From Sea to Sand

The Story of the Aral Sea
Water withdrawal and availability in the Aral Sea basin

- Flow generation: water available in the country from rainfall and glacier melt
- Water abstraction: withdrawal from surface water sources (rivers, canals and lakes)

A History of Water Management in Central Asia

In three parts

• Pre-Soviet

• Soviet

• Independence
Figure 3.1 Water-level fluctuations in the Aral Sea. Dashed line, from reconstruction; solid line, from instrumental data.

Inflows to the Aral Sea

- Pre-1960: 56 km³
- 1961-1970: 43 km³
- 1971-1980: 17 km³
- 1981-1990: 4 km³
The Aftermath - Physical
A Trip to Vozrozhdeniy Island
The Aftermath – Socio-Economic

- Increased morbidity and mortality
- Fish stocks decline
- Bigger is better mentality
- Integrated infrastructure
And Now For Some Good News !!!
Extended Reading

*Chasing the Sea*, by Tom Bissell


*Circle of Blue* for news and interviews