

Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the European Union

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*Severe cliff erosion threatening the coastal settlement of Happisburgh, UK.
(photo: EUROSION)*

Contents

1. Introduction
2. ICZM in EU Policy
3. Looking ahead
4. ICZM supporting projects
5. Conclusions
6. References & Websites

Summary

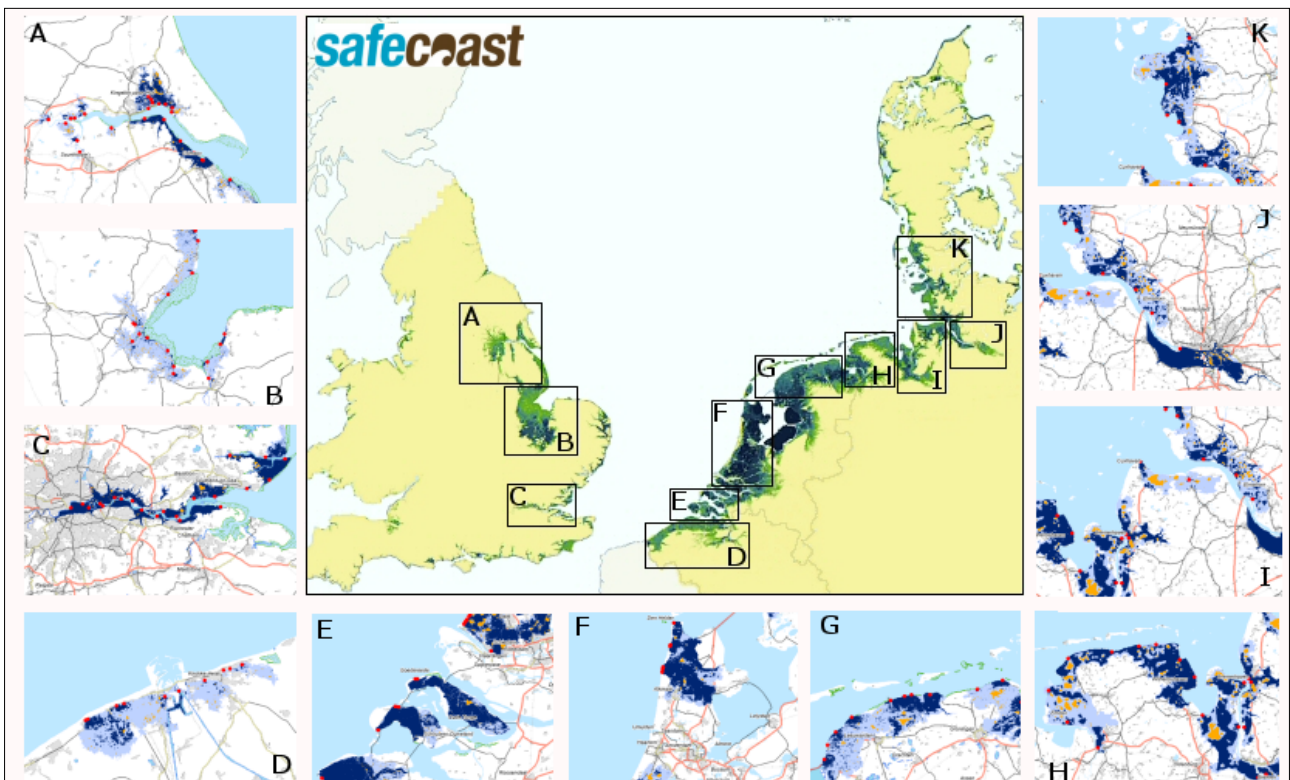
Since the early 1990s, both the UN and EU have specifically addressed problems related to the state of the coast and seas. The EU institutions supported the development of ICZM programmes, in both an economic and environmental sense, adopting eight ICZM principles. In 2000, an assessment of the socio-economic costs and benefits of demonstration projects revealed significant monetary and non-monetary benefits of ICZM.

Since 2002, most EU countries have adopted the principles of ICZM in their national coastal strategies or spatial planning processes. Many initiatives and projects related to exchanging information and sharing best practice have emerged. In 2007, the European Commission evaluated the national reports on the implementation of ICZM. Future activities have a greater emphasis on adaptation to climate change, cooperation at a level of regional seas and coherence between plans, programmes and management of the maritime and terrestrial parts of the coastal zone. The EU will continue to support ICZM efforts also in non-member states when requested.

* Publication written in a personal capacity. The opinions expressed do not commit the European Commission and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Commission.``



Touristic facilities so close to the sea provide short term economic benefits, but make the low lying coast vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as accelerated sea level rise. (photo: Villa Joli, Koksijde, Belgium)



Transnational flood risk assessment and mapping for the North Sea Region.