

# The needs and role of the maritime industry as a coastal stakeholder in ICZM - UK

## 1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

## 2. Key Approaches

- Participation
- Knowledge-based
- Socio-economic

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

Maritime organisations and companies of many different types can participate initiative, and contribute to, ICZM platforms leading to a sustainable use of the coast at a local level.

## 4. Overview of the case

Since 1995, the Solent Forum has provided a platform to deliver ICZM in the Solent sub-region of the south-east UK. It operates at a strategic coastal management level, providing a network for closer working relationships, information dissemination and discussion of topical coastal issues.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

In the UK, the concept of coastal fora is well used to forward ICZM ideals and management. The Fora operate at local level and have considerable input into long term coastal planning and management. Central to the use of coastal fora is conflict resolution. Successful participation in coastal management fora requires willing and committed stakeholder members. The Solent, UK is a maritime region which is home to all many facets of the maritime industry e.g. shipping, ports, leisure, marine manufacturing and the military. The marine ecological importance of this area makes conflict highly likely. The Solent forum in its membership and steering group reflects the diverse nature of the stakeholders and has explored many ways to improve knowledge, communication and an understanding of ICZM issues. Added to this, the maritime industry in all its facets is well represented on the forum so they portray a truly balanced socio-economic/environmental view.

UK Coastal fora are very effective in networking, keeping up-to-date, exchanging information and raising issues for discussion, but often suffering from the phenomenon of 'consultation fatigue'. The Solent forum appears to have overcome this by being recognised as the instrument for ICZM issues in the region and by balancing meetings with other activities. Much has been written on the types of participation in ICZM but there has been little consideration of the sectoral balance/bias. The Forum regards the role of the stakeholders as very important and they take their role to be to support and represent them whatever the organisation. It is apparent from the members list that the maritime industry is well represented in the area and economic and environmental considerations are taken into account. The forum has also developed "The Solent Waterfront Strategy" which focuses on the marine sector. The development of the Strategy has inspired business engagement from different sectors and stakeholders, working together to tackle some of the difficult issues affecting the retention and growth of the marine sector in the area.

## **b) Objectives**

The objectives of the forum are as follows:

- To raise awareness and understanding of members' roles and aspirations
- To improve access to the information base
- To facilitate better communication, consultation and liaison
- To raise awareness and understanding of the human and natural changes likely to materially affect the Solent
- To promote the national and regional importance of the Solent

## **6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)**

### **a) Management**

The Solent Forum is a membership organisation and many maritime industry organisations are members of the forum. It has a steering committee and some 23% of the committee are maritime based. Additionally the Forum is supported by a full time manager, three part time officers and student placements.

### **b) ICZM tools**

The measurable outputs of the Solent Forum relevant to this case study, include:

- Development and publication of a 'Strategic Guidance for the Solent' (1997);
- Progression of five truly integrated Flagship Projects, (Solent Information Network, Solent Environment and Access Initiative, State of the Solent, Solent Outreach, and Solent Science Conference);
- Key publications arising from the Flagship Projects including the 'State of the Solent Report', the proceedings of the 'Solent Science Conference'; the Solent Fact File; Explore the Solent Leaflet; Solent News, Newsletter;
- Numerous information giving events on various topical issues: bathing water quality; recreation; strategic planning; coastal management conferences.
- The Marine Consents Guide;
- Twice yearly meetings with informative content.

## **7. Cost and resources**

The forum is a voluntary initiative reliant on contributions from the membership to fund its core work, prepare project work and deliver events. It seeks to make events self-funding and applies for appropriate funding for specific projects.

## **8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)**

The effectiveness of the members in considering maritime topics within the forum can be gauged from the minutes of past meetings e.g. the March 2010 meeting covered many agenda items on dredging: environmental impact assessments, dredging and the Water Framework Directive, Solent marine planning and legal issues regarding ferries.

## **9. Success and Fail factors**

In terms of success factors regarding maritime input into ICZM can be cited: -

- Greatly improved communication and liaison around the Solent, with Forum meetings, the Forum Newsletter, website, and other associated outputs from Flagship Project 4 - 'Solent Outreach';
- An increased understanding and awareness of partner organisations' roles, responsibilities, activities and agendas;
- An increased understanding and awareness of the Solent's resources and associated management issues and priorities;

- A higher profile for partner organisations, reaching a wide audience;
- Provision of a network and direct line of communication between authorities and organisations, and user groups;
- Giving information and advice to enhance decision-making;
- A clearer understanding of data and information availability and increased access to such data;
- Engendering the feeling of a 'Solent Community' amongst organisations and agencies.

## 10. Unforeseen outcomes

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## 13. Sources

- Encora - Coastal portal(2009). Lessons learned from ICZM in Belgium, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom. [http://www.coastalwiki.org/coastalwiki/Lessons\\_learned\\_from\\_ICZM\\_in\\_Belgium%2C\\_The\\_Netherlands\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_](http://www.coastalwiki.org/coastalwiki/Lessons_learned_from_ICZM_in_Belgium%2C_The_Netherlands_and_the_United_)
- Fletcher, S., Johnson, D. and Hewett, T., 2007. Coastal Management in the Solent: An Introduction. Marine Policy, 31 (5), pp. 585-590.
- Solent Forum (2010), Solent Forum website, <http://www.solentforum.org/>