

Sato-umi

Harmonious coexistence of humans and nature makes both of them wealthy.
Sato-umi is the sea-area most susceptible to human activities.
We must broaden the network of effort for the conservation and management of Sato-umi with greater numbers of people.

Activities for the creation of Sato-umi

■ River basin-integrated activities

People who live in coastal areas carry out activities for the conservation of the mountains and forests, considering the forest, river and sea as one integrated area.



Tree planting
(Photo by Ichinomiya city, Iwate prefecture)

■ Mitigation activities

This is a program that the business operator manages to alleviate or compensate for the environmental impact due to an urban development project, such as landfill, occasionally with citizens.



Gradually-sloped bank at an artificial island of Kansai International Airport
(Photo by Kansai International Airport Co., Ltd.)

■ Urban activities

Citizen participation programs for environmental conservation and restoration activities are being carried out at tidal flats or eel grass beds, existing near urban neighborhoods.



Yokohama in Tokyo bay
(Photo by NPO Association for Shore Environment Creation)

■ Environmentally "sacred" ocean activities

This is an activity to protect untouched nature through the establishment of no-fishing zones, by designating the area to be a sanctuary and limiting fishing in certain sea areas.



Hime-jima in Oita prefecture

■ Experiential activities

Hands-on learning programs are executed in suburban fishing-villages, so people can learn about nature and sea areas, and become familiar with them.



Ako sea shore in Hyogo prefecture

■ Fishing village activities

Fishermen themselves deal with improvement of the environment in fishing grounds through efforts, such as the restoration and creation of eel grass beds or the collection of trash from the sea bottom, occasionally with citizens.



Ago bay in Mie prefecture

Sato-umi

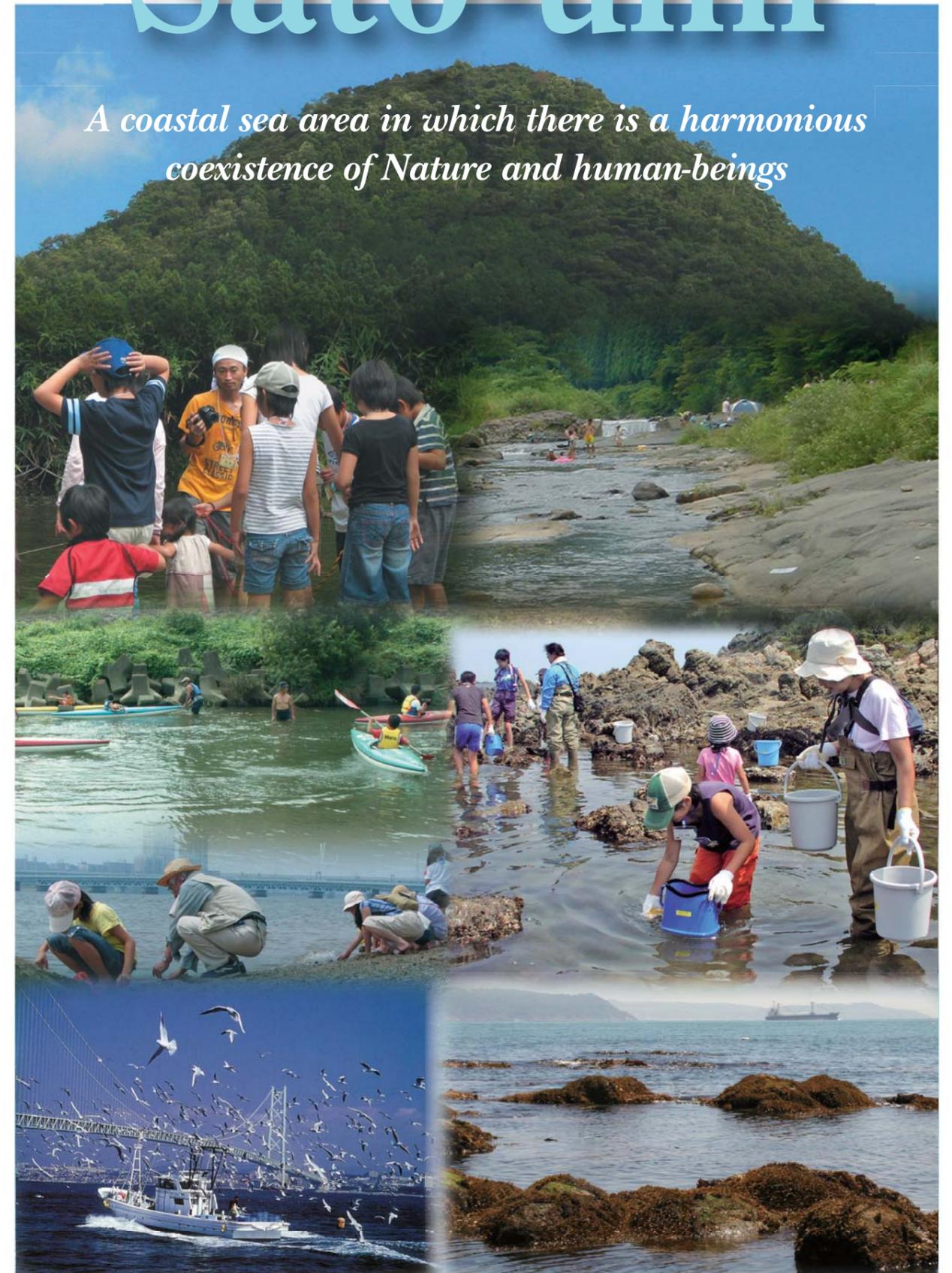


A coastal sea area in which there is a harmonious coexistence of Nature and human-beings

Publication: Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Management Bureau, Water Environment Management Division, Office of Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas, <http://www.env.go.jp/en/>
Preparation: The Association for the Environmental Conservation of the Seto Inland Sea, <http://www.seto.or.jp/setokyo/eng/e-toppage/e-topage.htm>
Date of Publication: November 2009

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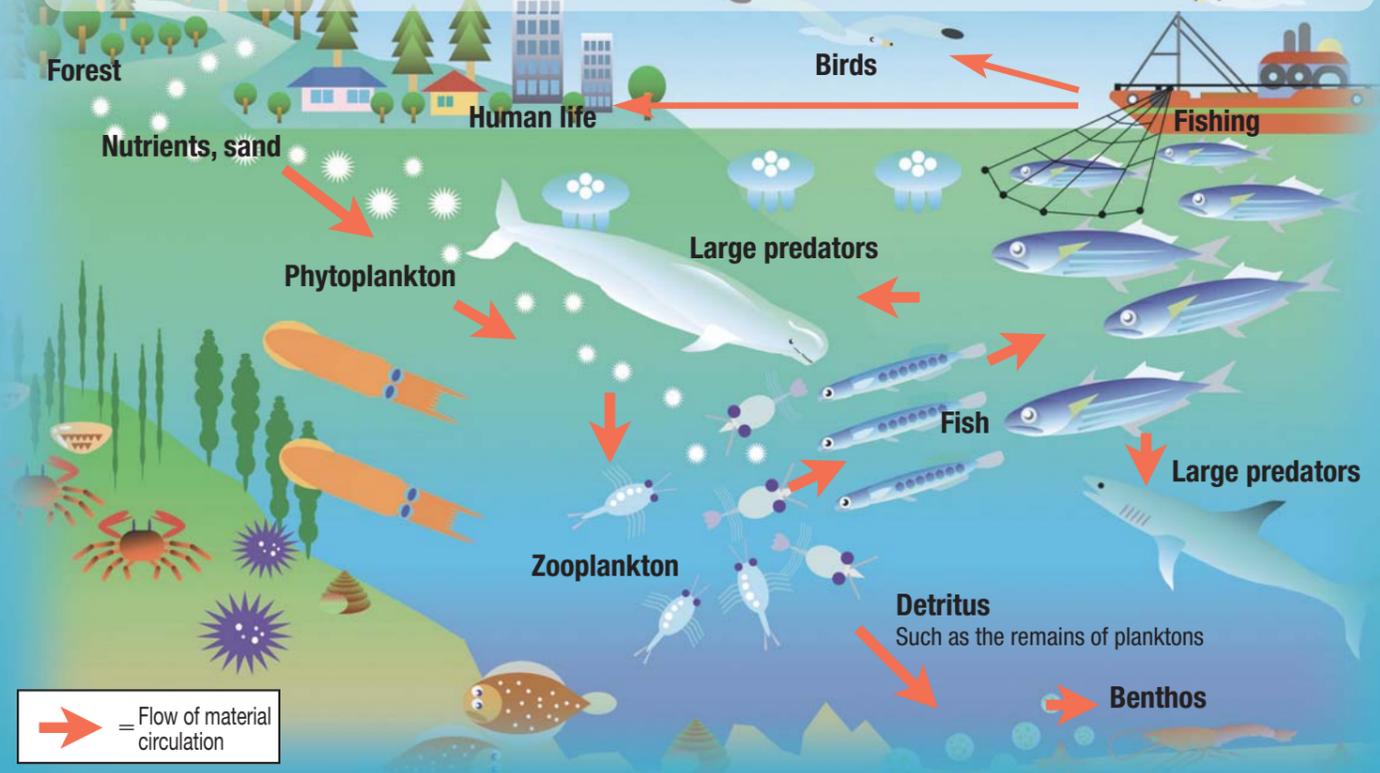
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Definition of Sato-umi

A coastal zone where the livelihoods of human-beings and the blessings of nature harmoniously coexist with coastal area eco-systems

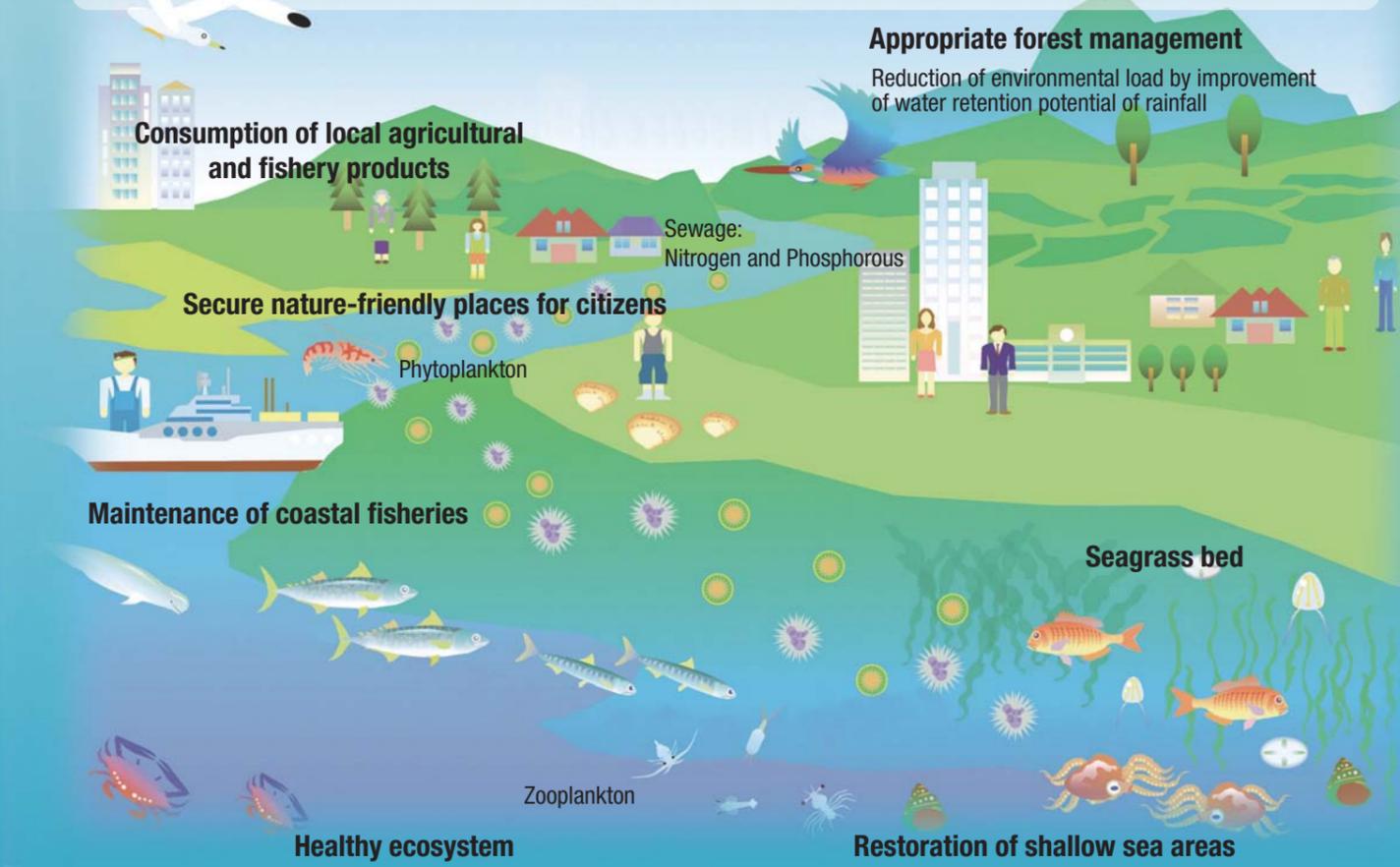
In Japanese, "SATO" means the area where people live, and "UMI" means the sea. Sato-umi is an important sea-area which has been supporting culture and cultural exchanges through such things as fisheries and the distribution of products. It is an area which includes both Nature and human-beings, as well as an area in which both high biological productivity and biodiversity are expected. Healthy Sato-umi provides numerous blessings: when the material circulation function is appropriately maintained, when integrated and comprehensive management of the land and coastal area is performed, and when the rich and diversified ecosystem and natural environment are conserved. This 'preferable coastal area environment' must be maintained with the cooperation of more people in order to accede this precious environment to future generations.



Toward the ideal coastal environment

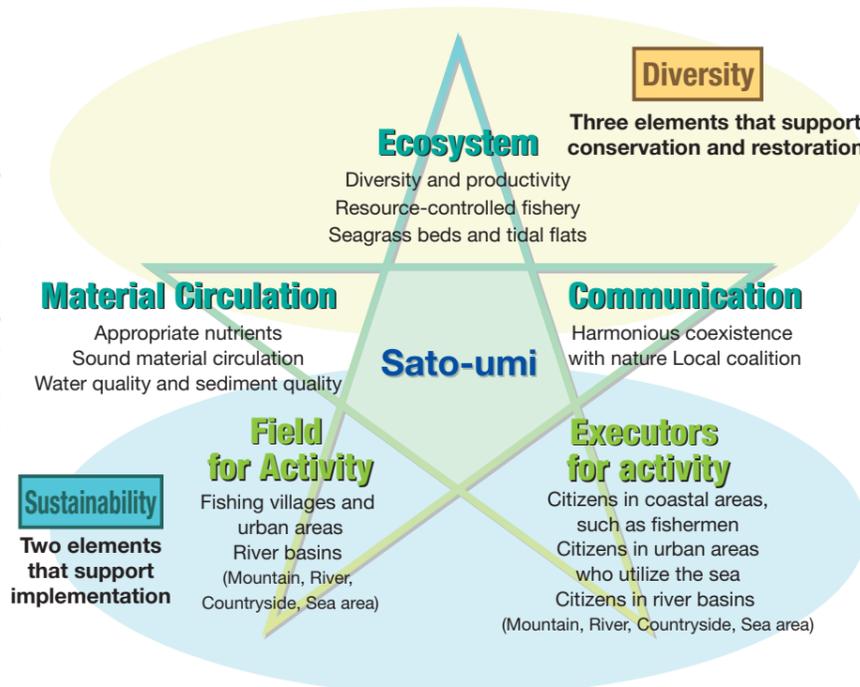
Steady, seamless and endless material circulation function is fundamental to conserve affluent and stable Sato-umi

Consumption and discharges, which accompany our activities for living, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, commerce and industry, considerably influence the water environment that is seamlessly connected from the forest to the sea. Two important measures to achieve the ideal coastal environment are: not to damage healthy natural ecosystems, and to offer opportunities for more people to understand the important role of Sato-umi through increased involvement and awareness.



The five elements that build and constitute Sato-umi

The first step for citizens, whose work is not sea-related, is to get familiar with the sea. This makes you understand the importance of the sea and realize what you have to do to conserve it. The perspectives for the creation of Sato-umi consist of five elements: ecosystems, communication, executors for activity, field for activity, material circulation.

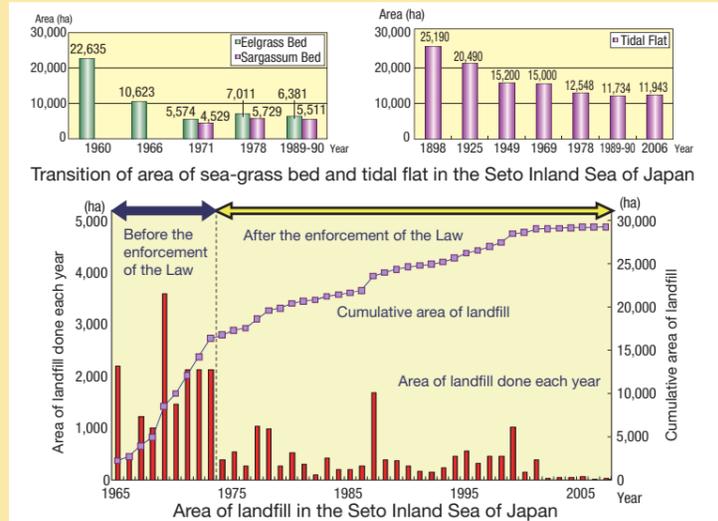


The threatened natural environment



Coastal and surrounding areas have been seriously damaged since the high economic growth era. Although the condition of the coastal environment is improving through environmental conservation and increased environmental consciousness, further effort is necessary.

Loss of natural habitats



Decreases of sea grass beds and tidal flats, (important habitats for aquatic life) caused by landfill affect the ecosystem balance.