

LEVELS OF MERCURY CONCENTRATION IN SEDIMENTS OF SARONICOS GULF

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ABSTRACT

Four different methods were tried for the pretreatment of sediment samples prior to final determination of mercury content by CVAAS. The hot aqua regia method was applied to surface sediments from Saronicos Gulf that were collected during 2000. The highest concentrations were found at the coast of Elefsis Gulf near crude oil refineries and shipyards. The mercury levels in the rest of Saronicos Gulf are much lower, with only exception the area around the effluent pipes of domestic sewages.