

PREFACE



Istanbul City with its 12 million populations is the most populous city and also historical, cultural, industrial and commercial center of modern Turkey. Fast growing population due to migration and rapid urban development arising from socio-economic and political issues have created serious environmental and infrastructural problems such as water supply and sanitation services.

When it came to early 1990's, wrong planning, wrong selection of the priorities and also corruptive practices have delayed the construction of the needed water supply and environmental protection facilities. Consequently the citizens of the Istanbul has bitterly realized both; "no water is the most costly water" and "forbidden to swim" signboards due to pollution threat of water resources and coastal waters originating from municipal wastewater discharges. The Bosphorus and Marmara Sea coasts were polluted as a result of the city municipal outfalls. Also Omerli and Terkos which are the main drinking water resources of the city were in danger of pollution.

This study reports the local and regional sea pollution investigations in the Bosphorus and Marmara Coastal lines due to the Metropolitan Municipality wastewater discharges. Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration took the necessary measures for the offshore marine outfalls to control the environmental effects of municipal pollution sources. Short and long term strategies for the treatment and disposal of wastewater based on the water quality monitoring studies.

The necessary precautions for locally generated pollutants being taken since 1995 by spending and investigating 100 millions US dollars each year for the improvement of the existing sanitation systems and wastewater treatment plants. Accumulated effects of these investments since 1995 have resulted in major improvements of the sea water quality in the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn as well as Marmara Sea coastal lines. Since 1995 coastal water quality is continuously monitored at about 50 stations. Improvement in bacteriological water quality is obvious. The percentage of the treated wastewater has risen from 10% in 1994 to 85% in 2005.

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