
**Contribution to the Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
"The effects of Climate Change on Oceans"**

Focus on the Mediterranean Sea

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mediterranean region will be heavily impacted by climate change during the 21st century: climate change could exacerbate existing stresses and inequalities within and among countries. Climate variability and change is becoming increasingly evident; according to observations and studies referenced in recent IPCC reports, in recent decades, summer heat waves' intensity, number, and length have increased alongside extreme precipitation events and soil dryness. Major increases have been observed in warm temperature extremes. The shallow waters of the Mediterranean Sea have already warmed by almost 1°C since the 1980s. Trends of decreasing precipitation and discharge indicate a trend toward increased freshwater deficits. The Mediterranean also exhibits variability regarding the observed sea level rise. According to the European Environment Agency (EEA) some areas show increases of more than 6 mm/year, and decreases of more than -4 mm/year.