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**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB/T 42631-2023

**Guideline for marine ecosystem health assessment in
nearshore area**

近岸海洋生态健康评价指南

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Foreword

This document is in accordance with the provisions of GB/T 1:1-2020 "Guidelines for Standardization Work Part 1: Structure and Drafting Rules for Standardization Documents" drafting: Please note that some contents of this document may refer to patents: The issuing agency of this document assumes no responsibility for identifying patents: This document is proposed by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China: This document is under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Standardization Technical Committee (SAC/TC283): This document was drafted by: National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Third Ocean Research Institute of the Ministry of Natural Resources Institute, Guangxi Mangrove Research Center: The main drafters of this document: Ma Minghui, Luo Hao, Huang Hui, Tang Kunxian, Fan Hangqing, Lan Dongdong, Yu Chunyan, Liang Bin, Zheng Xinqing, Bao Chenguang, Li Mian, Xu Yan, Liang Yahui, Zhu Rongjuan, Sui Weina, Yu Dong, Zhang Zhifeng: Guidelines for Assessment of Coastal Marine Ecological Health

1 Scope

GB/T 42631-2023 sets out how to say whether a stretch of nearshore sea is healthy. The judgement is routinely demanded - by coastal planning, by environmental impact assessment, by the reporting that follows a restoration project - and it is routinely made on whatever indicators were available, which makes two assessments incomparable and a trend over time unreadable. This guideline provides the grading scheme and the assessment methods that put the judgement on a common footing. It covers the classification of ecological health and the assessment procedure, and then treats the major nearshore ecosystem types separately, because a coral reef, a seagrass bed, a mangrove, an estuary and a bay are not healthy in the same way and cannot be scored against the same indicators. It applies to the assessment of coral reef, seagrass bed, mangrove, estuarine and bay ecosystems in the inland seas, the territorial sea and the sea areas

under Chinese jurisdiction. Filed under ICS 07.060 and 13.060 with CCS Z17, it is written for marine environmental monitoring stations, coastal management authorities, and the consultancies and research institutes producing ecological assessments that have to stand up to comparison.

This document provides guidance and recommendations for ecological health grading and assessment methods for nearshore marine ecological health assessment: This document is applicable to the ecology of coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, estuaries and bays in the inland sea, territorial sea and sea areas under the jurisdiction of the People's Republic of China System health assessment:

2 Normative references

The contents of the following documents constitute the essential provisions of this document through normative references in the text: Among them, dated references For documents, only the version corresponding to the date is applicable to this document; for undated reference documents, the latest version (including all amendments) is applicable to this document: GB 17378:

2 Marine monitoring specification Part 2: Data processing and analysis quality control GB 17378:

3 Marine Monitoring Specification Part 3: Sample Collection, Storage and Transportation GB 17378:

4 Marine Monitoring Specifications Part 4: Seawater Analysis GB 17378:

5 Marine Monitoring Specification Part 5: Sediment Analysis GB 17378:

6 Marine Monitoring Specification Part 6: Analysis of Organisms GB 17378:

7 Specifications for Marine Monitoring Part 7: Ecological Survey and Biological Monitoring of Offshore Pollution HJ442:

10 Evaluation and Report of Part 10 of Technical Specifications for Environmental Monitoring in Coastal Sea Areas HY/T 081 Mangrove Ecological Monitoring Technical Regulations HY/T 082 Coral Reef Ecological Monitoring Technical Regulations HY/T 083 Technical Regulations for Seagrass Bed Ecological Monitoring HY/T 084 Gulf Ecological Monitoring Technical Regulations HY/T 085 Estuary Ecological Monitoring Technical Regulations

3 Terms and Definitions

The following terms and definitions apply to this document: 3:1 ecological health ecosystemhealth The ecosystem maintains its natural attributes, maintains the stability of biodiversity and key ecological processes, and continues to perform its service functions:

3:2 coral reef ecosystem coralreefecosystem In tropical and subtropical waters, a unified natural environment composed of coral reef habitats and biological communities formed by reef-building corals and reef-building organisms However overall: 3:3 seagrass bed ecosystem seagrassbedecosystem A unified natural whole composed of higher plant seagrass communities and other biological communities and environments that grow in nearshore shallow water areas:

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