



A Few Words about the Future Outlook towards Sea

Tapas Kumar Mallik*

Former Director, Marine Wing, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata, India

***Corresponding Author:** Tapas Kumar Mallik, Former Director, Marine Wing, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata, India.

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Earth's history is closely linked with the sea. Through the coastal tracts the Sea is receiving sediments which records the signature of geological events Episodic physical events like sea level rise, coastal erosion, changing weather pattern, storm surges, cyclones, tsunamis affect the coast quite often. Initially marine geology and biology became increasingly important to understand the potentiality of the seabed. Large scale surveys were conducted for manganese nodules in Indian and Pacific Oceans. and metalliferous deposits of the Red sea. The interest in the deep sea bed as disposal areas for radioactive wastes. was also a matter of great concern. However, it is only recently after the spectacular discoveries of active hydrothermal fields on the East Pacific Rise that these deposits are being searched in other areas. of the seafloor. Gradually there was a refinement in the approaches with ultimate goal for large scale exploitation of the seafloor and correct understanding of the various processes.

Coastal zone is that part of the land affected by proximity of the sea and that part of the sea affected by the proximity of the land. Till today the zone has not been defined properly for adaptation by all countries. Scientific and legal definition varies from place to place. Society depends on the coastal zone for its biological diversity, mineral resources, for fulfilling recreational opportunities, for sustaining important Industries, for waste disposal, transportation and also reflects the modification of climate. There is a massive increase in population living in this zone. The coastal canals and the coast has been an important mode of transport. Coastal waters are most productive. Fishing in coastal water has always been very important Thickly populated cities and harbors are located in the fringing zones only. If properly utilized the Coastal zone will solve many problems for our food, mineral resource, water, recreation or shelter. Lot of problems arise due to storm damage, sea level rise, coastal erosion and silting.

In the next few decades a great increase in the seafloor use is likely. This will include not only the mining activities and petroleum extraction. but also environmental usage such as waste disposal. In order to demonstrate the feasibility of the method of waste disposal studies have to be carried out, The studies will also provide fundamental information on the deep sea processes. The geological and geophysical investigations of possible dump sites should be made to ensure that the site is geologically stable and the sediments are thick enough to ensure burial. Such studies are really still in its infancy but will need to be developed and used to a much greater extent in future for true understanding of the sea floor processes.

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