

**NEWSLETTER**  
2006/02



## Establishing North West Europe as an Internationally Recognised Region of Excellence in Coastal Management



Photo: Hester Whyte

## CONTENTS

- ▶ Workshop on Implementation of Local Information Systems, University of Cardiff
- ▶ North-East England regional ICZM stock take to promote regional engagement in ICZM, Envision
- ▶ Questioning the current partnership approaches to ICZM, University of Ulster
- ▶ Agenda
- ▶ Contact details & project partners

[WWW.COREPOINT.ORG](http://WWW.COREPOINT.ORG)



The COREPOINT project is a European project which aims to build capacity for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) at a number of levels. The project brings together geographers, economists, planners, engineers, natural scientists, lawyers and resource managers to undertake a unique analysis of contemporary European coastal policy.

This European Union project is funded through the Interreg IIIB programme and involves 5 countries (Ireland, UK, France, Belgium & The Netherlands)

## PROJECT & PARTNER ACTIVITIES

### Workshop on Implementation of Local Information Systems, University of Cardiff, Wales

Representatives of seven partner organisations met for a two day workshop at the Gregynog Conference centre, in mid Wales, UK during August 2006.

The workshop was hosted by the Marine and Coastal Environment Research Group of Cardiff University, and the University of Wales conference centre provided a stimulating location to reflect on the achievements and lessons learnt within COREPOINT Action 4.6 *Implementation of Local Information Systems*. This is an important field of research as it is at the local level that many decisions about the coast are taken, and sharing information is very complex, with a great variety of stakeholders and sectors involved in Integrated Coastal Management. Despite the importance of mobilising understanding to solve coastal problems, a review of current practice showed that the application of Information and Communication Technologies at the coast often seems to end in failure.

The COREPOINT partners identified two key issues with which their organisations are concerned:

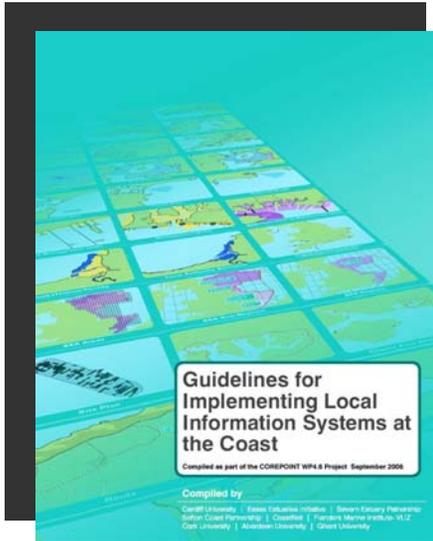
Responsible management of the legacy of their own internal data holdings

Encouraging the mobilisation of data and information to provide better informed coastal management. ►



*Gregynog workshop attendees © R.C. Ballinger, University of Cardiff*

# PROJECT & PARTNER ACTIVITIES



© University of Cardiff

The outputs of the conference will include a set of *Guidelines for Implementing Information Systems at the Coast*, which seek to distil the key experiences of the partners. Seven key methodological issues will be presented:

- Creating Systems with Clear Purposes
- Involving Users from Beginning to End
- Solving Technical Obstacles
- Deploying Appropriate Technologies
- Checking for Quality Assurance
- Implementation and Training
- Justifying Local Information Systems

The Partners also began to work on detailed plans for phase 2 of the project, in which the COREPOINT project will provide support for a number of ICZM workshops:

## Phase 1 Partners

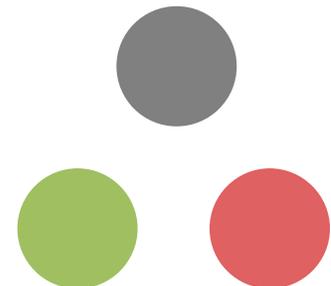
- Essex Estuaries Initiative in partnership with CoastNet: Development Control and Nature Conservation
- Sefton Coastal Partnership: Coastal Defence
- Severn Estuary Partnership: Strategic Environmental Assessment of Coastal Plans

## Phase 2 Partners

- Flanders Marine Institute in partnership with Ghent University: Contingency Planning on the Belgian coast
- Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, Cork University: Strategic Planning in Cork Harbour.
- Aberdeen University: Habitat Management on the Fal Estuary. ■

## 2007

- **Oceans '07 –Marine challenges: Coastline to Deep Sea**, 18-21 June, Aberdeen, UK
- **Corepoint progress meeting**, 26 & 27 June, Newcastle, UK ( for project partners only)
- **Eco-Imagine Training Course – ICZM and the Geospatial Technologies**, 23-27 July. [www.eco-imagine-aberdeen.org.uk](http://www.eco-imagine-aberdeen.org.uk)



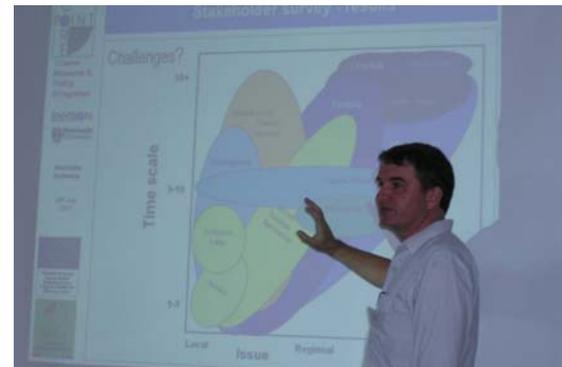
AGENDA

## North-East England regional ICZM stock take to promote regional engagement in ICZM, Envision, North-East England

To promote regional level integration in coastal management a North-East England regional ICZM stocktake was commissioned by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) and implemented by ENVISION and the University of Newcastle. The NE ICZM stocktake was launched at a workshop on 18th July 2006 called "Our Vibrant Coasts". The workshop aimed to validate the 12 Recommendations for moving forward in ICZM in the NE region identified by the ICZM stocktake. The workshop was attended by delegates from the statutory and non-statutory agencies, NGO's and commercial organisations. Graham Lymbery (COREPOINT partner: Sefton County Council) was invited to the event to provide an independent view of ICZM progress in the NE and to provide insights from work in the NW region of England.

The production of a regional stocktake by a statutory agency is unique in the UK and probably across Europe. The importance of high-level support and local-level support for ICZM is well documented. However, using an ICZM stocktake to promote regional engagement in ICZM is an exciting advancement in implementation of the EU 2002 ICZM Recommendation within the NE English region. ■

*Jeremy Hills (ENVISION)  
explaining coastal issues  
in the NE of England as  
part of the NE ICZM  
stocktake workshop in  
July 2006  
© ENVISION*



## Questioning the current partnership approaches to ICZM, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland

John McKenna and Andrew Cooper have made a number of contributions intended to stimulate the national debate on ICZM with presentations at the Royal Geographical Society's Annual meeting in London at the end of August 2006, and a forthcoming publication in the Society's journal *Area* entitled "*Sacred Cows in coastal management: The need for a 'cheap and transitory' model*". In the RGS presentation and journal article they question the current partnership approaches to ICZM in the absence of a legal framework, and argue for the necessity of a predominantly top-down statutory basis to advance ICZM. The essence of their argument is that a non-sustainable structure such as a partnership, characterised by insecurities of funding and short-term employment, and forced to rely on the compromised power of consensus, is a most unlikely way to deliver sustainable coastal management.

In a related presentation on the social justice aspects of coastal protection they presented a case for coastal users that contrasts with the case made by coastal property holders and landowners, and argue that there is a wider question of social justice in coastal protection. The question of the temporal element was also raised, and it was argued that there is an element of inter-generational justice to shoreline protection. The current generation is still paying the price for Victorian defences and any new defences will place a burden on future generations. Therefore the superficially convincing social justice argument for coastal protection for today's coastal inhabitants is countered by arguments based on the concept of inter-generational justice. ■

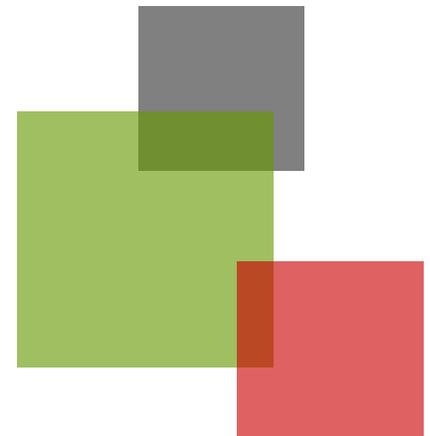


Photo: Hester Whyte



[www.coastweb.info](http://www.coastweb.info)

CoastWeb is a unique and intelligent coastal and marine portal, developed and managed by CoastNet, and partially funded through the Corepoint project.



# CONTACT DETAILS

**CMRC contact:**  
**Coastal and Marine  
 Resources Centre**  
**Naval Base  
 Haulbowline  
 Cobh  
 Co. Cork  
 Ireland**

**Tel:** 00 353 (0)21 4703100  
**Fax:** 00 353 (0)21 4703132

**Project Co-ordinator:**  
 Valerie Cummins  
**E-mail:** v.cummins@ucc.ie

**Project Manager:**  
 Jeremy Gault  
**E-mail:** j.gault@ucc.ie



[WWW.COREPOINT.ORG](http://WWW.COREPOINT.ORG)

# PROJECT PARTNERS

**The COREPOINT project is a partnership of 12 research groups and local authorities across North West Europe**



Coastal and Marine Resources Centre (UCC)

<http://cmrc.ucc.ie>

CoastNET - The Coastal Network  
 Championing sustainable coasts and seas



[www.coastnet.org.uk](http://www.coastnet.org.uk)



Centre for Coastal and Marine Research (UUC)

[www.science.ulster.ac.uk/ccmr](http://www.science.ulster.ac.uk/ccmr)

Marine Law and Ocean Policy Centre (NUIG)



<http://mriuigalway.ie/marinelaw>



Aberdeen Institute for Coastal Science & Management

[www.abdn.ac.uk/aicsm](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/aicsm)

Cork County Council Planning Department



[www.corkcoco.com](http://www.corkcoco.com)



Marine and Coastal Environment Group (Cardiff)

[www.severnestuary.net](http://www.severnestuary.net)

EUCC - The Coastal Union



[www.eucc.nl](http://www.eucc.nl)



Maritiem Instituut (University of Ghent)

[www.maritieminstituut.be](http://www.maritieminstituut.be)

[www.envision.uk.com](http://www.envision.uk.com)



Envision - Mapping and Environmental Management



University of Western Brittany (+ IFREMER)

[www.univ-brest.fr](http://www.univ-brest.fr)

[www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)



Sefton Borough Council

Design and lay out: Hester Whyte, ENVISION