Third International Conference

Management of Coastal Recreational Resources



Beaches, Yachting and Marinas, Coastal Ecotourism and Conservation, and Coastal Hazards

27th – 30th October 2010
Grosseto, Tuscany, ITALY

The effects of yacht activities on sea water quality

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Sea tourism has recently become increasingly popular with a growing tourism trend in Turkey. Sea tourism and yachting are common in the Aegean and Mediterranean Sea, reflecting second place in popularity. In the Mediterranean zone, yacht tourism is more common along the Antalya coast and less so from Alanya to Kaş. Antalya – Phaselis – Olympos – Kekova and Kemer – Phaselis – Olympos ship's cruises are the most preferred and yacht tourism is carried out as daily tours or blue cruises in this zone. During-such tours, yachts utelise the small bays in their cruises route for their recreational and accommodation needs. The study area of this research is Phaselis, where daily yachts take meal break and charters stay for a few days. It is placed along the 70 km of Finike – Antalya highway accessed by land-based visitors along a 1.5km route.

Yacht activities in the Bay cause pollution in the form of air emissions, exhaust gases, anchors, solid wastes, shower water, sewage water and noise. The wastes, meal rests, plastic wastes, glasses which are launched into the sea from yachts represent a considerable problem for the marine ecosystem. In addition, most of the wastewater generated during daily tours is discharged to the sea.

In this study, the effects of yacht originated wastes on sea water quality are investigated. Water samples were collected from five different points, and physical, chemical and microbiological (Escherichia coli and Intestinal enterococcus) analysis were carried out in laboratory facilities. Three samples were also taken from the shoreline at different times of the day (morning, noon and evening) and microbiological parameters were analyzed daily during a two weeks period. This research has shown that while chemical parameters are not affected significantly an increase in microbiological parameters is obvious, correspondingly to bather usage ratio.

KEYWORDS: seawater quality, yachting tourism, yacht originated wastes, Phaselis Bay.