



## **Coastal Changes Between Ayvalik and Assos During Anthropocene**

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In this study, environmental issues arising from the use of coastal zone in the north of the Gulf of Edremit between Assos and Ayvalik on the west of Turkey are determined and a number of suggestions were presented. This work was supported by field observations and reviews by using Geographical information system and remote sensing technology. The region has been host to many civilizations throughout history and anthropocen. The area was subject to rapid changes in recent years. The area was studied and evaluated in four sub-sections such as Ayvalik-Gomec, Pelitköy-Akçay, Akçay-Altinoluk and Altinoluk-Assos. The destruction of the area's natural vegetation began five thousand years ago. The natural vegetation in the coastal zone was cleared and olive groves planted. Today, construction is rapidly taking over the olive growing areas. In addition to this, the coastal wetland areas and delta ecosystems are quickly disappearing and being replaced by new housing developments.

In the coastal belt between Burhaniye and Küçükkuşu, the other important problems include; coastal erosion, illegal sand collection, silting up of ports, illegal construction activities, discharge of waste water, dumping of rubbish and debris, overflowing and flooding, insufficiency of irrigation systems in the coastal plains, use of ground and surface water sources which have been polluted by domestic and industrial waste, and the salt intrusion in water.

The study presents recommendations for achieving patterns of usage which provide the maximum ecological, economic and social benefits and protect the existing natural features of the zone between Ayvalik and Assos.