

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ANTHROPOGENIC ACTIVITIES ON THE RIO JACUIPE ESTUARY, CAMAÇARI, BAHIA, BRAZIL¹.

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ABSTRACT

The rio Jacuipe and its estuary has been suffering in the last 15 years from human interventions along its course, causing a number of negative environmental impacts. These activities involve the input of human and industrial sewage and molasses, as well as major river flow changes. The climatic conditions govern the definition of stratified water column. During the rainy season a salt-wedge exists due to the increase in freshwater flow, while in the dry season the amount of running freshwater diminishes and is not sufficient to deter the tidal force. Although no systematic survey has been conducted either in the river or in the estuary, some patterns can be detected through assessment of the available data. The decrease in dissolved oxygen concentrations over the years indicates that the input of organic load has already surpassed the depurative capacity of the estuary. The decision to transfer the effluents to another receiving water body with greater dilution capacity will certainly lead to positive changes that

¹ This work was financed by the National Research Council (CNPq), the Financial Agency for Project Development (FINEP) and CETREL and is part of the Program of Evaluation of Aquatic Ecosystems from the state of Bahia.

should be evaluated together with more detailed oceanographical studies.