the participants mainly discussed the importance of marine geohazard risk assessment methodology, and in particular the long-term multiparameter seafloor measurements and long term geological earthquake records.

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