



Introduction

The aim of the Littoral2010 conference was to develop a **holistic view of the priorities for integrated management** across the social, political, economic and environmental divides that uniquely characterise the coast.

The themes of the conference reflected the three aspects of global change:

THEME 1: Global change and managing environmental risk;

THEME 2: Developing the marine and coastal economy, and

THEME 3: Tackling inequality in coastal communities.

Each theme was examined from the perspectives of **leadership, innovation and investment**. This framework provides the basis for an analysis of coastal regions and their management and a means of addressing **critical questions** including:

- Which are the **barriers to improved management** of coasts and nearshore marine systems?
- Where are the **knowledge gaps** and how can we improve management?
- What are the **priorities**?
- Do lessons learned identify **good practices** that can be widely applied, and what are the respective **roles and responsibilities** of the many different actors?
- What are the gains to be achieved through the integrated, holistic approach promoted by the **concept of integrated coastal zone management**?

These are important questions. Our coasts are important assets that have suffered from poor management in the past. Not only do we still struggle to make more integrated policy, but we also have to work within a legacy of past mistakes. Such is the pace of change in the world today that we need **new perspectives, new tools and new policies** now. The consequences of failure are increased risk, increased cultural and economic loss, and continued loss of biodiversity.

Sponsors included: EUCC, SPICOSA, Natural England, JNCC.

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