

The Ukrainian scientific center of Ecology of Sea (UkrSCES) was created in January, 1992 on the basis of the Odessa Branch State oceanographic Institute (ODSOIN), based in 1970. The UkrSCES is main scientific research institute of the Ministry for Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine in the field of marine ecological investigations. Now in UkrSCES works more 200 scientific and engineer - technical workers, among which are two doctors and ten Ph. Ds., one academician and two corresponding - Fellow of the Ukrainian Ecological Academy Sciences. A postgraduate course – Ecology works in the Institute.

UkrSCES has large scientific and technical facilities. New chemistry - analytical equipment, allows to carry out measurements of a wide spectrum of pollutants, biogenous and other chemical units, including radioactivity, in the marine environment. Powerful modern PENTIUM computers, servers, GIS station with GIS software allow to manipulate miscellaneous types of marine and coastal data, use new techniques for the management of geo information and study of science related environmental problems such as pollution.

Structure of institute.

- Department of Sea Ecological Monitoring and expedition researches consisting of four laboratories - Analytical works and methodical development, hydrobiology, radioecology and atmospheric chemistry;
- Department of scientific bases of marine environmental use: laboratory - Integrated coastal zone management and GIS technologies, laboratory of ecological expertise;
- Department Data Bank;
- Department of scientific and technical information and international communications;
- Base of expedition fleet with departments: navigation safety, technical maintenance of fleet, financial – maintenance etc.

Directions of scientific activity:

- Complex investigations of marine ecosystems;
- Development of scientific bases of ecological expertise and ecological audit;
- Development of Integrated coastal zone management programs;

- Investigations of the hydro chemical state of Black and Azov seas in conditions of anthropogenous pollution;
- Assessment of land based sources;
- Research of physical and chemical processes in contact zones of the sea;
- Investigation of radioactive contamination of marine waters, suspended and bottom sediments of the Black and Azov seas, limans and near sea zones of the rivers;
- Research of the variety of biological biotzenoz;
- Creation of data bases, data bank, mapping with GIS technologies, development of information, expert systems and Web-Site;
- Scientific, methodical, metrological, program - information and organizational maintains of complex ecological monitoring of the marine environment in the Azov-Black Sea basin.

Research fleet and expedition investigations:

A big research fleet works in the structure of UkrSCES. The fleet includes six large research vessels. Also there are two smaller vessels and one small boat for researches in the Black sea and the coastal zone area. UkrSCES has an equipped mooring 130 m. length, warehouse premises.

At the present time the main direction of marine investigations are expedition research works in the Black-Azov Sea and coastal zone areas.

One main direction of scientific activity is participation in the Antarctic cruises. R/V " Ernst Krenkel" fulfilled two cruises from Odessa to the Antarctic Continent in 1997 and 1998.

UkrSCES obtains large volumes of information - Data Bank, results of oceanographic and ecological investigations in various regions of the World Ocean. Investigations were carried out in the Atlantic Ocean on standard sections and polygons. During 1970 - 1999 (UkrSCES) carried out more than 400 large expeditions to the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, Mediterranean and Black seas many national and international complex expeditions.

UkrSCES has a large scientific potential, biggest research fleet in Ukraine, modern maintenance and long-term experience for solving nature protection problems and is ready for mutually advantageous cooperation with the domestic and foreign partners.