



# ICZM Survey of Partner Countries

Jan 2008

The coastlines of northwest Europe are facing a growing range of threats due to both human activities and natural environmental change. The management of these threats is complex both due to the range of interests and the fragmented nature of the administrative arrangements. The COREPOINT project through which this report was produced seeks to address some of these issues. Further information about the project can be found at the end of this report.

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## **1.0 Method**

The questionnaire was designed by a consortium of Partners within the Corepoint Project with a view to making it applicable across all Partner Countries, easy to complete and to not take long to complete so as to try and improve the response rate. A further action to try and improve the response rate was to nominate key Partners in each country to elicit responses. The form was completed online and for any respondents who wished to receive a copy of the results there was the option to request this.

The following questions were asked:

### **Your profile:**

Do you work on the coast? (if no then please do not continue with the questionnaire)

What proportion of your working time do you spend on coastal work?  
10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% (choose the closest)

What type of work do you do on the coast? (free text answer)

How many years have you worked on the coast? (numerical answer)

What sector do you work in? (free text answer)

What type of organisation do you work for? (free text answer)

What is your profession? (free text answer)

What country do you work in? England, Wales, France, Belgium, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Holland, Other (option for free text if other chosen otherwise chose one country)

In the table below could you please answer each of these questions for each principle:  
Awareness – are you aware of this principle of ICZM originating from the European Union? (YES/NO)

Understanding – would you like to have more information to improve your understanding of the application of this principle at the local level?  
(YES/NO)

Use – do you use this principle in your work in relation to coastal issues? (regardless of whether or not you are aware of it in this context from the European Union)  
(YES/NO)

Value – how would you rate this principle in terms of its importance to your daily work (score 1-4, 1 being very important, 4 being very unimportant)

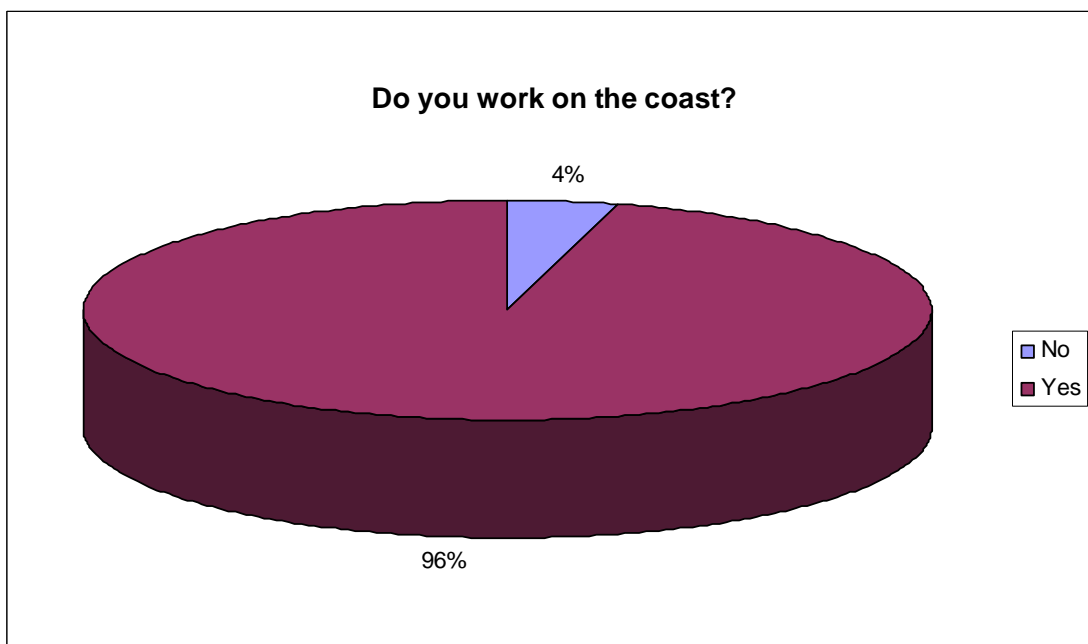
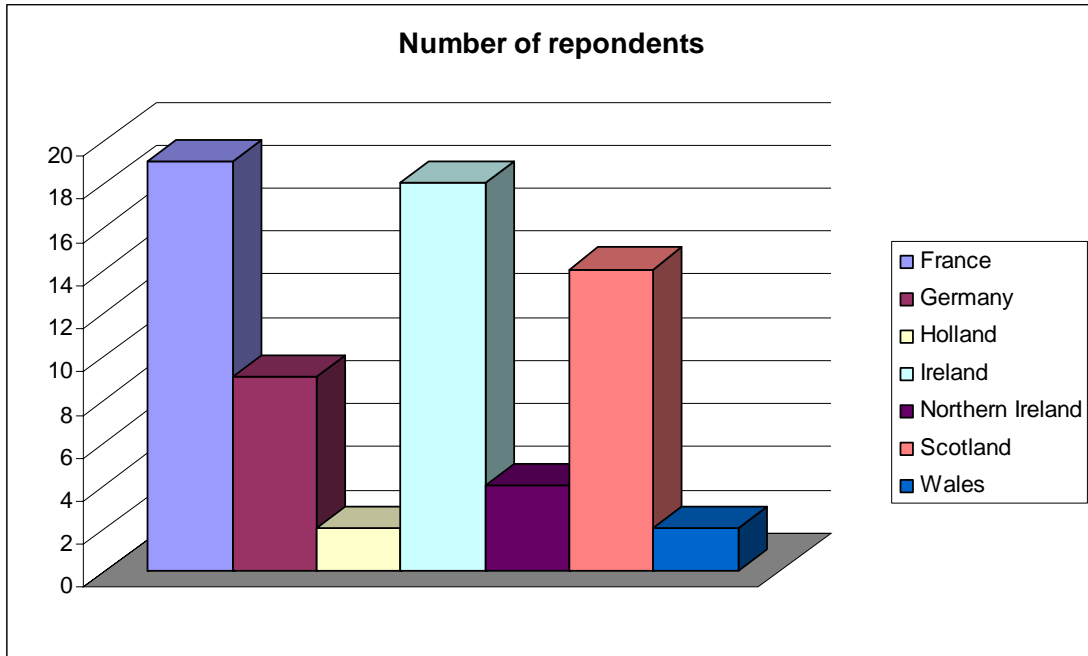
<b>Principles: Coastal zone management should be based on:</b>	Awareness	Understanding	Use	Value
<i>(a) a broad overall perspective (thematic and geographic) which will take into account the interdependence and disparity of natural systems and human activities with an impact on coastal areas;</i>				
<i>(b) a long-term perspective which will take into account the precautionary principle and the needs of present and future generations;</i>				
<i>(c) adaptive management during, a gradual process which will facilitate adjustment as problems and knowledge develop. This implies the need for a sound scientific basis concerning the evolution of the coastal zone;</i>				
<i>(d) local specificity and the great diversity of European coastal zones, which will make it possible to respond to their practical needs with specific solutions and flexible measures;</i>				
<i>(e) working with natural processes and respecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems, which will make human activities more environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically sound in the long-run;</i>				
<i>(f) support and involvement of relevant administrative bodies at national, regional and local level between which appropriate links should be established or maintained with the aim of improved coordination of the various existing policies. Partnership with and between regional and local authorities should apply when appropriate;</i>				
<i>(g) Involving all the parties concerned (economic and social partners, the organisations representing coastal zone residents, non-government organisation and the business sector) in the management process, for example by means of agreements and based on shared responsibility.</i>				
<i>(h) use of a combination of instruments designed to facilitate coherence between sectoral policy objectives and coherence between planning and management.</i>				

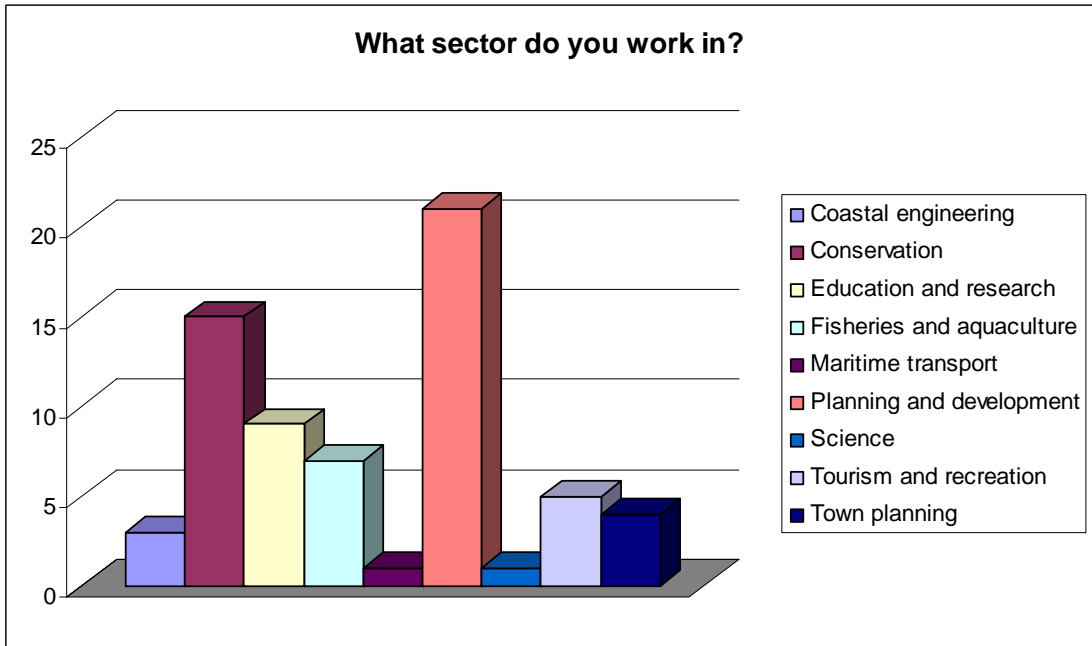
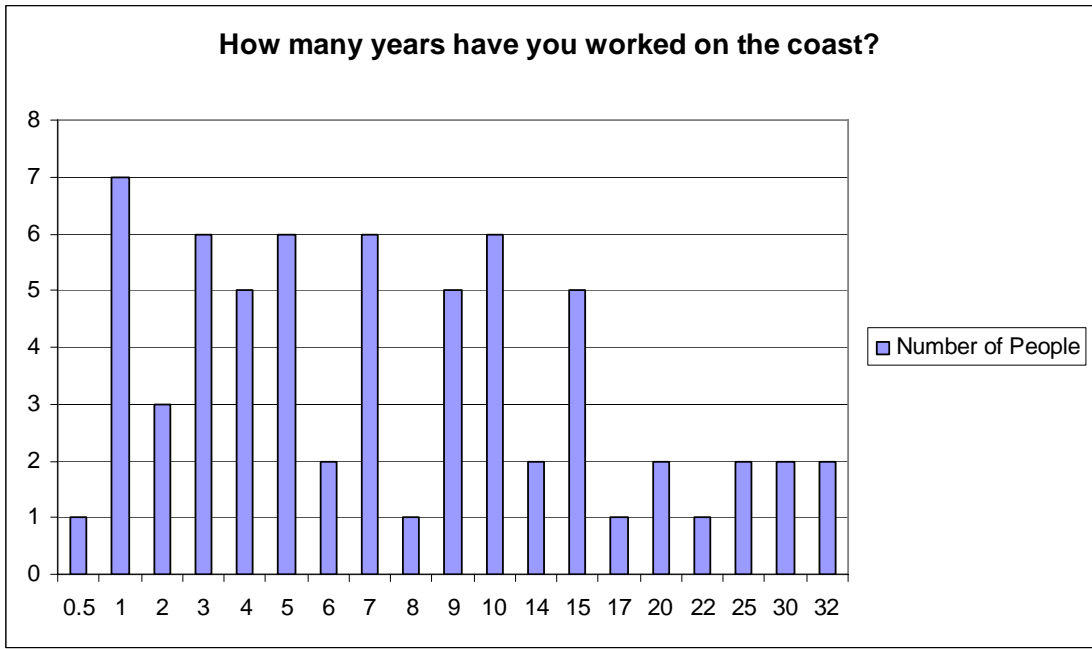
Many thanks for your response, if you would like to be made aware of the publication of the report that your response will contribute to please supply your e-mail address here and we will notify you when it is available.

E-mail address -

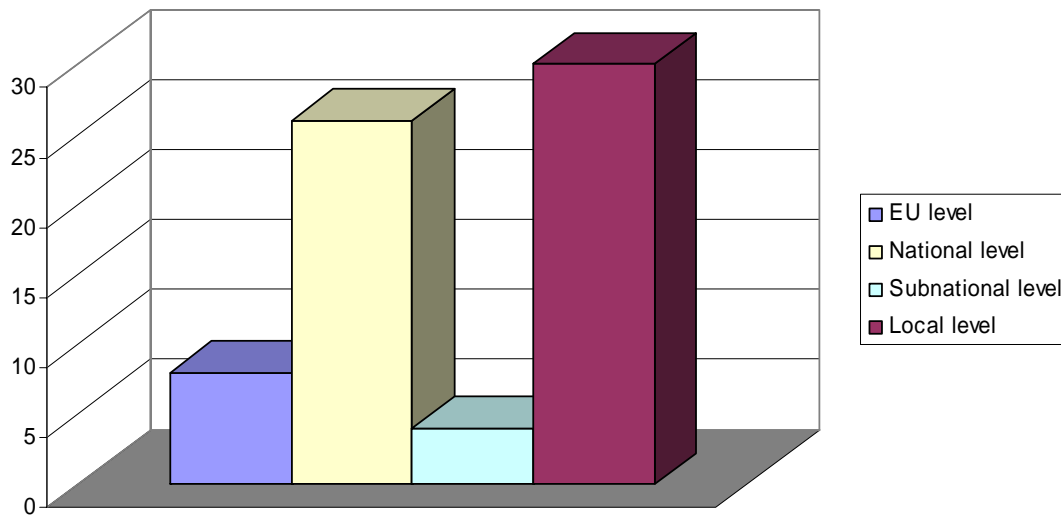
## 2.0 Respondents Profile

There were 68 responses received with France, Ireland and Scotland achieving the best response rates.

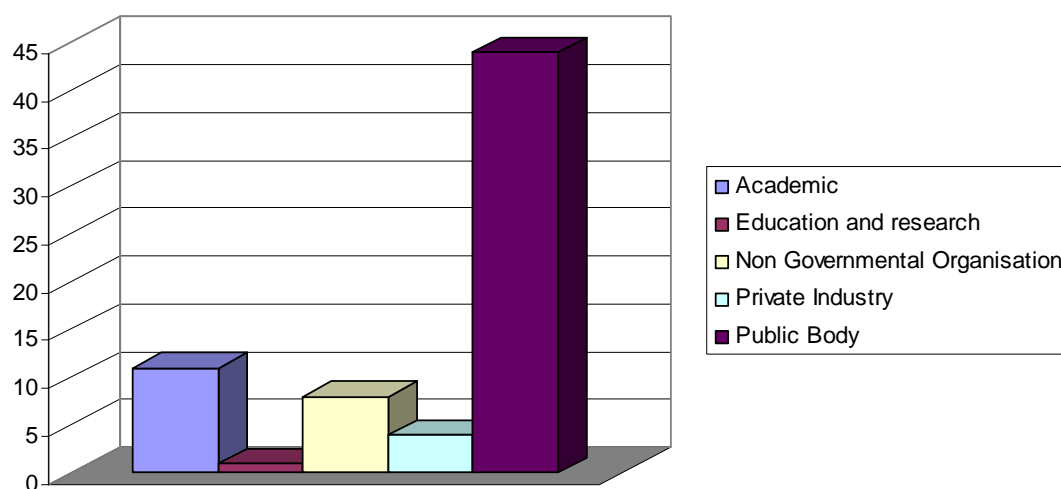




**At what level do you work within your organisation?**

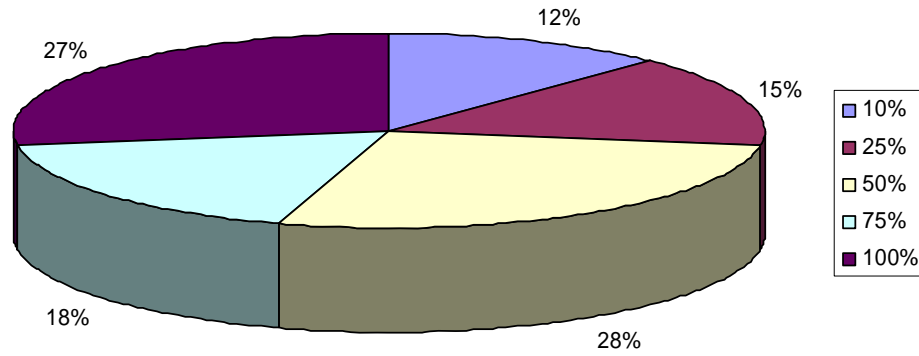


**What type of organisation do you work for?**



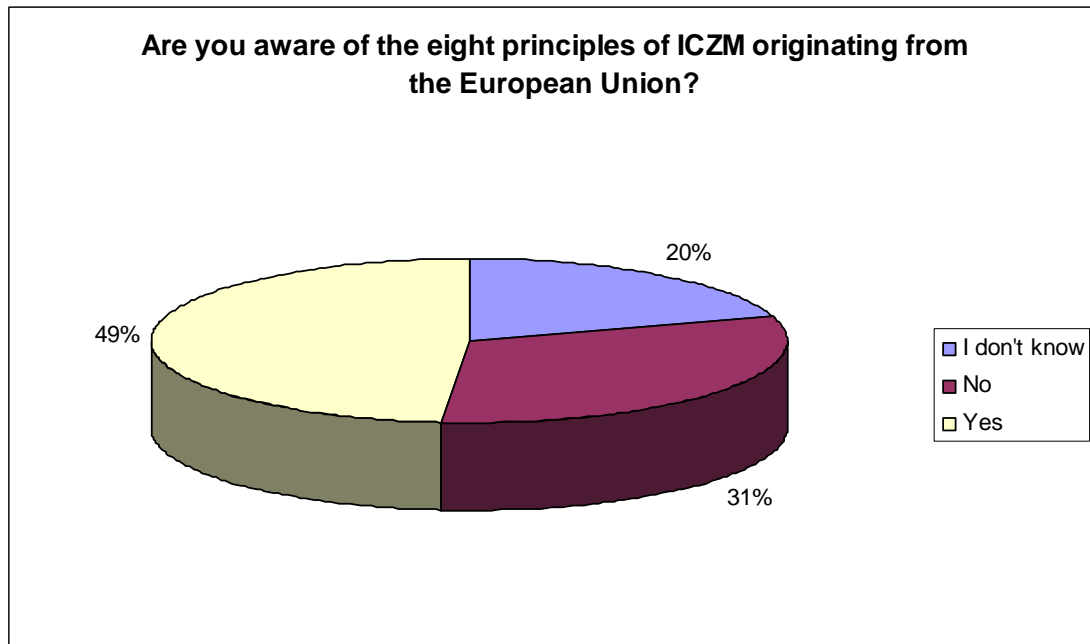


**What proportion of your working time do you spend on coastal work?**



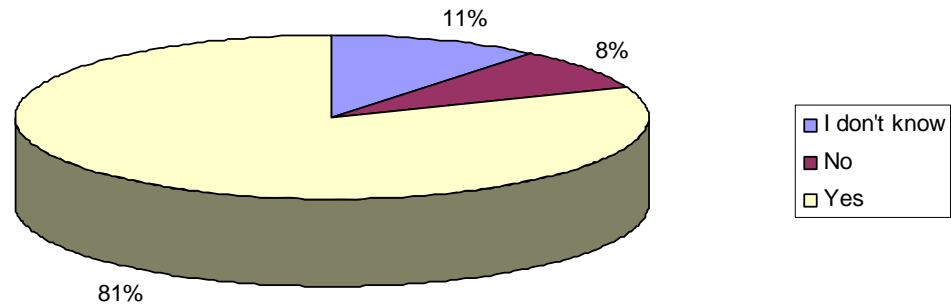
It can be seen from the above graphs that the respondents come predominately from the Planning and Development or Conservation sectors (with Education and research and aquaculture and fisheries accounting for the next largest proportion) working within public bodies at either National or Local levels. The breadth of experience ranges from new to working on the coast through to 30+ years but with the majority having 1-15 years experience. The majority spend 50% or more of their time working on coastal issues.

### 3.0 Analysis of responses from all respondents

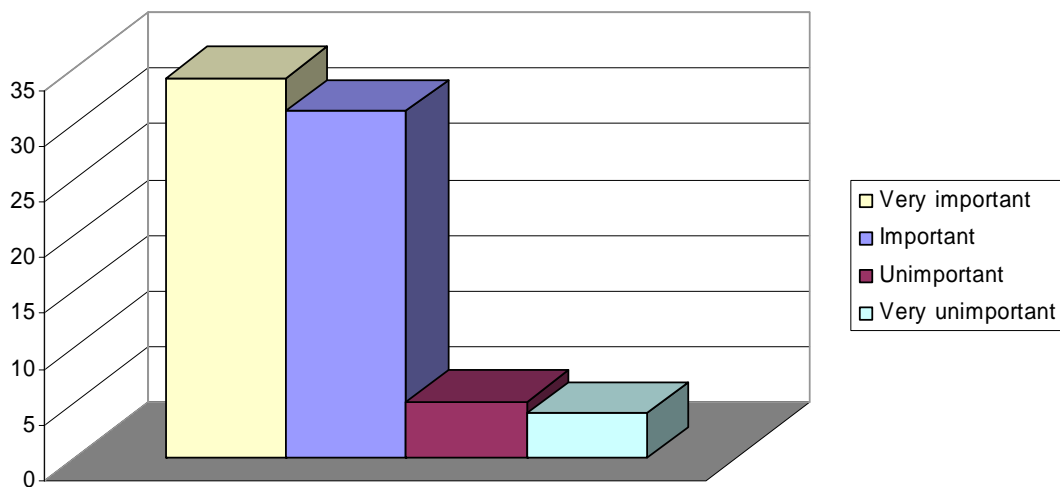


It can be seen from the above response that there is less than 50% awareness of the eight principles of ICZM promoted by the European Union. However when this is reconciled with the responses to the individual principles below it can be seen that there is much wider usage of the principles than the above response would suggest although there are some issues with understanding the language used for the principles drawn out later.

**Do you take a broad overall perspective in your work in relation to coastal issues?**



**How would you rate this principle (broad perspective) in terms of its importance to your daily work?**



The quotes below are typical of the additional comments received:

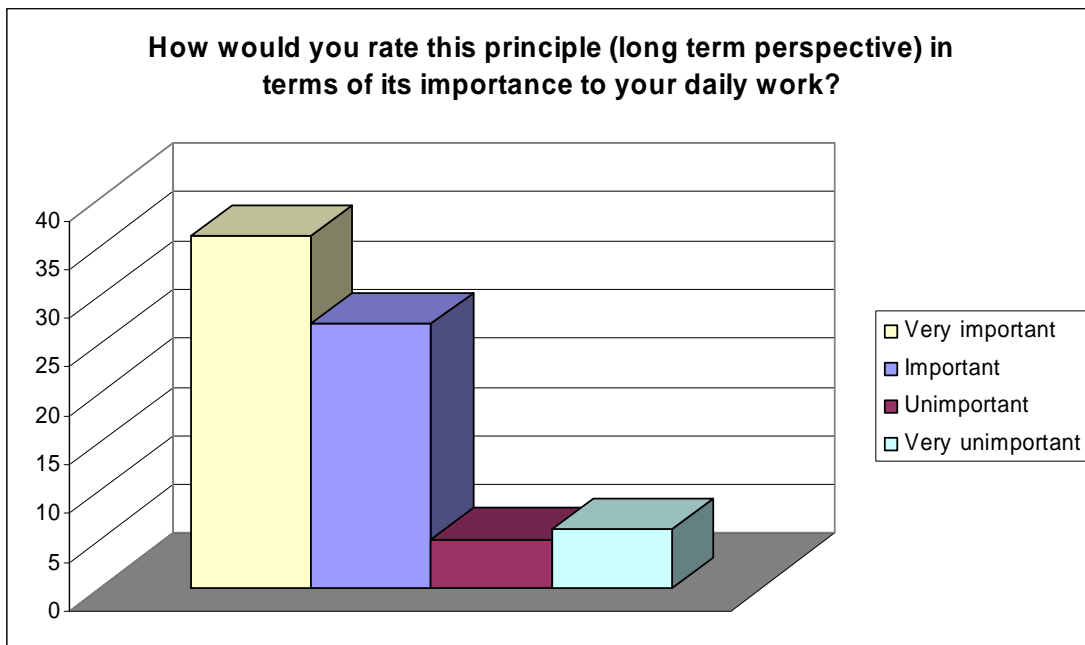
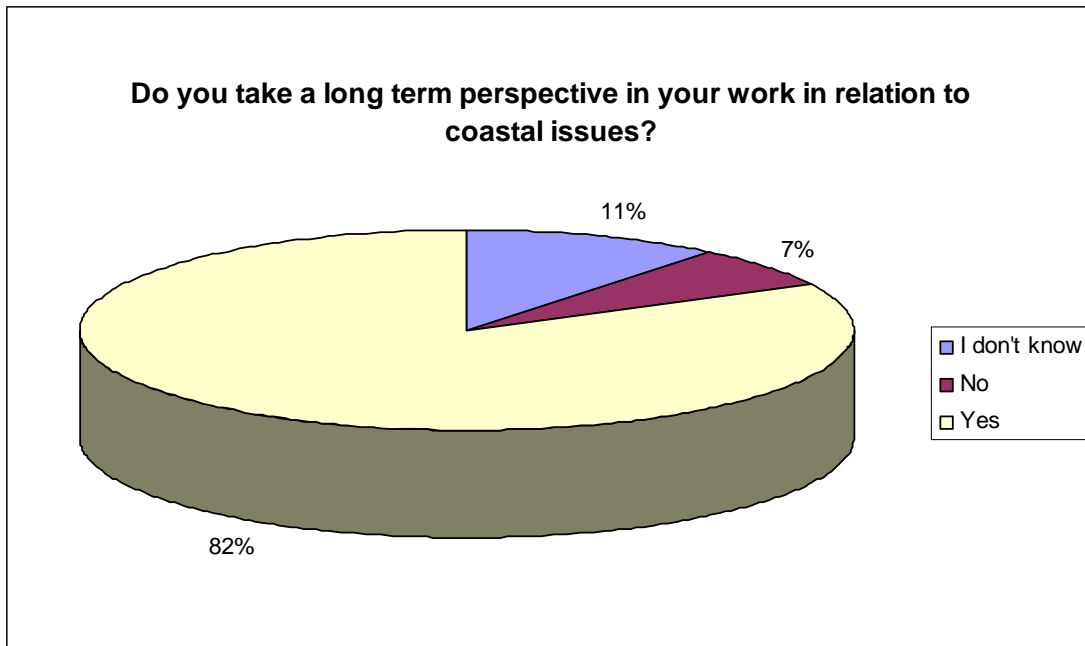
*"When making decisions I try to look at the whole picture instead of the one area or problem."*

*"In dealing with fish farm applications we would consider a range of potential impacts including environmental and landscape issues."*

*"The regional natural park includes both land and sea. I work for fishermen in the lagoons and on the coast (shellfish gathering) and sea fishermen - activities that are often performed by the same people, by the way. I also work on the implementation of a planning strategy for the coastal zone (coastal risks) in accordance with the ICZM. This work is performed alongside scientists, official bodies, socio-professionals and managers of protected areas."*

*“Rather than object to a new golf course at Machrihanish, advice was provided to the developer that enabled the development to proceed with a very low level of environmental impact, thus helping to provide jobs in an economically depressed area - it was claimed by the developer that the course was a pivotal aspect of a development bringing 75 jobs to southern Kintyre.”*

It would appear from this that this principle is widely recognised, understood and applied.



The quotes below are typical of the additional comments received:

*“Yes, much of what we do is related to assessing impacts on Natura sites and species so our assessments consider both immediate and long term impacts and sustainability.”*

*“Investigating the sustainability of local fishery.”*

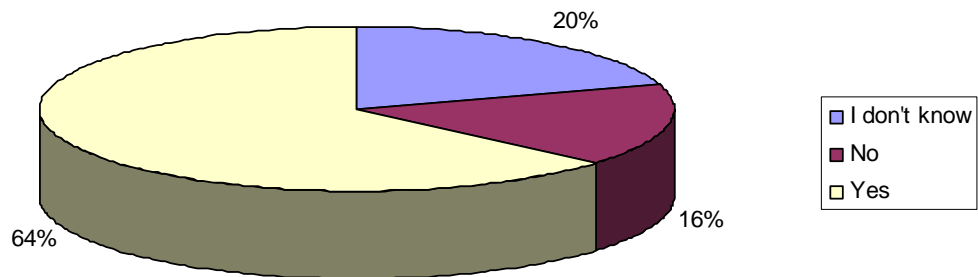
*“Immediate economic development issues dominate day to day work”*

*“The current project aims to broach a set of initiatives over many years, looking towards sustainable development and creating conditions and synergies to sustainably take into account the particularities of the coastal region through local projects.”*

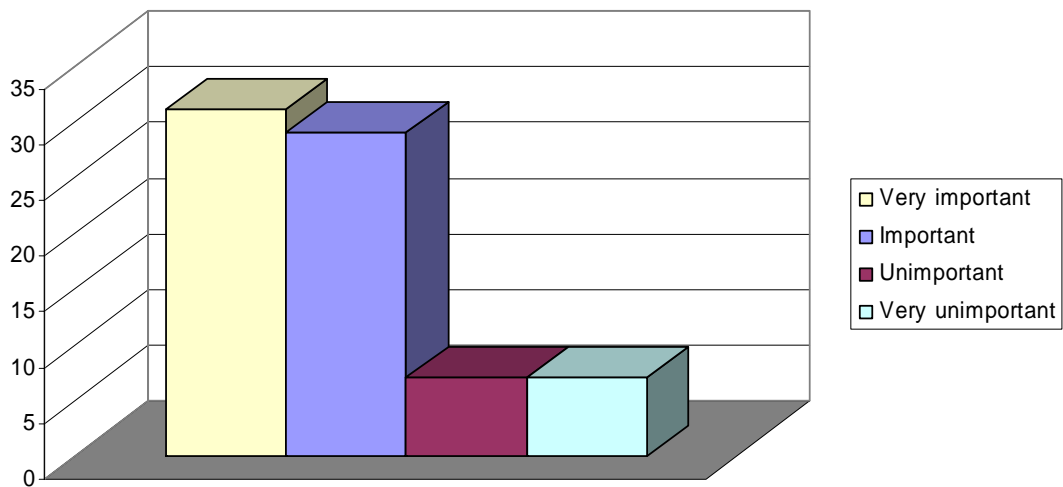
*“We should but it takes time and resources to tackle issues on a long-term basis. Ideally we would like to approach industry to change the products they make of how they are used.”*

It would appear from this that this principle is widely recognised and understood. There do appear to be some concerns over resource availability to apply to it and the potential dominance of current issues.

**Do you apply adaptive management techniques in your work in relation to coastal issues?**



**How would you rate this principle (Adaptive management) in terms of its importance to your daily work?**



The quotes below are a selection of the additional comments received:

*“During peak season adaptive or responsive management of the coastal site is a daily occurrence and relates directly to the risk assessment carried out for the site.”*

*“only sometimes. Scientific knowledge (e.g. sea-level curve for Orkney) is lacking.”*

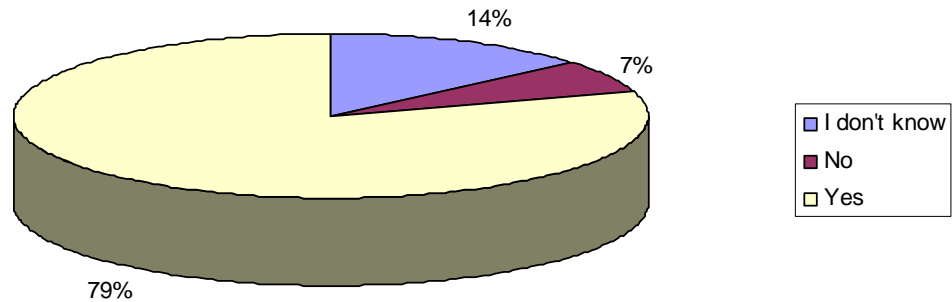
*“in the scheme of initiatives for our local programme, the habitat is an assessment exercise, including the identification of monitoring indicators. This initiative enables us to adjust PLH initiatives throughout their existence (6 years) and to pave the way for better preparations for the introduction of new measures at the end of its useful life.”*

*“I don't know what this means.”*

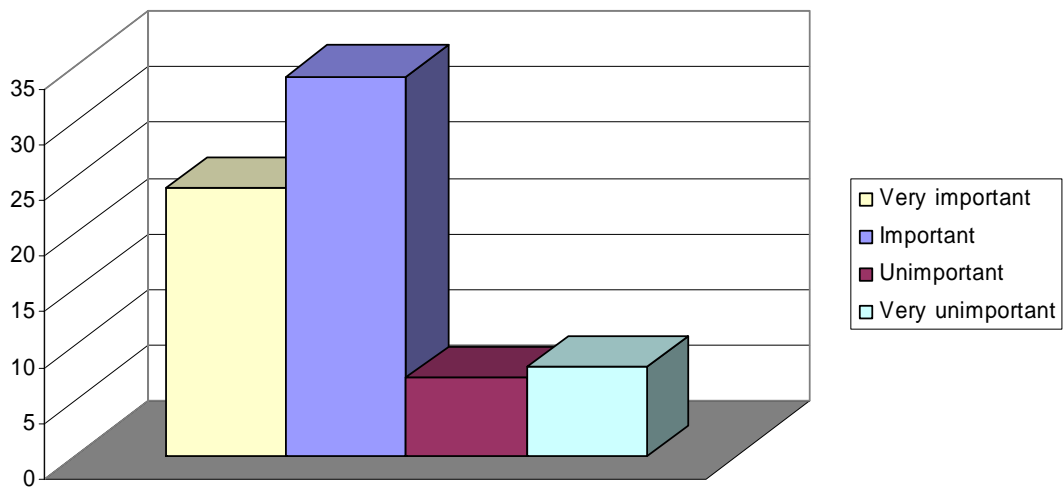
The rest of the comments covered a broad spectrum and were not consistent which could infer less understanding of this principle which might explain the lower positive response rate when respondents were asked if they used this principle.



**Do you consider local specificity in your work in relation to coastal issues?**



**How would you rate this principle (Local Specificity) in terms of its importance to your daily work?**



The quotes below are typical of the additional comments received:

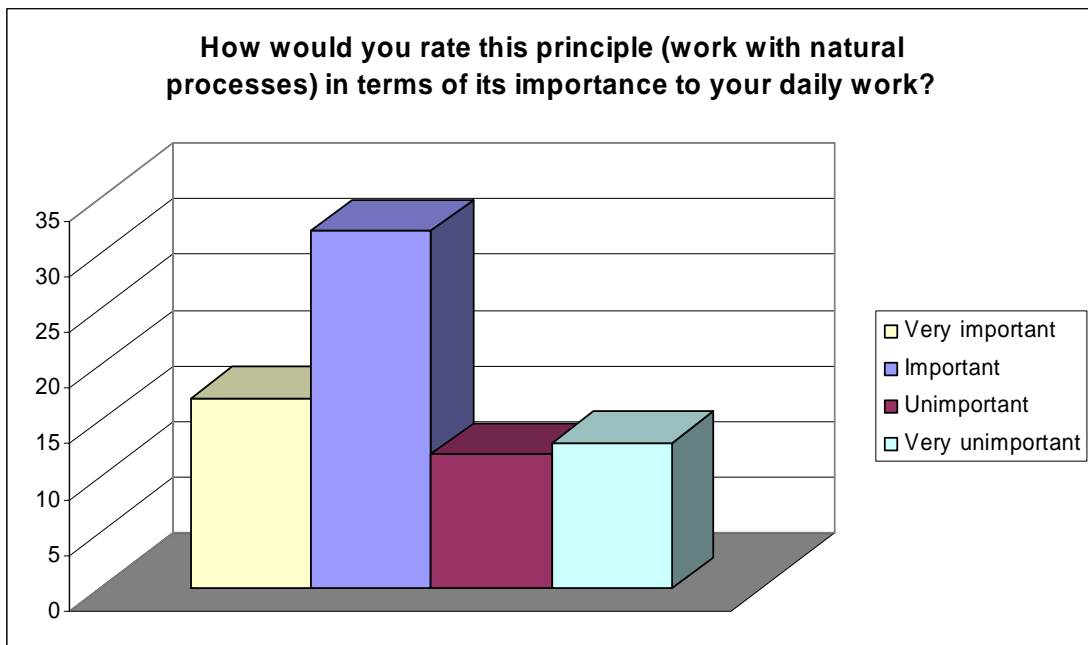
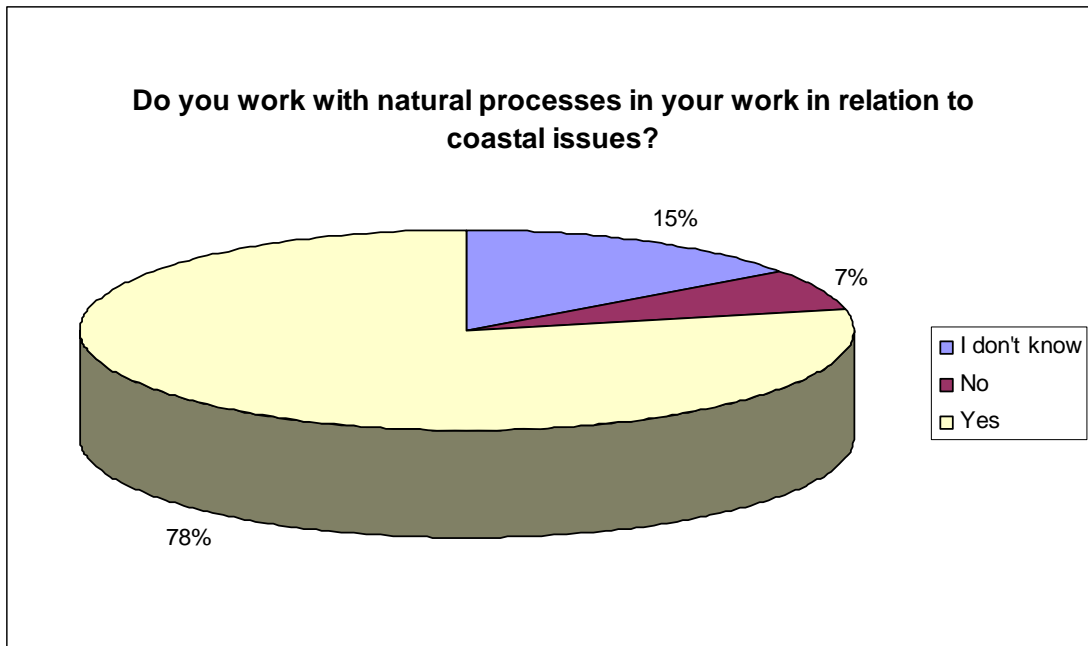
*“Local specificity is essential. Understanding erosion/accretion is necessary before undertaking small protections for economic development.”*

*“As part of the Nave Nortrail Project we have used recycled plastic marker posts and recycled planking for board walks to reduce maintenance costs and to combat vandalism as wooden structures have been used for beach Bonafiores in the past.”*

*“Our work is to take into account precisely these local Camargue aspects. As part of a study into the scope of the protection of sandy coastline, we have identified the main principles for the management of the Camargue coastline in consultation with local players and in accordance with the ICZM.”*

*“Often local specificity can take the form of the local political and cultural considerations and attitudes as distinct from purely scientific ones. Sometimes these can compromise a more scientific-based approach rather than complementing it.”*

The comments ranged from specific practice based comments through to the more general comment picking out the importance of political and cultural considerations. Respondents appeared to understand the principle and consider it important.



The quotes below are typical of the additional comments received:

*“This is a core element in the development of ecosystems approaches to environmental regulation and to the general management of natural resources.”*

*“Zoning of activities at beach. Controlling concentrated human impact on delicate site - creation of boardwalks etc.”*

*“Understanding human activities is critical to understanding how eco-systems were created. This enables understanding of great differences of ecology between islands whose “natural” basis is v. similar. e.g. Eday (heath) and Shapinsay (improved agriculture)”.*

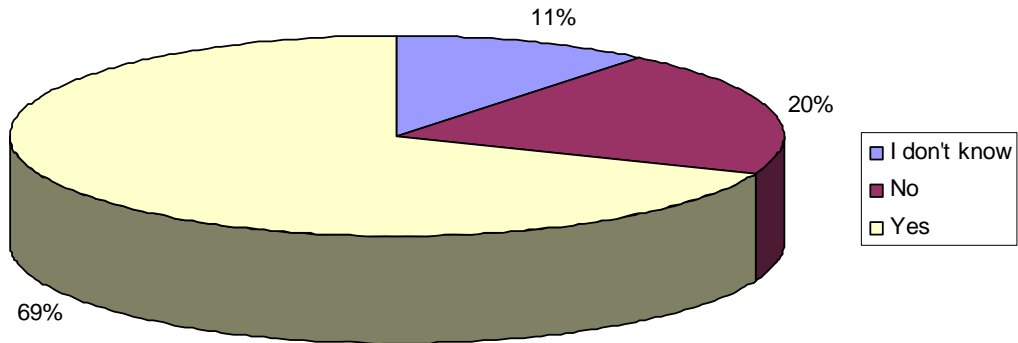
*“Yes, but the ICZM is often considered by scientists as a receptacle for their scientific expertise in environmental processes. They also need to take into account the realities and needs of societies.*

*For our part, we are particularly advanced when it comes to development quality integration in aquatic environments (joint drafting of a SCOT and a SAGE in shellfish territory).”*

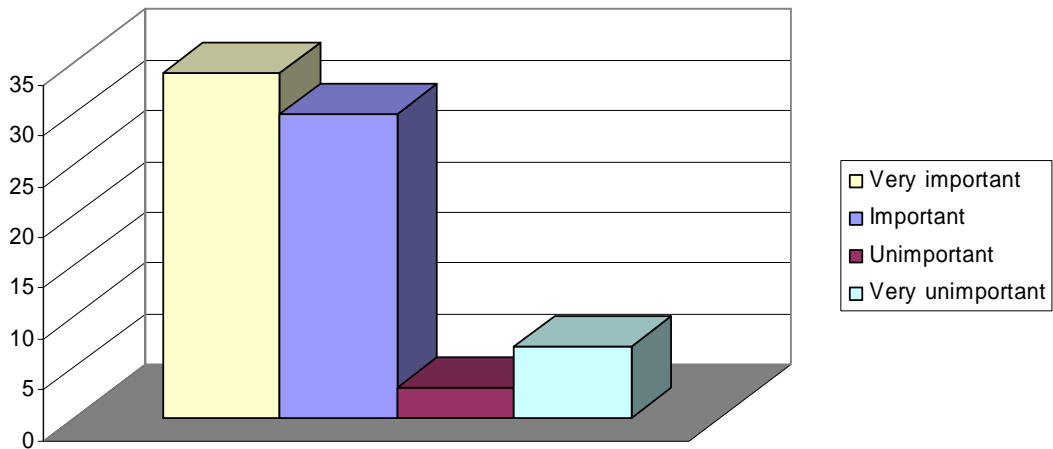
*“large sections of coastal area are internationally important for wading birds. Planning policy implementation is guided by this. Local biodiversity strategy also proposes protection and enhancement of these habitats”*

Generally there appears to be a good understanding of this principle although there is some overlap with the type of examples that were quoted under local specificity and there is the reference to scientists above that might indicate some communication issues between scientists and practitioners in this instance.

**Do you involve all bodies, including social partners, NGOs, business representative in your work in relation to coastal issues?**



**How would you rate this principle (Involve all bodies social partners, NGO's and businesses) in terms of its importance to your daily work?**



The quotes below are typical of the additional comments received:

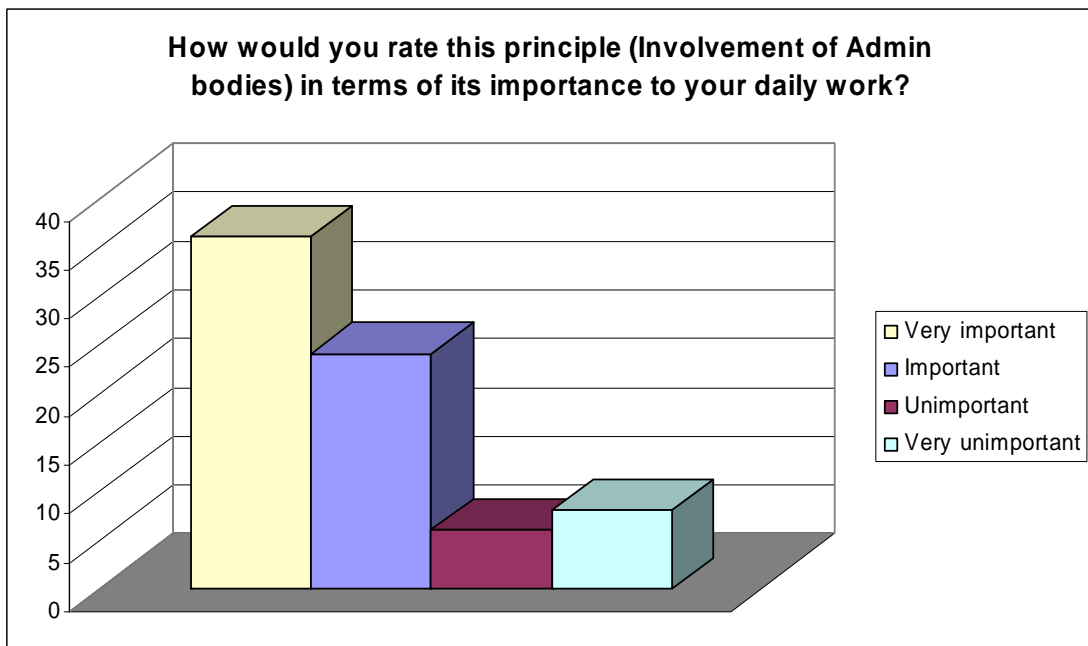
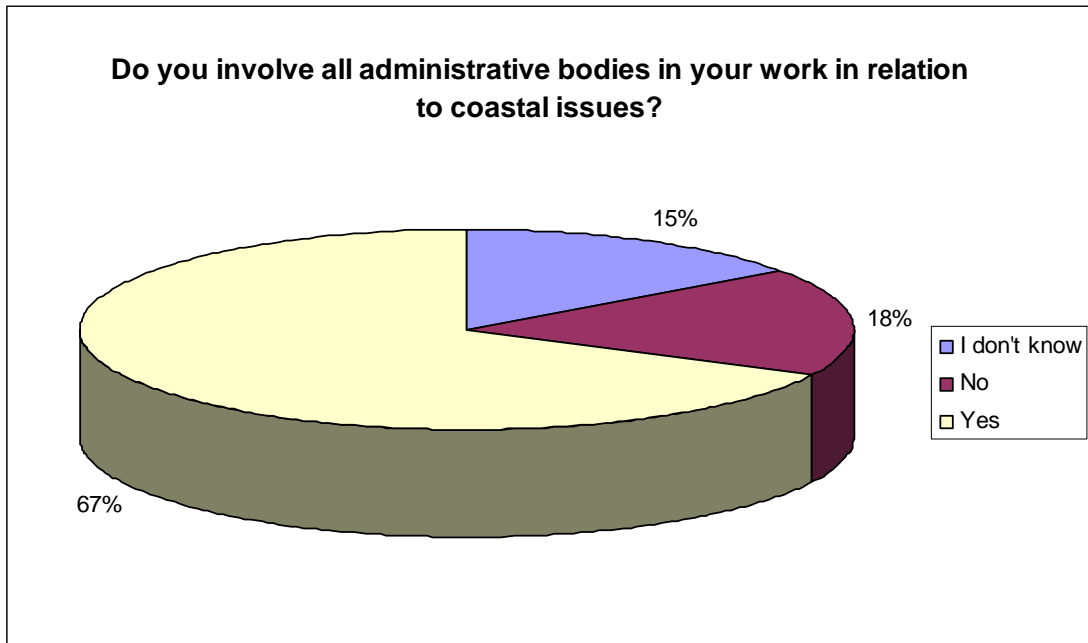
*"We do our best. However, not all bodies necessarily wish to become involved. There are major problems for example in the protection of facilities for recreational sailors in areas subject to developmental pressures for housing and other development."*

*"Involvement through high level stakeholder group, but more could be done to identify and involve the major players."*

*"Our initiative is implemented as part of an overarching involvement, except in the case of the Region, as stated above. Over 120 institutions, associations and groups are actively working together. The process is subject to scientific and methodological support (CEMAGREF) and to external scrutiny (University of Delft, in the Netherlands)."*

*“At this point no but would aspire to do so in future.”*

There seems to be acceptance of the need for this approach but variation in terms of achieving it which appears to be either due to resources or to the bodies concerned not being identified or wishing to be involved.



The quotes below are typical of the additional comments received:

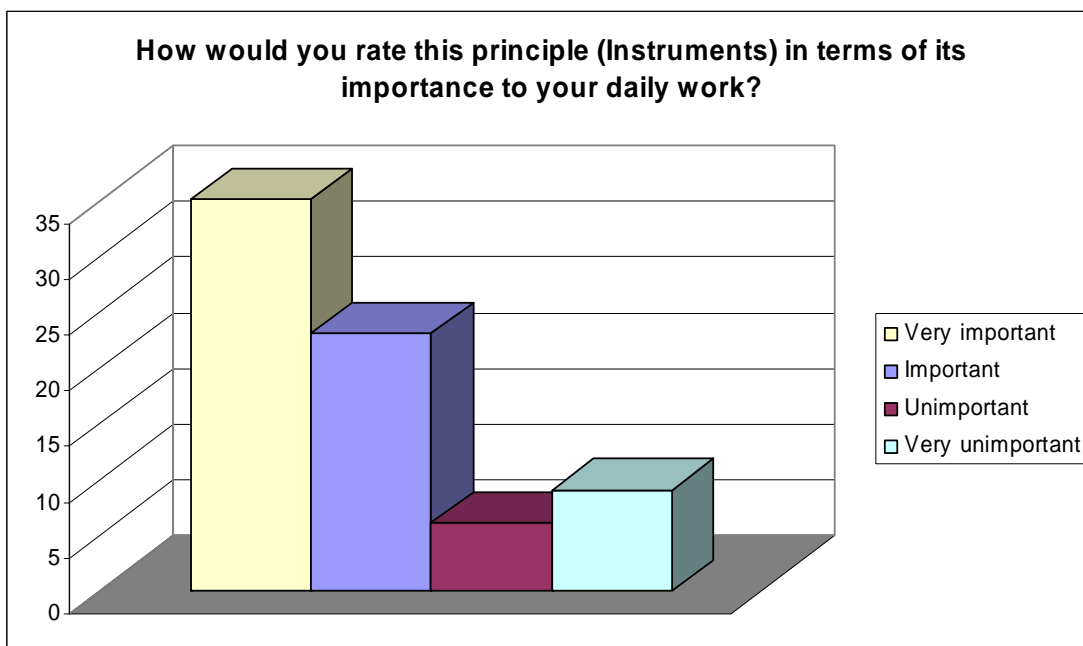
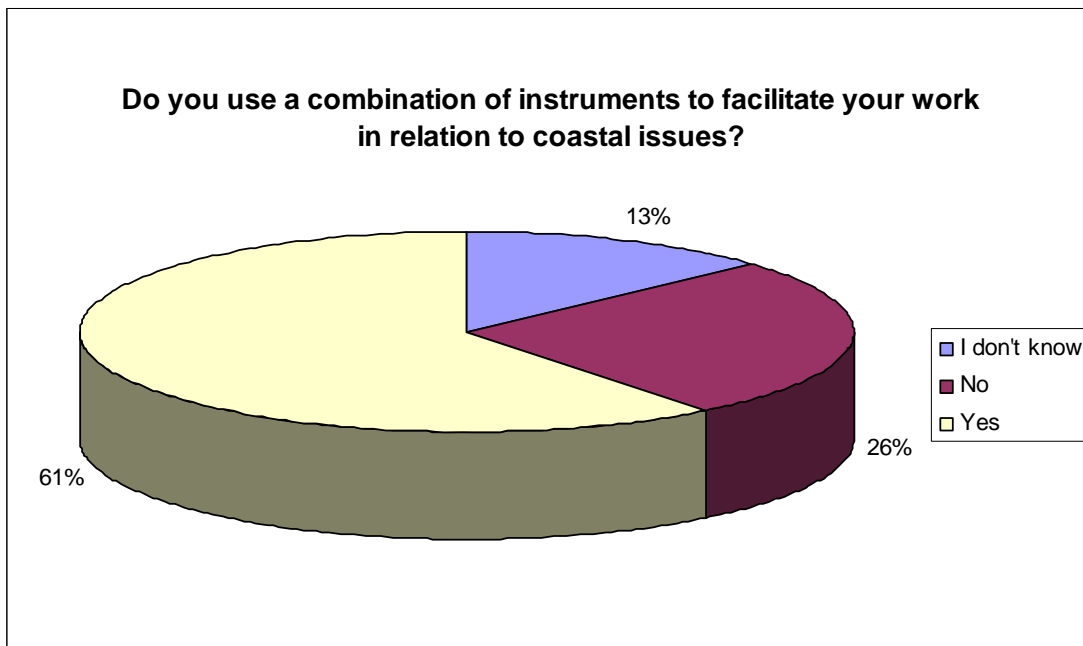
*“There are plenty of examples of vertical & horizontal integration in the management systems and in the collation of data for the marine spatial planning tools. But would be disingenuous to say all are involved, though the invite is out.”*

*“Though legal and administrative coherence are essential to effective environmental regulation, some administrative authorities are more ready to engage in policy discourse than others! “*

*“We try and involve local administrative bodies in their local area of coastline, where we have an interest in that area, thus giving them greater control and the opportunity for joined up thinking across the coastal zone as far as MLW”*

There seems to be a good understanding of what this principle requires but frequent concerns about getting the relevant bodies involved whether it be obvious statements or more subtle references such as ‘*we try*’.





The quotes below illustrate some of the additional comments received:

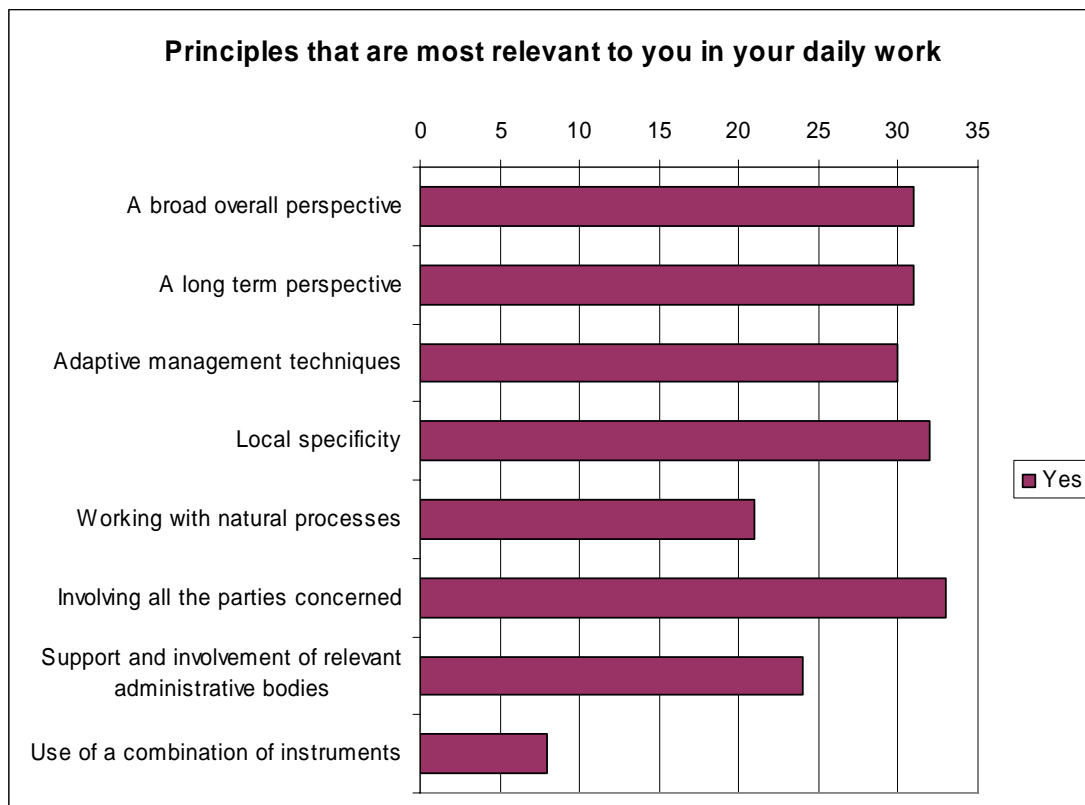
*“Combination of Instruments ??”*

*“I don't know what this means.”*

*“Introduction of “inter-party” information and communications instruments: Bi-monthly OWALA ICZM newsletter (ICZM Guyana); drafting of a “regulatory book” and a “scientific book” respectively summarising all the regulatory measures and the scientific studies applicable to the relevant zone = making it easier to read these documents for territory managers”*

*"I am unclear exactly what this means in practice for the NGO sector. We try to influence these things but have no statutory responsibility for them (or formal rights in these matters)"*

There seemed to be some understanding from a limited number of respondents but it was apparent that this was the most poorly understood of the principles.



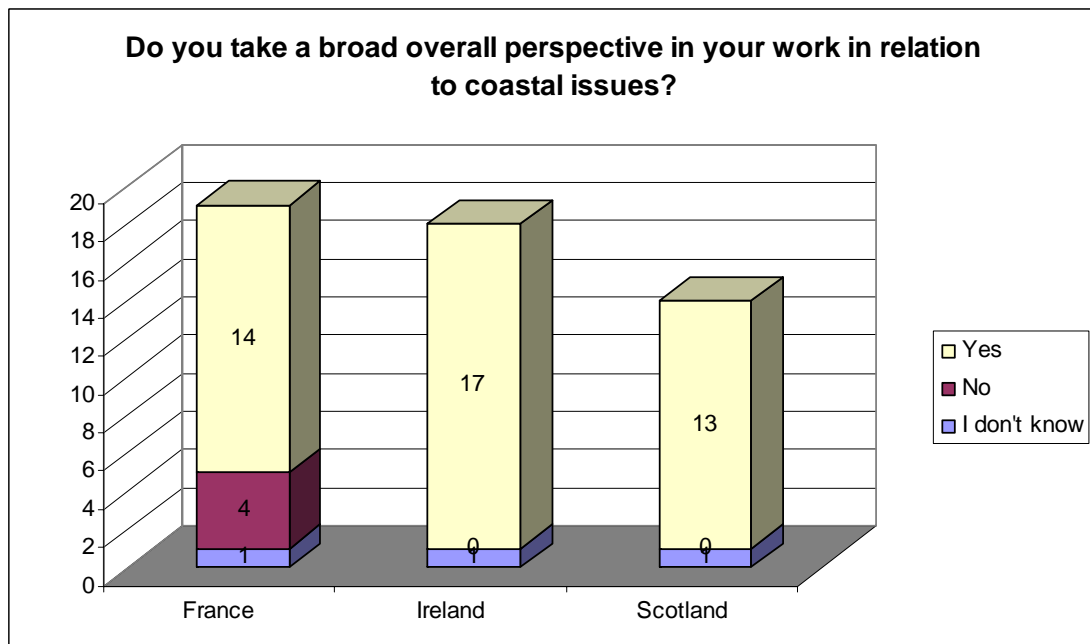
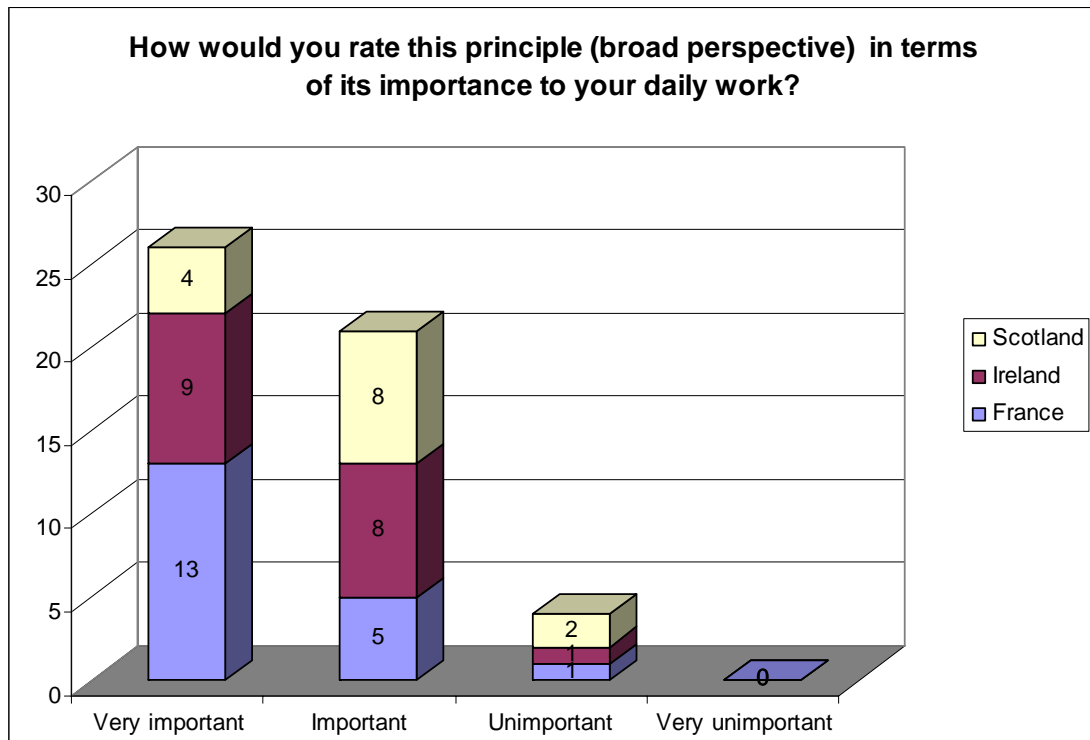
The following comment was halfway through the questions relating to the principles but is useful in identifying that many of the principles are common sense although the language does not always help,

*“As with all of the others, so far, this is common sense and does not just apply to coastal issues.”*

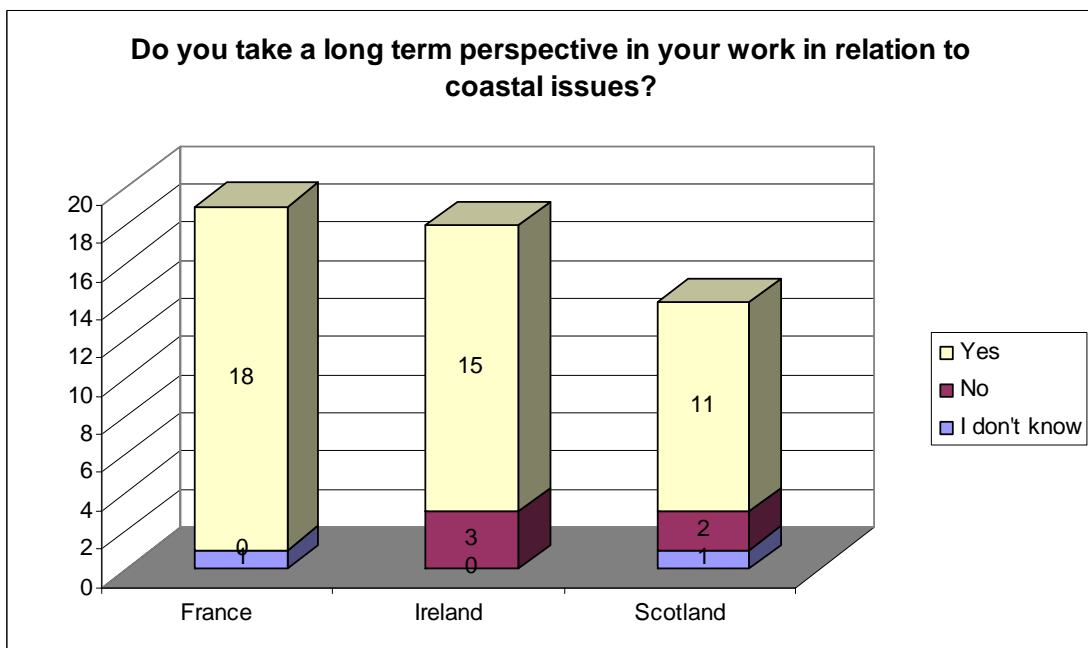
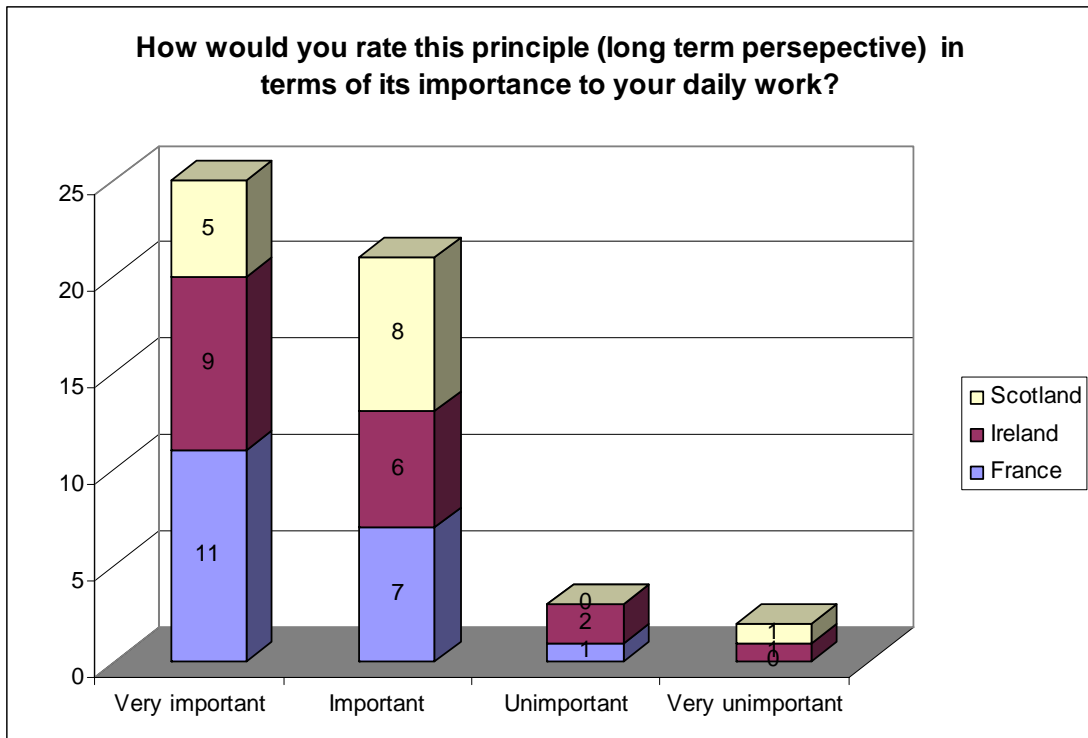
The respondents were asked to pick their top three of the principles the results of which are illustrated above. It is not surprising that the ‘use of a combination of instruments’ was least favourite given the poor understanding of this principle. Whilst not particularly far behind the favourites it may be considered surprising that ‘working with natural processes’ did not fare better but maybe this reflects the difficulty of defining what this means combined with the fact that it may be considered an obvious requirement built into most actions.

#### 4.0 Analysis of national differences between three countries

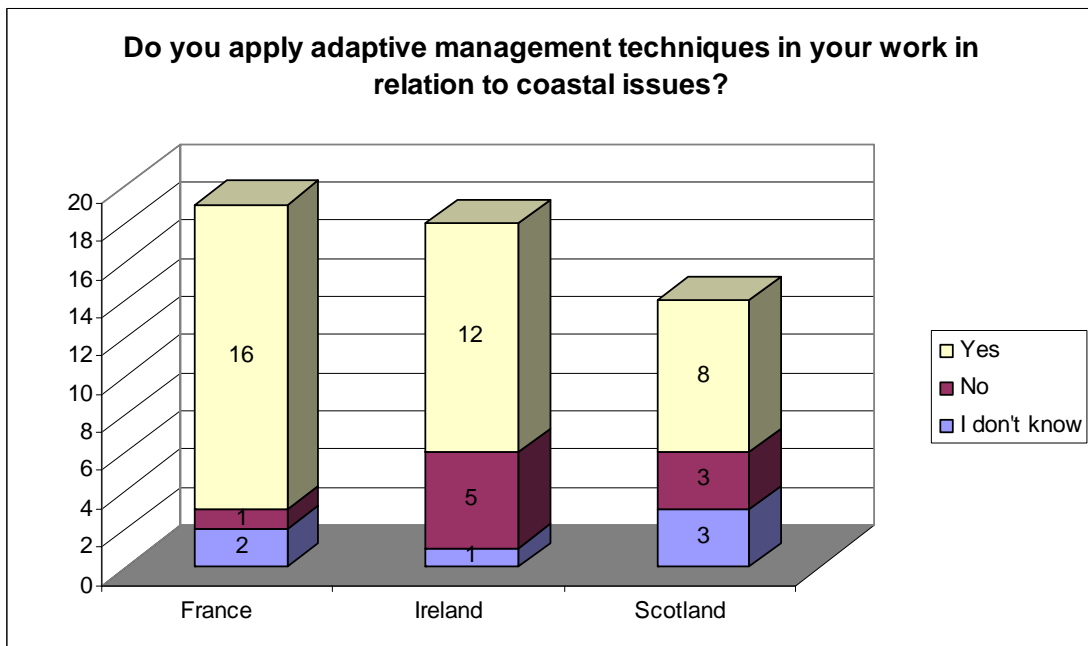
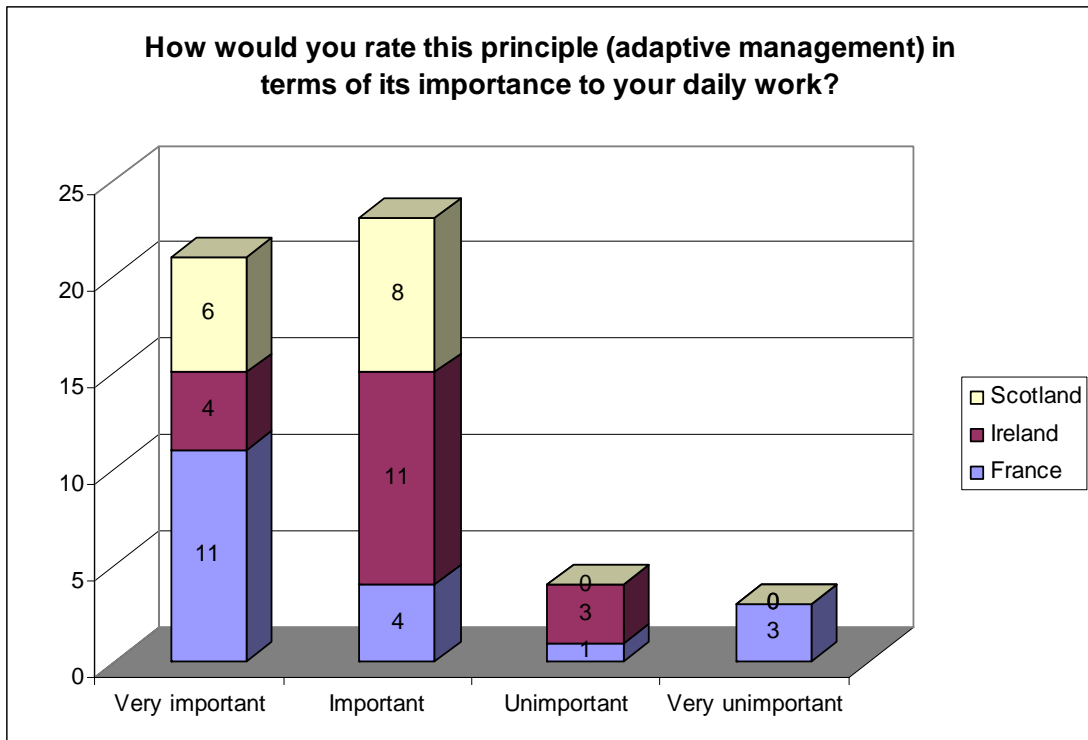
Below is a comparison of the response for the same questions as the previous section but split down for Scotland, Ireland and France to see if there were any national differences indicated.



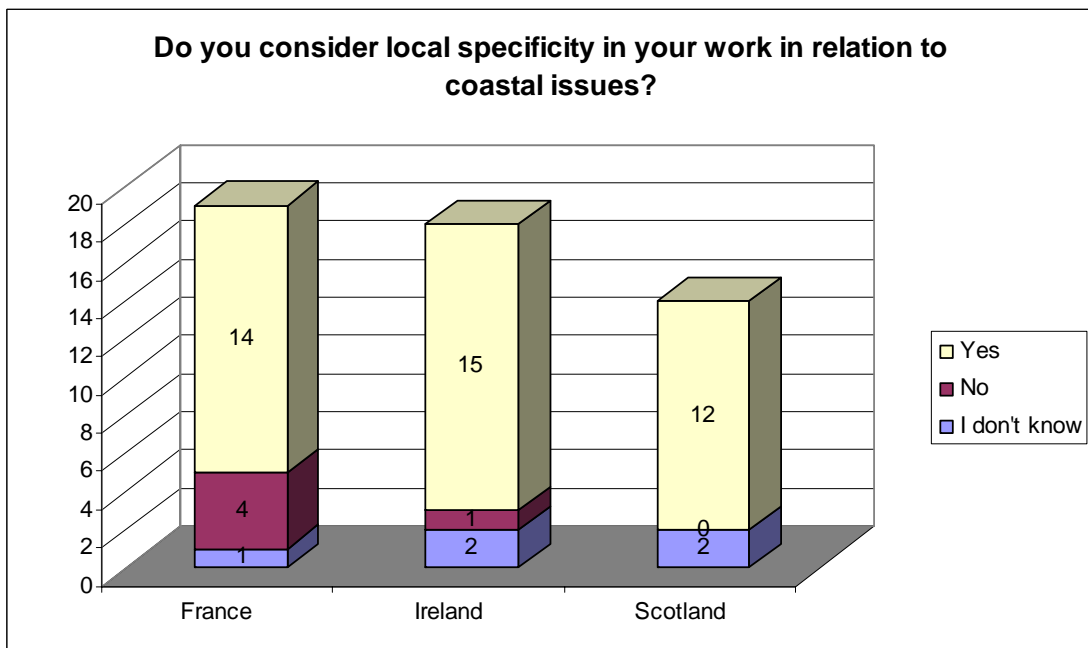
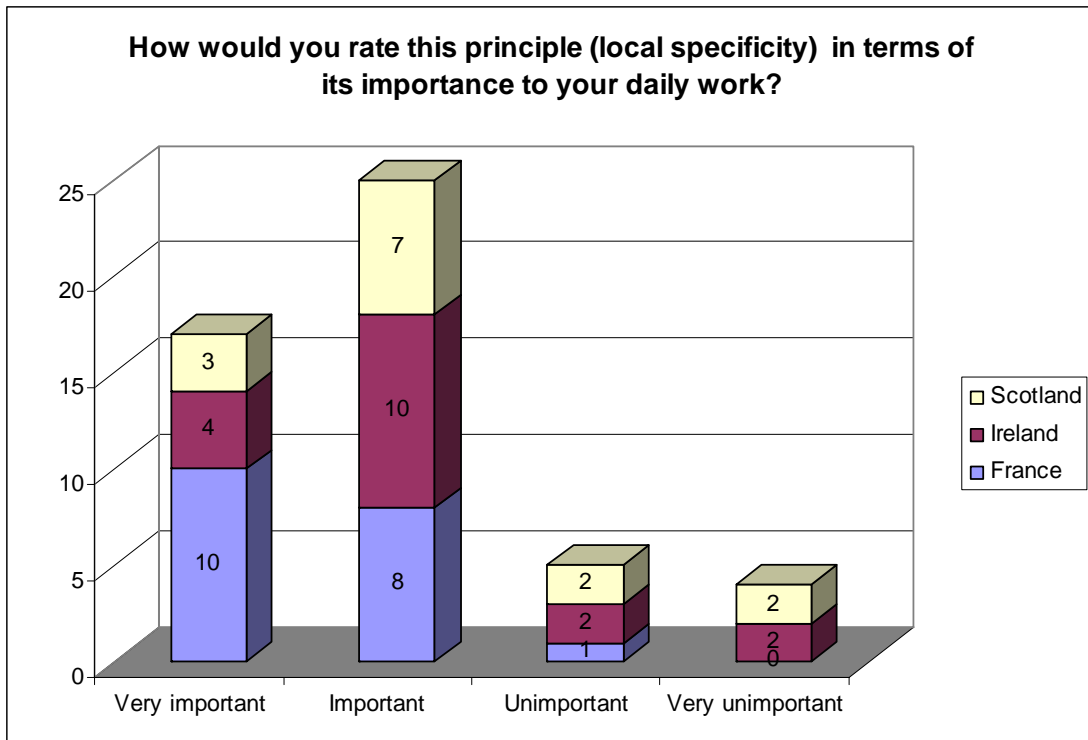
Some of the French respondents considered that they did not take a broad perspective, not the case for Ireland or Scotland, but general agreement on its importance.



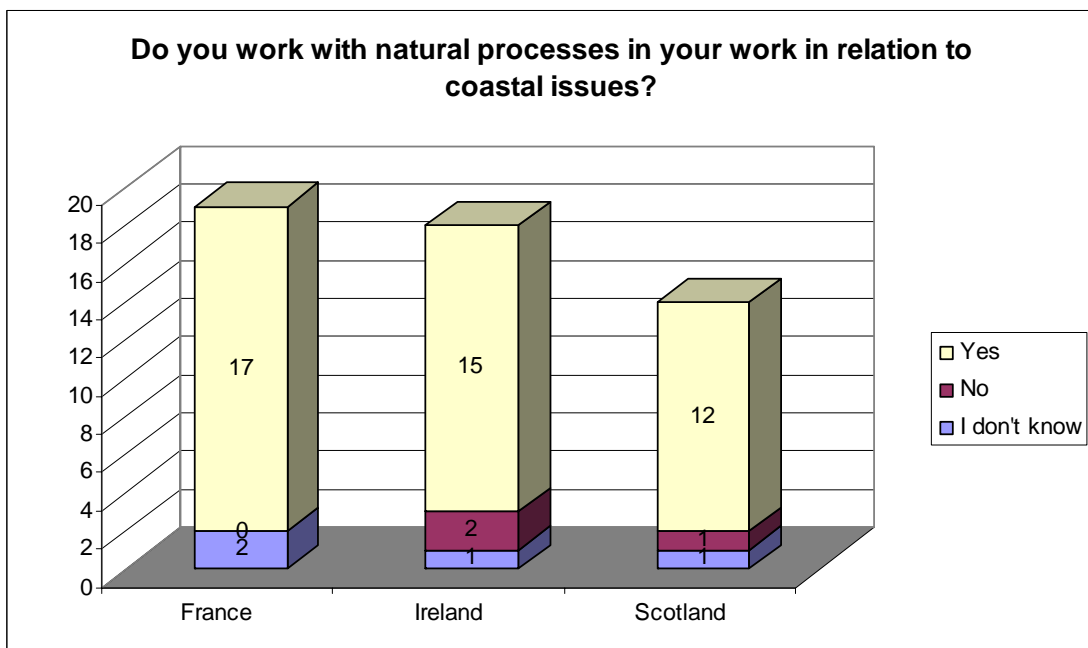
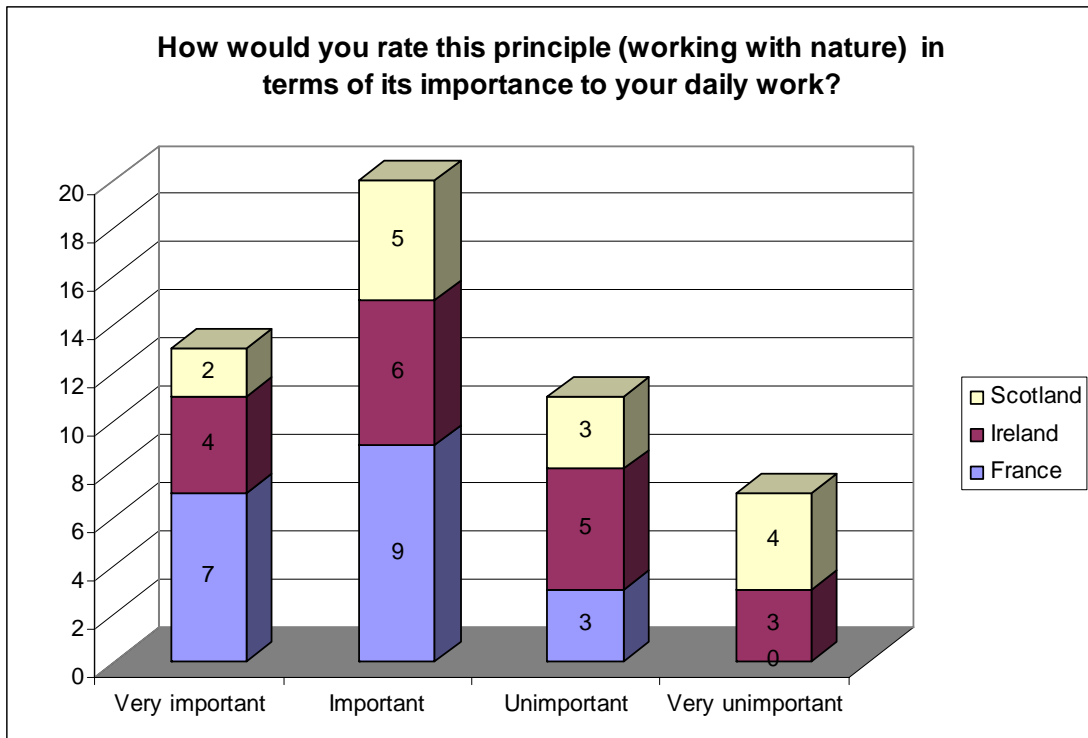
There were some respondents from Ireland and Scotland who considered that they did not apply this principle although there was general agreement that it was important.



Less consensus on the importance of this principle with Ireland and Scotland having the most negative responses to its application.

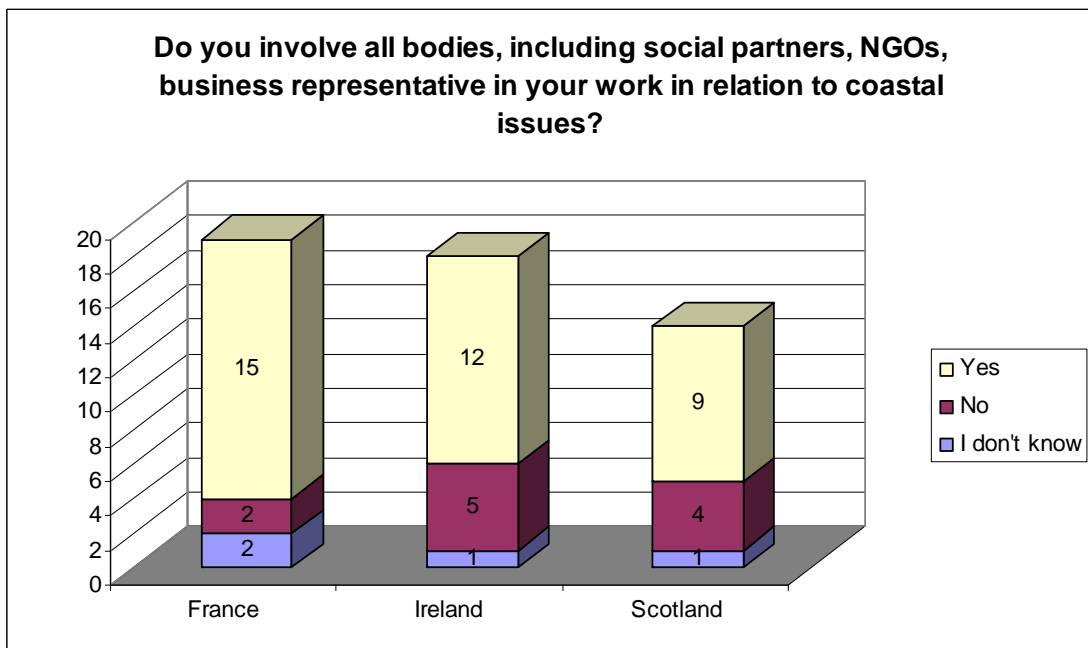
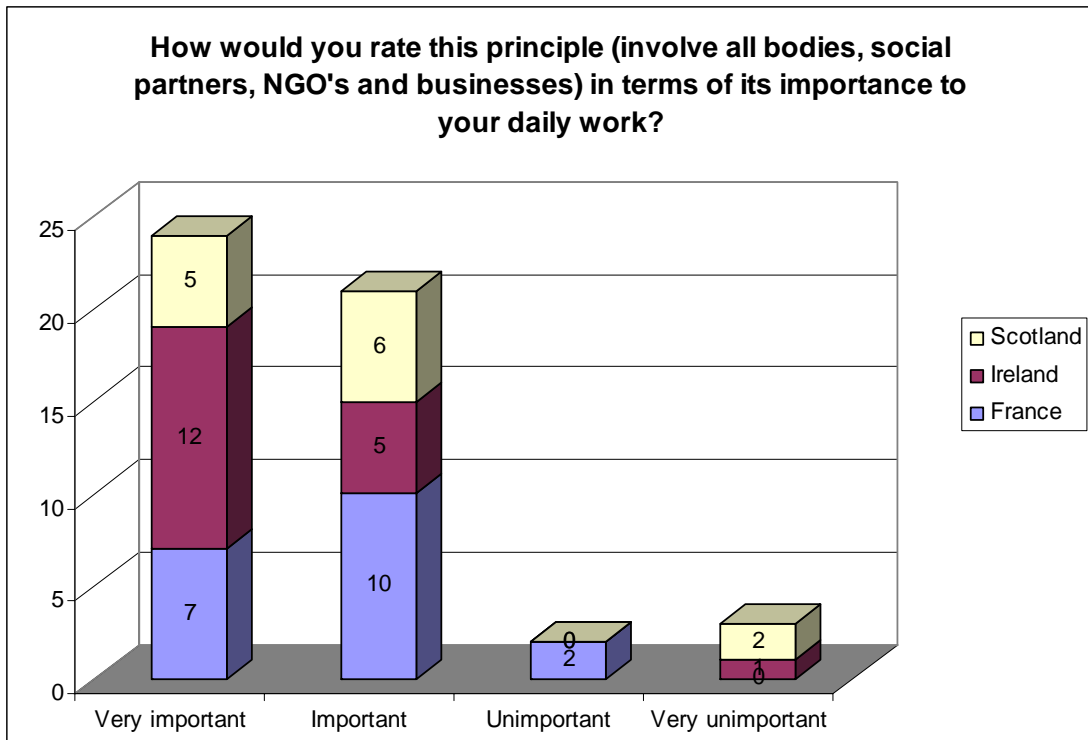


Again less consensus on its importance and the French having the most who do not appear to apply the principle.

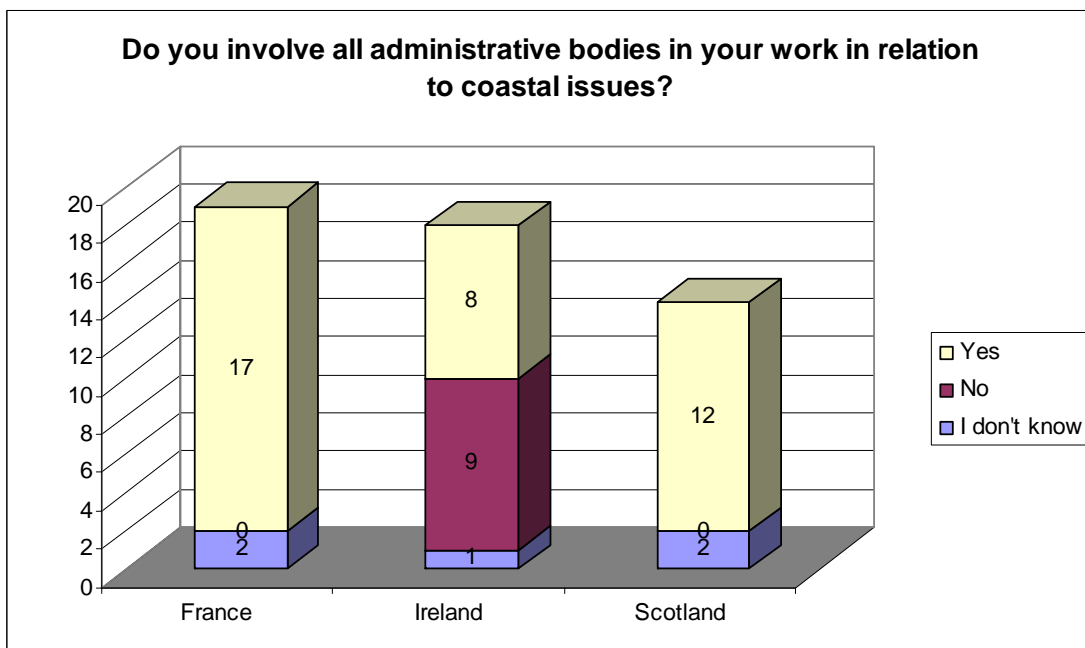
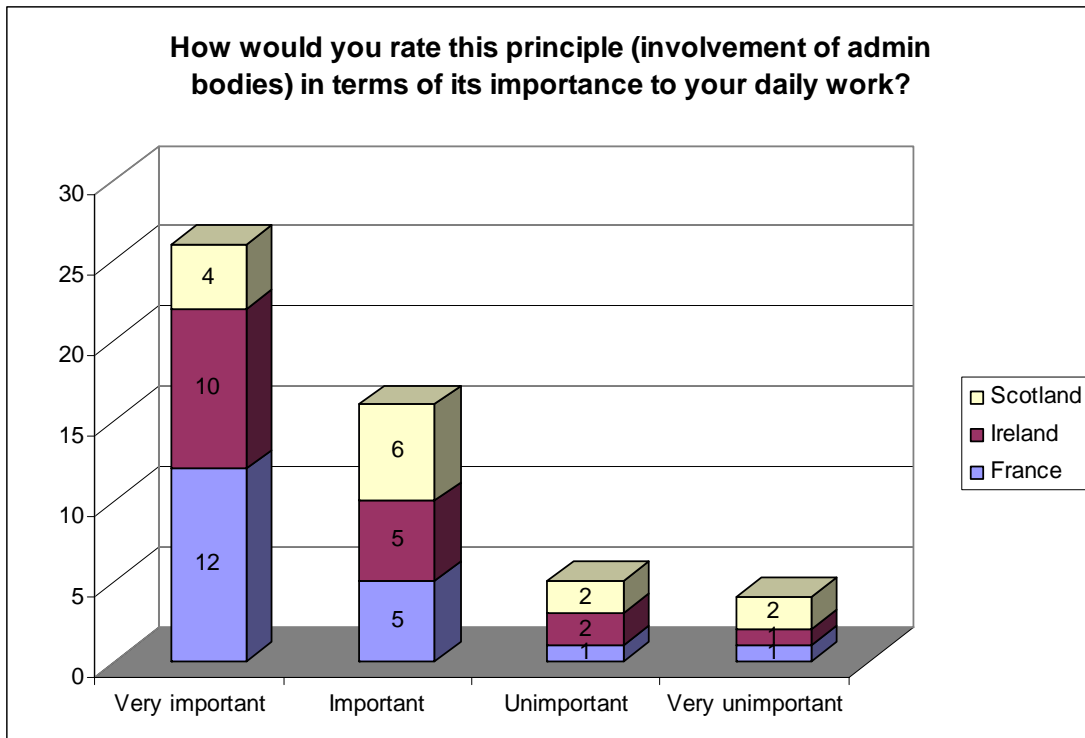


Substantial disagreement on the importance of the principle although the vast majority felt that they were applying it.

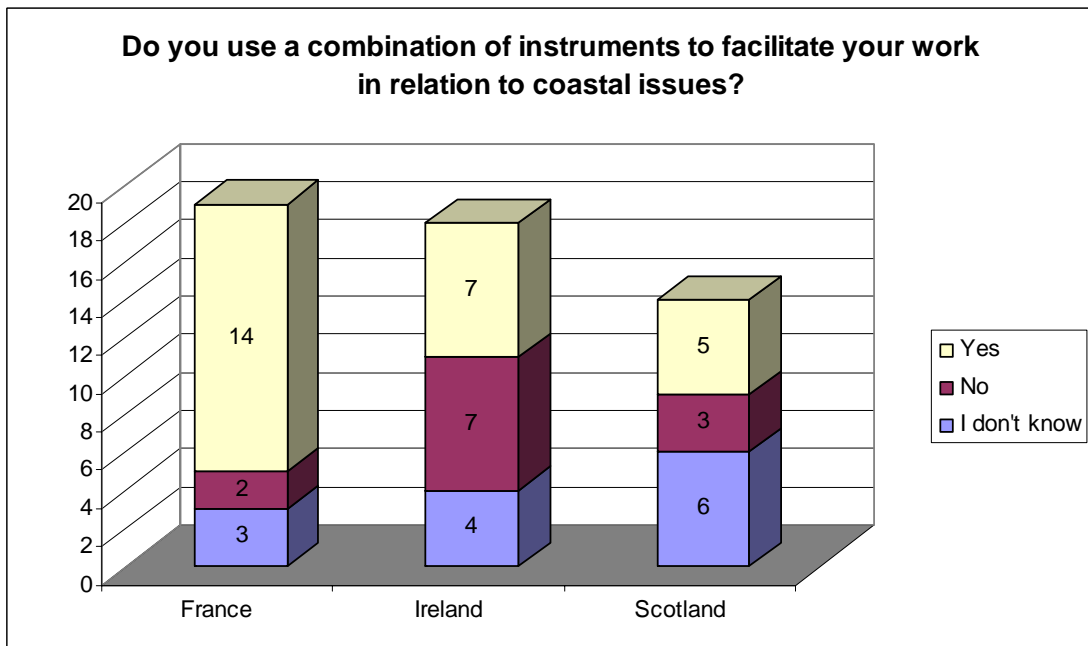
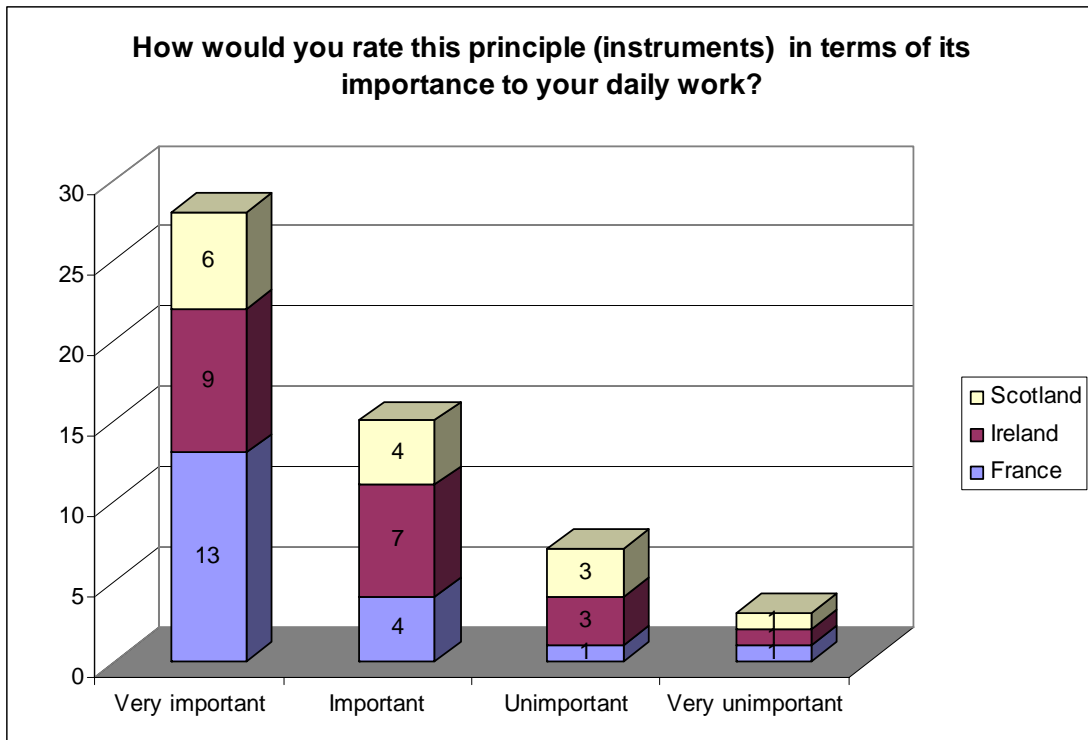




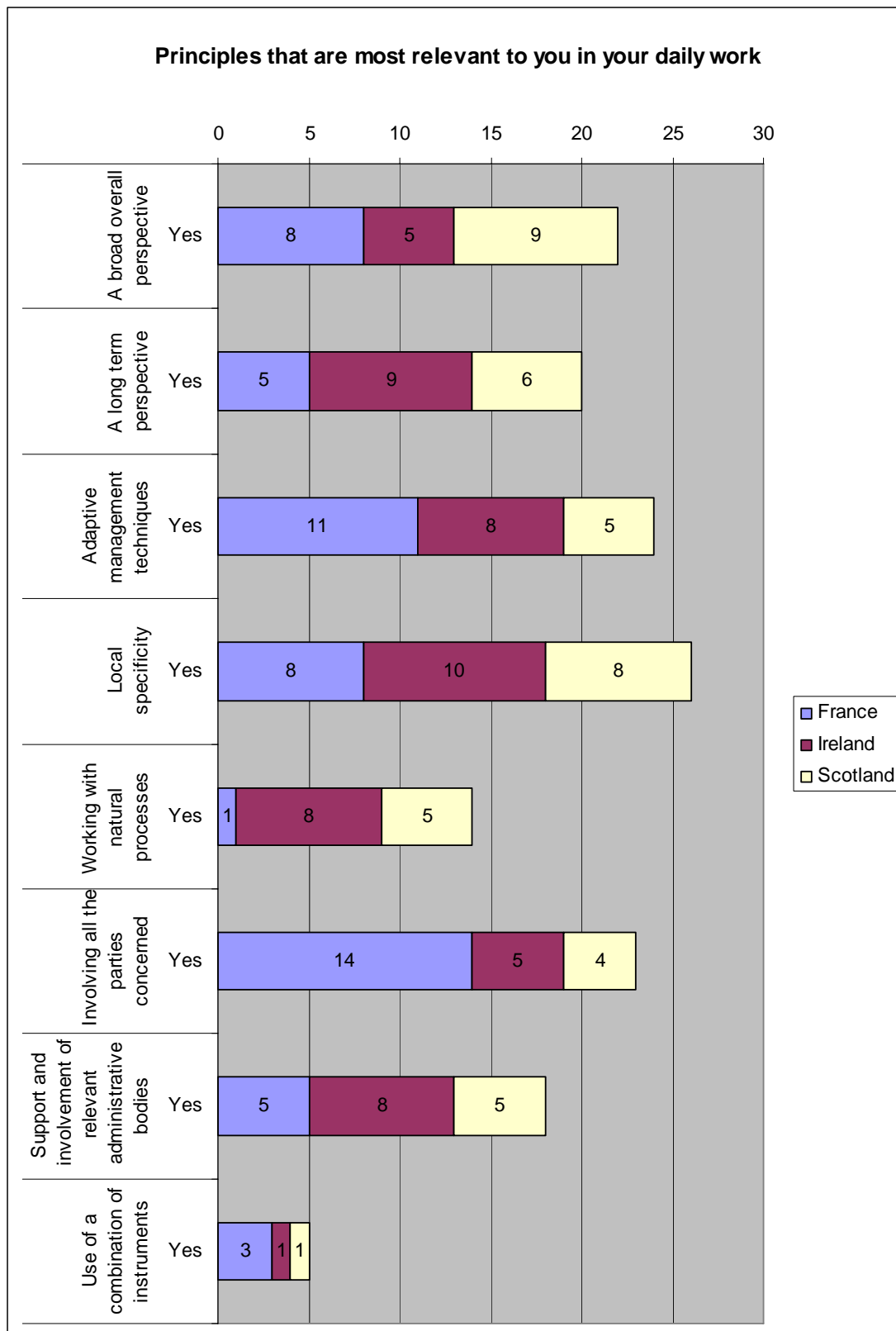
Good consensus on its importance but clearly problems in its application especially in Ireland and Scotland.



Good consensus on its importance but clearly problems in its application in Ireland.



Less consensus on its importance with an apparent lack of application from a number of respondents in all countries but especially Ireland.



Whilst there is a reflection of the general results, as you would expect, in terms of the use of a combination of instruments and working with natural processes having a low ranking there are some apparent differences in terms of national perspectives. The French seem to rank adaptive management and involvement of all bodies more highly

whilst the Irish prefer the long term and local specificity principles; Scotland's preference being for the broad perspective and local specificity.

## 5.0 Summary

There were 68 responses received with France, Ireland and Scotland achieving the best response rates. The responses indicated less than 50% awareness of the principles but despite this most of the principles appeared to be well understood with adaptive management and a combination of instruments being the exceptions.

There were concerns expressed about the implementation of some of the principles ranging from having the resources to apply them to the problems of getting other bodies (general or administrative) to collaborate. There appeared to be some issues with working with natural processes in that while it was understood it was not ranked highly.

When considering Ireland, Scotland and France there were differences in the responses with the principle of working with natural processes showing some disagreement. Even where there was agreement on the importance of a principle there were apparent differences in application of the principle between countries which might reflect conditions within that country.

Whilst a relatively small sample this survey does provide some useful results in terms of identification of problems with understanding of some principles, identification that many of the principles are understood regardless of awareness of the principles as set out by the European Union. There are national variations in the ranking and application of the principles. All of these aspects would benefit from further investigation.

## **COREPOINT**

The coastlines of northwest Europe are facing a growing range of threats due to both human activities and natural environmental change. The management of these threats is complex both due to the range of interests and the fragmented nature of the administrative arrangements. There have been a number of problems identified in relation to addressing these threats in a sustainable manner and the COREPOINT project seeks to address some of them.

**Overall Objective: The principal goal of the project is to establish NW Europe as an internationally recognised region of excellence in coastal management. This will be achieved by successfully meeting the following objectives:**

- Build European and local capacity to implement integrated coastal zone management programmes.
- Provide concrete solutions for current problems in the Northwest European region using current best practice approaches and identify models for sustaining ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) initiatives.
- Promote social and political responsibility for the coastal environment.
- Influence national spatial policy development in response to the EU recommendation on ICZM.
- Develop an integrated coastal information management system for Northwest Europe.

Some of the key issues that this project seeks to address are:

- Lack of integrated planning and management to achieve sustainable development of the NW Europe coastal zone.
- Lack of engagement and open communication with stakeholders, including political representatives and the general public.
- Poor links between researchers and policy makers.
- Lack of sustained capacity and expertise within local authorities.
- Disproportionate levels of progress on ICZM in Northwest Europe.

One element of this project is the consideration of Collaborative Working, this approach to the delivery of some of the aspects of coastal zone management appears to be widely used in the UK but not in other partner states. In the UK it is widely used to address a range of problems such as regeneration or the delivery of health services as it facilitates the integration of what have been traditionally sectorial approaches to these problems. Given this it is considered to be beneficial to review the literature available on Collaborative working and produce a brief guide for practitioners to aid the delivery of ICZM.