

CIESM Congress Session : Sources of pollution / processes

Moderator : Jörg Klasmeier, Inst. of Environmental Systems Research, Osnabrück Univ., Germany

Moderator's Synthesis

The session included six flash presentations dealing with different aspects of the general topic. Two presentations highlighted specific sources of trace metals (nautical tourism, fertilizer industry). Three studies dealt with nutrient input/loads (aquaculture, land-based input, influence of varying river flow) and one study elucidated the fate of riverine organic matter. In the session introduction, the moderator linked the presentations to the goals of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) showing the importance of the results for the descriptors D5 (Eutrophication) and D8 (Environmental Contaminants). This should stimulate a more general discussion on the importance of further research to close potential knowledge gaps.

The discussion following the presentations was very lively, focusing on the many aspects of how science can trigger political action and support implementation of management strategies. Some participants criticized insufficient political will to act against pollution even if a negative impact on the environment is obvious, e.g. the phosphogypse production sites in the gulf of Gabés (Tunisia). It was commonly accepted that research should on the one hand be directed towards finding solutions for well-known problems and on the other hand focus on gathering objective information on processes to better understand the complex interactions in the marine system. A research goal with respect to the MSFD could be support for defining indicators and target values that represent the good environmental status (GES) of the marine environment.

