



## **MARINE POLLUTION**

Marine Pollution refers to degradation of marine ecosystem by discharge of pollutants in large water bodies, in particular the sea and the oceans.

### **Sources of Marine Pollution**

- Major concern for Marine ecosystem is Oil Spills. Origin of oil spills can be attributed to natural phenomenon and also due to human activities. Natural sources are oil seeps at geographical fault lines in the ocean floors. Human activities leading to oil spills include leaking of oil tankers, well blowouts, drilling oil rigs, etc.
- Addition of pollutants to sea by rivers flowing into seas.
- Addition of pollutants due to human activities such as industrial activities, agriculture practices and tourism along coastline.
- Over exploitation of aquatic resources such as excessive fishing in particular region can adversely affect marine ecology.
- Mining of minerals at coast and sea-bed near coast results in defiling the marine ecological system.

### **Control of Marine Pollution**

- Reducing the cases of oil spills due to leaking of tankers and well blowouts.
- Use of effective measures to control oil spills such as use of sinking material such as chalk and dispersants.
- Developing no fishing zones in areas where aquatic life has been adversely affected due to excessive fishing.
- Checking addition of toxic waste to rivers flowing into seas.
- Banning mining activities in and around coastal regions and on sea bed.
- Minimizing human activities in coastal regions adjoining areas sensitive marine ecosystem such as coral reefs.