

BOOK REVIEW

Enclosed experimental marine ecosystems: A review and recommendations (Coastal and estuarine Studies, Vol. 37), edited by C.M. Lalli (Springer-Verlag, Berlin), 1990, pp. x + 218, 550 g, Hard cover, DM 79

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This book, brought out as a contribution of SCOR Working Group 85, contains 11 contributions by various scientific workers together. The application of mesocosms technology, as stated in the preface, is a *via media* attempt to understand the various oceanic processes and their quantifications. As is the case with other developing technologies this particular technology has to continue to develop so that some generalisations in structure/design can be made out of the considerable diversified designs, though there can be no single design suitable for various scientific problems.

In introduction it has been made clear that this volume presents only a compilation of work already published and providing the guidance for future work has been only referred to.

All presentations have been made with uniform pattern but more than once the definitions of microcosm mesocosms have been given by the respective contributing author. Sometimes it appears conflicting though it must have been necessary to permit the freedom of expressions by various authors.

In chapter 2 the various types of ecosystem experiments have been reviewed. In this review, which mainly depends upon the ecosystem experiments on

pelagic system, the limitations of various systems have been discussed in detail. However, on page 7 it has been mentioned that the ecosystem experiments have been developed to meet the needs of three fields. Out of these one is mentioned as exploitation and management of marine resources. One wonders if the author had in mind living as well as non-living resources!

In the subsequent 5 contributions the authors have dealt with marine microcosms, pelagic and benthic mesocosms, thereby covering different ecosystems covering marine environment. The subsequent 2 contributions are regarding the applicability of meso and macrocosm research in fisheries and pollution studies. The next chapter deals with the case study which describes the eutrophication in Baltic Sea. The last two contributions are regarding the statistical treatment of this work and mathematical models based on mesocosm ecosystem research. Thus, these contributions cover the entire range of ecosystem research and answers the need of research workers in any field of ecosystem research.

Each chapter has been provided with bibliography which is quite useful. It is felt that a glossary should have been provided to explain certain terms used in this volume. On the whole it is an excellent publication and every library must have a copy of this publication.

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