

Supporting Activities for the Creation of Sato-umi in Japan

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Although the water pollution of enclosed coastal seas in Japan has been mitigated, increasingly there has been a decline in material circulation functions, degradation of ecosystems, including fisheries resources, and a lack of public interest. For such reasons, these seas must be restored by creating fertile "Sato-umi" that are abundant in the blessings of nature and provide habitats for a diverse array of fish and shellfish (Fig. 1). This can be accomplished through the preservation, restoration and creation of seaweed beds and mudflats, the implementation of water pollution measures, the use of sustainable resource management and so on. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) began implementing projects to support the creation of Sato-umi in FY 2008. Activities to preserve coastal environments and help advance coexistence with the coasts, which are being promoted with the participation of local public organizations, have been selected as model projects and assistance is being provided. In addition, a Sato-umi Creation Manual has been compiled in an effort to popularize the concept of coastal zone environmental management in Japan as well as throughout East Asia and in other foreign countries. Efforts are underway to deepen the understanding of the general public regarding the integrated nature of land areas and coastal zones, and to create Sato-umi who's rich, highly productive ecosystems are ensured through proper management, with the goal of achieving rich coastal environments in which people can coexist with nature.



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