



Coastal-Offshore Ecosystem Interactions: Proceedings of a Symposium Sponsored by Scor, UNESCO, San Francisco Society, California Sea Grant Program, and U.S. Dept. of Interior, Mineral Management Service Held at San Francisco State University, Tiburon.

By -

Springer. Paperback. Condition: New. 367 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 7.0in. x 0.9in. stable isotope ratios act as naturally-occurring tracers for organic matter, making possible, under certain conditions, the quantification of coastal-offshore exchanges. In general, organic matter has isotope ratios characteristic of its origin (e. g. plants with different modes of photosynthesis and different growth conditions, anthropogenic compounds). These ratios are maintained as the organic matter moves through the biosphere and geosphere. A mixture of organic matter from two sources has isotope ratios intermediate between those of the two sources, in proportion to the fraction of material from each source. Isotope ratios are one of the few methods which can trace organic matter as it moves through natural ecosystems. Ratios can be measured on both the total organic matter and on particular chemical fractions or compounds. When used on organisms, isotope ratios provide information of organic matter actually assimilated into body tissues, not just material ingested. As with all tools, this method has certain limitations which must be borne in mind when interpreting its results. Firstly, specific environmental conditions must be met. This generally means an ecosystem with a limited and known number of sources of organic matter having different isotope ratios....



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