



Update from CoastNet

CoastNet's mission is to improve the quality of life in coastal communities, and we undertake a range of grant-funded activities in support of this aim:

At the national level, CoastNet's work has become centred on flood and coastal erosion risk management in the last two years www.coastnet.org.uk/coastalchange . Thus we have supported the establishment of the National Voice for Coastal Communities Forum <http://www.nvcc.org.uk/>, to which we provide administrative and technical support. The forum is comprised of community groups opposed to shoreline management policy in their locality.

CoastNet still supports the Coastal and Marine All Party Parliamentary Group, now chaired jointly by Brandon Lewis MP (Great Yarmouth) and Therese Coffey MP (Suffolk Coastal). This group also takes a strong interest in coastal flooding and coastal erosion policy. It will generally meet three times per year in Westminster.

Regarding Integrated Coastal Zone Management, we have recently completed a grant-funded piece of work in Wales, to provide guidance to local authorities. This work is of wider relevance, to local authorities and others in the UK. This will be available on our website soon.

CoastNet are also working in partnership with Chichester District Council, leaders of one of Defra's Coastal Change Pathfinder projects <http://www.peninsulapartnership.org.uk/> . CoastNet are providing ICZM and planning guidance, capacity-building for a community group/social enterprise, and developing a framework for improved knowledge and understanding amongst all involved in the coast, which we call Coastal Literacy <http://coastalliteracy.wordpress.com/about/>. Have a look at the short films.....

As Partners in the EU Interreg-funded IMCORE project www.imcore.eu, CoastNet is developing a Distance Learning Tool to support adaptation to climate change in coastal areas, with a focus on resources developed by the IMCORE partnership, but also bringing together a wide range of background material from the EU and UN. These resources will be of general value to coastal practitioners, especially given the EU requirement for authorities to have climate adaptation strategies in place by 2012.

Also in the European context CoastNet recently hosted the Littoral conference in London. This brought together practitioners and researchers from all over Europe and from further afield. A particular aim of this event was to raise awareness regarding the impacts of global change on the coast, and the need for integrated management in response. A formal Communication will be made to the European Commission to influence its Integrated Maritime Policy. Many of the conference presentations are already online, and videos of the keynote speakers will be available in the New Year. Keep an eye on CoastNet's website front page for more.

At the local level, we have community activities in Devonport, Plymouth, and Jaywick, Essex where we have project teams in place delivering youth activities and community events. We regularly use film-making and creativity sessions as mediums for engagement. See www.coastnet.org.uk more details.