

A INEVITABLE EPISODE : SALINIZATION OF GONYELI POND

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The results of recent studies at Gonyeli pond, located close to the capital of Cyprus, exhibits that salinity is a serious threat. The pond is among the oldest artificial lakes build in Cyprus. Its water capacity is one million cubic meters and basically is used for irrigation purposes. A limnological study of the pond was initiated in December 1995 and monthly sampling from 1 meter depth continued till June 1997. Among the others, salinity (parts per thousand, ppt) and total dissolved solids (TDS) were measured regularly. During this period salinity and TDS of the pond increased significantly, i.e. salinity increased from 2 ppt to more or less 4.5 ppt and TDS from 5000 mg/L to 1200 mg/L. Extrapolation of the data indicates that in case the salinity increase remains at the same level, the ponds salinity will reach 15 ppt in 40 months and 38 ppt (Mediterranean average salinity) in 180-192 months.

WATER AND WAST

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