

Coastal Challenge Summit Report 2019

8th October 2019, Southampton Solent Conference Centre

Introduction

On 8th October 2019, 62 delegates gathered in Southampton for the second Coastal Challenge Summit, themed around climate change and coastal policy. The aim of the annual Coastal Challenge Summit is to bring together coastal communities from around the UK and the audiences of the three major coastal fora – the Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN), Coastal Communities Alliance (CCA) and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG). Through this collaboration, we seek to develop a unified coastal voice and an integrated approach to management, development and life along the coast. This event sought to build upon the UK's first Coastal Challenge Summit, held in April 2018. In the current rapidly changing policy landscape, we see the Summit as an important opportunity to align messages, accelerate action and uncover opportunities to work across sectors and geographies.



Background

Coastal areas and the communities who live there are among the most deprived in the UK. Over 11 million people live at the UK coast (NEF 2016), yet they still face a range of complex challenges in relation to their communities' future resilience and sustainability. For example, many coastal communities are often distant and disconnected from public decision-making. They also have higher levels of unemployment, economic inequality and educational underachievement compared to that of non-coastal areas (NEF 2016). There remains a sectorial, siloed approach to the management, regeneration and marketing of our coastal towns with little or no recognition of how a healthy marine environment underpins their local economies or health and wellbeing.

In response to solving some of these challenges, a variety of different groups and networks have formed, all with variations in focus and scale, but an overlap of interests. By working together, the three main complimentary coastal networks – the Coastal Partnerships Network, Coastal Communities Alliance and LGA Coastal SIG - can encourage a larger collective voice on coastal issues at the highest levels. The idea behind our Annual Coastal Challenge Summit is that it is co-hosted by the three coastal fora and brings the members of each together to share knowledge and discuss priorities of action.

About the Organisers



Coastal Partnerships Network

The UK is unique in having an established set of local Coastal Partnerships (CPs). This network, made up of locally accountable, cross-sectoral, informal and formal partnerships, advocates the implementation of the ecosystem approach, sustainable use of marine resources and the integrated, coordinated management of our coastal and estuarine systems. Fifty-three Coastal Partnerships currently exist around the UK coast, many with 20 years' experience or more. Experts in conducting extensive local, grass-roots stakeholder engagement, they constitute networks of local communities, businesses, councils and charities that cover most of the UK shoreline.

Each CP arose out of local need for coastal collaboration and they therefore vary in aim, constitution, size, membership, and expertise. Despite their differences, they play an increasingly vital role in the integrated management of action and activity on our coasts. They are respected locally for achieving far more than the sum of their parts through their well-established networks and broad expertise. They excel at landscape scale thinking, strategic approaches to coastal management, multiple partner project development and management and cross sectoral engagement - all of which are necessary to ensure a truly integrated and collaborative approach.

The Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN) was established over ten years ago, with the first Coastal Partnerships Forum held in 2006. Since this time, there has been significant change in the operating environment due to the advent of the Marine Act (2008), significant changes to inshore fisheries governance and austerity measures in the public sector, which have affected the number, scope, remit and range of supporting partners at the local level. The CPN aims to support local CPs in implementing and championing a coordinated, collaborative approach that ensures our local coastal communities can achieve their full potential and thrive, supported by a healthy marine and terrestrial environment.

Coastal Communities Alliance

The CCA is a partnership of coastal Local Authorities, coastal organisations and individuals with an interest in coastal matters. With a focus upon socio-economic challenges, it has a well-established relationship with MHCLG and coordinates and leads the national Coastal Communities Teams program, connecting together the Coastal Community Teams around the English coast. These teams aim to have an understanding of the economic issues facing their local community and develop individual plans for making improvements, often in the form of a neighbourhood vision.

Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group

The LGA Coastal SIG is an established network of Local Authorities with coastal interest that seeks to champion and represent the collective interests of coastal, estuarine and maritime communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. It works in partnership with other organisations with complementary aims and brings pressure on the Government to secure local government's full involvement at all levels of policy formulation concerning the coast. The CPN is involved in the SIG, and the only outside organisation invited to attend quarterly meetings. The CPN Committee also has a CP officer who is an active member of the LGA Coastal SIG.

Keynote Speakers

Peter Hampson, CEO British Destinations



The conference was opened by CEO of British Destinations, Peter Hampson. Peter highlighted the fantastic tourism opportunities and benefits brought by our coastline, but did not shy away from the trickier issues that influence coastal tourism. He cited issues such as peripherality and lack of public transport connections, accommodation stock, social deprivation, weaker economies and environmental concerns.

For many coastal communities tourism is a major direct and indirect employer. Peter discussed how successful diversification, or lack of it, is often a function of proximity and access to other larger urban, economic engines and the ability to attract economically active new residents. He stressed the importance of maintaining the sense and quality of place, and relying less upon the visitor pound. Events, theatres, arts culture, an attractive built and natural environment, good public services and excellent transport links attract visitors and are prerequisites for attracting economically active residents to places that might otherwise be seen as remote or off the beaten track. He spoke about seasonality and the level of services and amenities needed to maintain a successful visitor economy, which requires a flexible mix of both visitors and residents to sustain it throughout the year.

He moved on to talk about how successful destinations do not solely rely upon private sector businesses. The quality of place, public services and provision of major assets like theatres and convention centres, that are often in public ownership, or are publicly supported, are key. He highlighted the importance of destination management, particularly in the face of lack of central Government support, stating that 'overarching destination management that provides focus and coordination; something traditionally provided, or facilitated by the public sector' is crucial.

He touched upon the positive impact of the Coastal Communities Fund, mentioned whole Destination Business Improvement Districts and progress towards potential city tourism levy schemes, alongside the challenges posed by pressures on the environment, single-use plastics and litter. He highlighted the Tourism Sector Deal and the final recognition of tourism by government as an industry of merit.

He stressed the opportunity for promoting domestic UK tourism trips in tandem with net zero targets, with domestic holidays being recognised as a lower impact option. He also conveyed the wish to see investment into domestic tourism and transport infrastructure regarded as a legitimate recipient for tourism offset funding. As, although making places easier or more attractive to visit rather than less may seem counterintuitive, to achieve net zero there is a need to manage tourism and its travel components better, not move to eliminate them.

He closed by reiterating that coastal tourism 'requires careful management and the cooperation of multiple disciplines, multi agencies and the understanding and cooperation of a significant proportion of the resident population' and that best way of embracing the opportunities and tackling the challenges is to work together in partnership.

Many topics were covered rapidly in the Peter's detailed presentation, and further information can be found at www.britishdestinations.net.

Professor Ian Townend, University of Southampton and NERC Coastal Resilience Co-Investigator

Professor Ian Townend addressed the delegates with the preliminary thoughts from the NERC 'CoastalRes' project. CoastalRes is a one-year project funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to examine coastal resilience, with a duration from 1st February 2019 to 31st January 2020. It is one of 19 projects funded by the Strategic Priorities Fund: UK Climate Resilience and part of a diverse set of selected projects. The project, synergistic with the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) Refresh, aims to develop and demonstrate prototype methods to assess realistic pathways for strategic coastal erosion and flood resilience in the light of climate change, including sea-level rise.



The ambition of the project was to deliver three related but distinct outputs: a state of the nation summary of coastal resilience, a means of examining different resource allocation models and an extension of SMPs to define Coastal Resilience Options at the local level. In reality, the project will provide a conceptual framework and will have conducted some pilot studies at the local level.

For this project, transition was defined as a state change: "A process of system change in which the structural character of the system transforms". It used the three broad options relevant to coastal management (and SMPs):

No change (no transition) – nothing to do at the strategic level and focus on implementation of the existing strategic option;

Directed (rapid) change – transition from one management option to another, where the changes required are clear and can be undertaken in a well-defined time interval (years);

Progressive (slow) change – transition from one management option to another, where several intermediate steps, or measures, may be required to achieve the transition (decades).

The existing SMP process has 4 strategic options: hold the line, advance the line, managed realignment or no active intervention. The CoastalRes project explored adaptation and transition in three contexts relating to the above; adaptation and adaptation pathways (e.g. progressively upgrade defences), directed (rapid) transitions (e.g. managed realignment) and progressive (slow) transitions (e.g. translocation of a coastal community). To deliver enhanced coastal resilience there is a need to: minimise injury, loss of life and health impacts; minimise damage to property and infrastructure; minimise residual risk and community recovery time; minimise local economic disruption; minimise habitat loss and disruption of natural coastal system and maximise community preparedness for events. This can only be achieved with appropriate governance arrangements that improve social justice. This project believes that making the residual risk explicit should promote awareness and help communities to prepare.

Current policy options are a mix of high-level generic adaptation options (DEFRA) and EA Resilience Tools which are a mixture of both specific and vague. The CoastalRes project aims to provide a framework for policy options (both location specific and universally available) and map pathways using different combinations of options. A policy/management unit would then be able to consult on a preferred pathway, agree an action plan amongst responsible agencies for implementation of policy options and then adopt policies within the Local Plan to give legitimacy to the process.

The project has included a number of stakeholder activities and workshops. The first national workshop to examine national experience was held at UCL on 10th June and was subsequently supported by regional workshops examining practitioner experience. A southern workshop was held in Havant, supported by Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership/SCOPAC, and a northern workshop held in York, supported by Scarborough Borough Council/North East Coastal Group. Interviews were also conducted with selected stakeholders. A second national workshop exploring the findings of the project was held in London on 7th November, after Ian spoke at the Coastal Challenge Summit.

The outputs from these events and the research and data analysis will be contained in the project report due to be published in 2020.

Workshops

Session 1 - Coastal Policy and Strategy

The aim of the first workshop session was to explore what we have, want and need from existing and future policies that relate to the coast, and what we would ask for in a national coastal strategy. The session was opened by two speakers to set the context for discussion.

Dr Rhoda Ballinger, Cardiff University, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences

Dr Rhoda Ballinger from Cardiff University opened the session with a presentation on coastal policy evolution from the mid-20th century to the present. Rhoda began by looking a post-WWII reconstruction and the introduction of cornerstone legislation, such as the *Coast Protection Act 1949* and the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949*. The 1960s - 70s focused upon landscape and recreation needs, with the introduction of the *Heritage Coast* programme. The 1980s saw increased development and related concerns take the fore, with the House of Commons *Environment Committee Report on Coastal Zone Protection and Planning*.

She referred to the 1990s as the “halcyon days” of coastal policy and interest, with the introduction of coastal policy that was intended to be integrated. The extent to which this was true in practice can be debated, but the intent for integrated management was still present. English Nature released *Caring for England’s Estuaries: An Agenda for Action* and funded various Estuary Initiatives, some of which would endure and develop into Coastal Partnerships. The 2000s saw a consolidation of efforts including European policy support in the form of Integrated Coastal Zone Management policy (ICZM). This evolved from the *EU Demonstration Programme on Integrated Management in Coastal Zones (1997 -1999)* and DEFRA published their own strategy for embedding this concept; *A strategy for promoting an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas in England*. The late 2000s and 2010s brought new offshore pressures and opportunities and there was a new focus upon marine and maritime policy and affairs. The current question is, however, “Where are we at now?”.

The coast has a complex policy landscape and has inherited much general policy. There have been some attempts to rationalize and simplify, such as the Environment Agency’s *Coastal Handbook: A guide for all those working on the coast (2010)* – a collaborative project between the Environment Agency and Maritime Local Authorities - and the *Coastal Concordat for England 2013*. Many new dimensions have emerged, however, making the landscape as complex to navigate as ever.

New networks such as CaBA (the Catchment Based Approach) emerged to manage water catchments and new coastal policies, strategies and frameworks and approaches have also arisen – such as the creation of *The Great British Coast* and setting up of *Coastal Community Teams* by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The Coastal Communities Alliance produced their own Coastal Policy Guidance in 2018 and the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group published *On the Edge: A Coastal Strategy*, a local authority agenda for England’s coast (this was first developed in 2001, with subsequent updates).

We also have future pressures and needs to consider at this current time of uncertainty.

Fernanda Balata, New Economics Foundation, Senior Researcher and Programme Manager



Our second speaker, Fernanda Balata, from the New Economics Foundation, then spoke to the room about the vision for national strategic coastal policy. This vision consists of more and better jobs, sustainable and decent livelihoods, increased wellbeing and fair and resilient economies, with coastal communities being in control of defining what matters to them and what kind of place they want to live in. All along the coast, there is a common understanding that the starting point for a sustainable coastal society and economy must be healthier coastal and marine ecosystems. We can inject new investment and jobs into the areas most in need by supporting and helping to restore the health of ecological systems - these two aims are not disparate, but fundamentally connected in the struggle to regain and unlock sustainable prosperity for our coasts.

Fernanda iterated that those on the coast already supporting a better, cleaner, greener and bluer economy are struggling. Policies still have not been able to address the problem for many coastal communities; they lack the power and resources to address their complex challenges. Ultimately, coastal communities alone can't build cross-country railways or raise the level of money needed to restore coastal habitats. She posed the following questions: Is existing policy for the coast fit for purpose? Are we delivering on our common objectives? Does anything need to change? And why is it different now?

Coastal communities find themselves in a cycle of disadvantage – coping with austerity and battling with a negative image and ever decreasing resources. More frequent, increasingly extreme weather affects coastal infrastructure, such as local energy supplies, adding greater costs to already fragile economies. Frequent flooding is likely to bring down house prices, affect tourist attractions, discourage further investment and impact people's wellbeing.

The UK is an island nation, so getting it right for the UK means getting it right for the coast. The economy has not been working for the coast for decades. Coastal towns are some of the most deprived places in the country, and despite limited attempts via funding streams such as the Coastal Communities Fund, most remain disconnected from London-centric investment. Policy appears not to be getting to the heart of the matter – we have had 20 years of coastal policies, why is it that they are not delivering the transformative change we need?

Fernanda highlighted wider systemic barriers and foci; market vs state, short term vs long term, GVA/GDP dominance vs people and nature, private vs public or common ownership and the inequality of power. She also outlined that coastal policy comprises; a) policies that affect communities everywhere in the country, but also b) coastal specific policies – and these are lacking and failing to deliver. With political focus likely to be increasingly around the transition package to a post-carbon economy, coastal challenges must be a part of the climate movement. She encouraged delegates to think on what is needed, asking

what the demands are from the coast and what policies need to be able to deliver in this new context. We need to carefully consider the role of national policy in supporting and enabling change on the coast and work out which policies could help to create the environment needed to deliver transformation.

Coastal Policy and Strategy Workshop



The presentations by Rhoda and Fernanda led into the workshop on coastal policy. Three main questions were posed, and the key findings from each are summarized below.

Q1. What are the key national policies and strategies that impact on, or are relevant to, the coast and its communities? These were categorized as Environmental/ Social/ Economic or Mixed and reflection on effectiveness was encouraged High/ Medium/ Low.

The following key national policies/strategies were identified:

Marine

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Marine Policy Statement
- MMO Marine Plans & Marine Policies

Coastal & Estuarine/riverine

- Integrated Coastal Zone Management policy (ICZM)
- FCERM Strategy & Policy
- Shoreline Management Plans (and refresh)
- Marine and Coastal Access Act (MACAA) 2009
- Coastal Concordat
- Water Framework Directive
- River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
- Bathing Water Directive
- Coast Protection Act 1949
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Water companies- AMP Process and Drainage & Waste Plans

Environment

- DEFRA 25 Year Environment Plan
- Birds and Habitats Directive

- "Environment Agency Guidance on Building Houses on Flood Plains"
- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- Designated site policies and management plans: EMS (SACs & SPAs), MPAs, RAMSAR sites
- AONB Management Plans
- Well-Being and Future Generations Act and Environment Wales Act

Other

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Local Industrial Strategies (LIS)
- Town Plans
- National Tourism Strategies

Q2. Considering the policies/strategies identified in Q1 are there any synergies, overlaps, conflicts or gaps?

From discussion, the consensus was that there are many gaps and conflicts which make operating in the coastal environment difficult. Below is a selection of the conflicts and issues highlighted:

- The lack of joined up thinking and coordination between various governmental departments.
- Competing priorities between governmental departments (eg. DEFRA/MMO vs MHCLG) and the feeling that the Environment Agency are often overridden in the hierarchy.
- The different interpretation of legislation at a local and individual level.
- The problems with the concept of applying fixed boundaries to a dynamic coast.
- The constantly changing political landscape and the lack of longevity and change of personnel.
- The feeling that policies have never been mapped out well enough by government in order to detect or highlight the extent of conflicts and gaps in existing policy.
- The conflict and lack of coordination and integration between marine and terrestrial planning, resulting in gaps in responsibility and jurisdiction.
- A skewed focus on economics when it comes to sustainability, and the sidelining of the social and environment pillars.
- The shortcomings of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in properly directing local plans and in its use to deliver on environmental policy. Opinion was that guidance is needed to help direct interpretation of plans.
- The limitation of local perspectives and frames.
- Issues relating to resourcing implementation and providing guidance for interpretation.
- Questions over the sustainability of the policies.
- A note that effectiveness is not the same as relevance, as this depends upon perspective (environmental, social or economic).

Q3. Considering the answers to Q1 and Q2 how could coastal policy and/or strategy work better together? Should there be a new National Coastal Strategy? (Y/N/DK)

From discussion, there was a feeling that there is a need for clarity of roles and responsibilities, consistency of objectives and a key point of governmental contact at a national level. Opinion was split on whether or not a coastal strategy was needed, but there was an overwhelming consensus on the need to build upon previous and existing coastal policies. This was felt both by those who decided a coastal policy was needed and those who felt it was unnecessary.

Amongst those who decided against a coastal policy, the feeling was that we need to organize and effectively activate and use what we have, not make the landscape more complex. They felt that national leadership was needed, not another strategy. Some of those who were unsure felt they needed more time to look over the ICZM strategy and then consider the benefits of a coastal strategy to pull threads together.

Those who supported a coastal strategy felt that having a new strategy would raise the voice of the coast and help create a single narrative that reflects and builds on existing policy. They felt it would provide a needed shared vision for the coast. It was felt the policy would need to be independent, politically neutral and flexible due to the diversity and evolving, dynamic nature of the coast.

It was suggested the strategy should work as an overarching aim only, to allow for and reflect local diversity. It was also highlighted that it would need to be adaptable and updated regularly to ensure it reflected local issues.



Session 2 – Climate Change: Adapting the Coast



The second session of the day focused on exploring what we already have, and would want and need, to create coastal community adaptation plans that bring about multiple benefits and accelerate action. It began with a panel discussion, with representatives from various councils discussing the measures they have introduced, or are working towards introducing, in order to tackle local climate impacts.

The following question was then posed to the room:

What would you include/what would your priorities be in a local climate adaptation plan or strategy?

Key points from the discussion can be found below. These are recurring themes brought up by individuals, therefore do not reflect the opinions or priorities of all areas, but serve to give an idea of the concepts that emerged as important.

The following emerged as priorities to be included in a local climate adaptation plan:

- A commitment to work in **collaboration** to have honest conversations about challenges.
- Working and planning together to alleviate shared risks and make the most of opportunities.
- Increased **community education** around local climate adaptation and a focus upon upskilling people in implementing small scale climate improvements.
- As a precursor to the above point, plans to actively tackle the disconnect members of the local community can feel in relation to their local marine/coastal environment. Capitalizing on connection to the coastal environment to discuss climate adaptation opens up important conversations about value, sacrifice and protection.
- Increased **consultation** with local community about coastal management – trying to introduce different/“softer” solutions. Local communities should be central in the process of creating adaptation plans and plans for managed realignment.
- Becoming a plastic-free town and changing habits: resorts and hotels, water fountains, recycling bins at the beach.
- Budgeting for the increased costs of climate change on heritage.
- Using heritage as a focus/anchor for community-based action to be built on (eg. Clevedon Pier).
- The inclusion of small and achievable actions to provide some quick wins i.e. rewilding.
- Build upon existing good practice – show how we can already be making places climate change resilient.



- As an individual organisations, to ensure a precedent is set for the increased resilience being transitioned towards i.e. move to green energy, use greener cleaning products and lighting.
- The requirement for every organisation to have a trained climate change representative.
- A commitment to support existing innovation and upscale where possible.
- Planning around soil management and restoration
- Sand management
- Recycling and renting scheme. Reusing beach equipment ie. surfboards, body boards, buckets, spades.
- Surface water management
- Green infrastructure opportunities – public transport, cycling schemes
- Educating local schoolchildren with activities and field trips.

Session 3 – An English Year of the Coast 2021

The CPN is working alongside the Coastal Communities Alliance, Natural England, the National Coastal Tourism Academy (NCTA) and the New Economics Foundation (NEF) on a designated English Year of the Coast in 2021. The entire length of the English coast is about to be accessible for the first time through the implementation of a continuous and permanent public right of way - the new England Coast Path National Trail. This incredible new asset not only opens new access routes but will physically connect the coastal communities along its length from 2021 onwards.



As we come together to celebrate, the Year of the English Coast is a call to raise awareness of much needed solutions for our complex coastal challenges. The economies of coastal communities in England must urgently transform to benefit people and nature with more and better jobs, increased wellbeing and economic resilience, and a healthier coastal and marine environment. The aim is to support a programme of change that enables communities to work together to positively transform life at the coast.

The organisations and diverse coastal voices listed above have come together to collaborate and help the co-development of a series of activities to mark 2021 as the Year of the English Coast. Together we work in support of coastal communities demanding the change needed to enable them to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis and deliver a vision of prosperous communities and a healthier coastal and marine environment.

A year of celebration and positive action for change will raise awareness of solutions and demand the change that is still needed for even more positive action. Communities throughout England will be celebrating their coast and their coastal identity locally, as well as delivering collective action for national

change. We will support their activities through coordinated media, aligned messaging and advocacy work to help amplify their voices.

The aims for the end of 2021 are as follows:

- Secure government commitment through different local and national agencies – pledges on key policy asks from coastal communities that can give them a reason to celebrate and help them work towards more resilient economies, more collaborative and collective action, healthier coastal and marine ecosystems and climate resilience.
- Help increase the accessibility of the coast to all communities – focused on increasing visits to the coast by children, especially those from deprived coastal communities and their families.
- Increase the number of visitors to the coast, particularly in the shoulder and off-peak period to build a more resilient and sustainable coastal tourism sector on which many areas depend.
- Have stimulated new projects and initiatives that bring together a range of actors - local groups, businesses, visitors, government - to maintain and use the new England Coast Path as a catalyst to shape better coastal economies that prioritise people's wellbeing, sustain our cultural and historic heritage, and recover and helps to look after our nature.



YEAR OF THE ENGLISH COAST 2021

For a further information on the Year of the Coast 2021, please read our **statement of intent** [here](#).

As part of the Coastal Challenge Summit event, we asked delegates how their organisations might like to get involved in the Year of the Coast. The concept was enthusiastically received, and delegates had many ideas on events for their local areas. Some of the best ideas to come out of discussion are listed below:

- Creating local maps with recreational activities and special places to visit
- A national art and/or photo competition - calendar for sale to raise funds
- A set of beacons to light the coast path and a drone fly over to provide images
- Nominating people, 'coastal champions', to carry a torch from community to community along the coast path.
- Promoting low impact water sports through events and lessons i.e. surfing, kayaking, windsurfing, stand up paddle boarding etc
- Organising a pier to pier circumnavigation by heritage ships
- A set of beach cleans
- The creation of memory boxes and exploring the past and living histories of coastal communities
- A Year of the Coast programme for schools with curriculum ideas and a ready-made materials pack
- A nationally co-ordinated seafood week
- Creating a video with the voices of coastal communities

If you are a local council, Coastal Community Team or Coastal Partnership and would like to get involved in Year of the Coast with a local event, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Coastal Partnerships Network, Coastal Communities Alliance or LGA Coastal SIG.

There is a working list of events by region at <https://englandscoast.com/en/lp/EnglishCoast2021>.

The CPN, CCA and LGA Coastal SIG would like to thank all speakers and organisers of the Summit, as these events would not be a success without the willingness of speakers to present their work and the logistics behind the scenes.

Delegate List

Name	Organisation	Job Role
Samantha Buck	ARC Consulting	Director
Claire Hector	ARC Consulting	Director
Nigel George	Artecology Ltd	Director
Alan Frampton	BCP Council	Strategy & Policy Manager Flood/Coastal Erosion
Peter Hampson	British Destinations	Chief Executive
Dr Rhoda Ballinger	Cardiff University	School of Earth and Ocean Sciences
Sarah Bennett	Cheshire Wildlife Trust	Dee Coastliners Development Manager
Phil Curme	Clevedon Pier & Heritage Trust	Chair, Clevedon Coastal Community Team
Professor Robin McInnes OBE	Coastal & Geotechnical Services	Managing Consultant
Nicola Radford	Coastal Communities Alliance/Lincolnshire County Council	Principal Development Officer
Alice Watts	Coastal Partnerships Network	National Coordinator
Rob Andrew	Cornwall Council	Regeneration Manager
Rhiannon Jones	Dorset Council	Dorset Coast Forum Co-Ordinator
Tim Leader	East Lindsey District Council	Executive Director for Economic Growth
Zahra Ravenscroft	Environment Agency	Senior Marine Monitoring Officer
Jackie Mellan	Environment Agency	Greater Solent Project Manager
Robert Carr	Environment Agency	Catchment Coordinator
Mike Jones	Environment Agency	Estuaries and Coasts Planning Advisor
Stephanie Harper-Chung	Exe Estuary Partnership	Exe Estuary Officer
Kevin Boorman	Hastings Borough Council	Marketing & Major Projects Manager
Aurora Orsini	HR Wallingford	Principal Engineer
Rhianna Jarvis	Institution of Environmental Sciences	Events and Training Lead
Sue Hawley	Isle of Wight Estuaries Partnership	Estuaries Officer
Colin Matthews	Lincolnshire County Council	Councillor
Helen Matthews	Mablethorpe & Sutton-on-Sea Coastal Community Team	Chair
Adrian Benjamin	Mablethorpe & Sutton-on-Sea Coastal Community Team	Secretary
Anne Thwaites	Marine Conservation Society	Corporate Partnerships Manager
Alice Tebb	Marine Conservation Society	Agents of Change Project Coordinator
Susie Child	MHCLG	Policy Advisor
Mark Holder	MHCLG	Team Leader, Coastal Regeneration
Samantha Richardson	National Coastal Tourism Academy	Director

Philip Bishop	National Oceanography Centre	Industry Partnership Manager
Tony Flux	National Trust	Coast and Marine Adviser (SW)
Fernanda Balata	New Economics Foundation	Senior Programme Manager
Estelle Hook	Norfolk Coast Partnership	Manager
Vanessa Harrison	North Devon Council	Economic Development Officer
Chris Farris	North Devon Council	Watersports Development Officer
Malcolm Wilkinson	North Devon District Council	Councillor
Caroline Salthouse	North West Coastal Forum	Forum Manager
Claire Looney	Portsmouth City Council, Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services	Partnership and Commissioning Manager
Josie Dalling	Portsmouth City Council, Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services	Business Support Manager
Bill Parker	Previous LGA Coastal SIG Lead Officer and Head of Coastal Partnership East	
Phil Horton	RYA	Environment and Sustainability Manager
Katie Havard-Smith	Severn Estuary Partnership	Projects Officer
Lucy Taylor	Severn Estuary Partnership	Severn Estuary Partnership & European Marine Site Manager
Karen McHugh	Solent Forum	Solent Forum Manager
Kate Ansell	Solent Forum	Solent Forum Officer
Siobhan Flynn	Solent Local Enterprise Partnership	Local Growth Programme Manager Employment & Skills
Clair McFarlan	Solway Firth Partnership	Partnership Manager
Georgina Reid	Solway Firth Partnership	SMILE Project Officer
Laura Turvey	South Tyneside Council	LGA Coastal SIG Secretariat & Operations Manager, Environmental Protection Development Services
Professor Paul Leonard	Sussex IFCA	MMO Appointee to the Sussex IFCA
Graeme Smith	Teignbridge District Council	Teignbridge Estuary and Coastal Partnership
Amy Pryor	Thames Estuary Partnership	Technical Director
Olivia Squires	Thames Estuary Partnership	Intern
Adele Powell	The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership	Project Co-ordinator
Rodger Lankester	Tollesbury Parish Council	Councillor
Professor Ian Townend	University of Southampton	NERC Coastal Resilience Co-Investigator
Sien Van Der Plank	University of Southampton	Postgraduate researcher

Anke Winchenbach	University of Surrey	School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
Natasha Bradshaw	UWE	Postgraduate researcher
Sarah Young	WWF	Marine Governance Programme Manager