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INFRASOUND IMPACT ON THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AND LIFE QUALITY

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Abstract

Infrasound is a sound wave with a range of frequencies below that of human hearing and is a constituent of the environment in which we live. Taking into consideration that infrasound is below the audible range and that its overall effects on the entire human organism are yet unknown, the ambiguity of the phenomenon requires further research. Although infrasound has been analyzed in depth in the past few decades and assumptions have been made regarding experiments on human subjects (with or without their consent), assumptions which are by no means ignorable, access to this kind of information is limited. Infrasound has important effects on aquatic ecosystems because of the propagation distance and intensity which are much higher than in the case of the atmospheric environment. Common knowledge in this matter is scarce and therefore, between October and November 2010, we conducted a survey on a group of students in their first and third year of study at the "*Gheorghe Asachi*" Technical University. We distributed a number of questionnaires, in order to assess the level of knowledge of this field, as a part of the current European environmental strategy. The results of this study have shown that within a group of people aged 18-25, the level of information on this matter is low, which justifies the need for further development and research in this field. Therefore, it is important to develop the studies on infrasound by complying with EU environmental policies.

Key words: aquatic ecosystems, awareness raising, infrasound, quality of life

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