

More on the Yellow Sea LME Project

The **Yellow Sea LME** (YSLME) project is evidence of a major commitment by China and Korea toward the recovery of the YSLME, using the LME assessment and management framework for restoring and sustaining marine resources and coastal environments. In this project, capture fisheries effort is being reduced by 30% through the decommissioning of over one million fishing vessels.

The expected loss of one million metric tons of fisheries landings will be replaced by an estimated 1 million tons annually of new mariculture production that uses methods to improve the quality of coastal waters. Yellow Sea LME coastal areas have been increasingly subjected to pollution and nutrient over-enrichment, resulting in an increase in the frequency and extent of dead zones (**Figure 1**).

Both countries are spending hundreds of millions of dollars in vessel buy back and retraining of former fishermen. And most importantly, the recovery is based on a strong scientific framework and carefully measured spatial determinations of primary productivity and carrying capacity for sustainable fisheries yields.

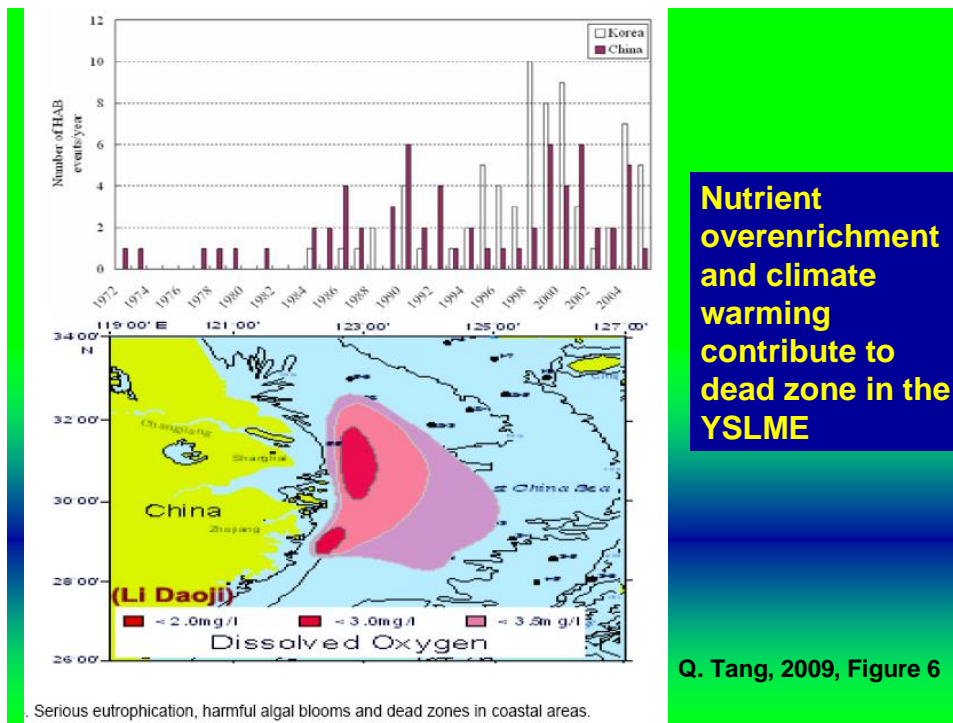


Figure 1. Nutrient overenrichment and climate warming contribute to dead zone in the YSLME

Two papers describing and supporting this effort are included in the new book “Sustaining the World’s Large Marine Ecosystems” (2009).

1) Qisheng Tang, “Changing States of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem: Anthropogenic forcing and Climate Impacts”

2) Mark Walton and Yihang Jiang, “Some Considerations of Fisheries Management in the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem”