Multifunctional Use of Innovative Flood Risk Management Treatments

Abstract

A range of innovative flood risk management treatments have been developed in the UK over the past decade, facing up to the challenge posed by sea level rise. One such treatment is the realignment of the primary flood wall and the consequential creation of new inter-tidal habitat. Until recently, habitat design considerations in such managed realignment treatments have been directed largely at bird life. Most sites have reported slow establishment of both mudflat and saltmarsh habitats post-treatment. In the UK, few authors have yet reported on the utilisation of extant or newly created saltmarsh as a habitat for fish life. A new site at Abbotts Hall in the Blackwater Estuary in Essex, has demonstrated very rapid saltmarsh development. Recent studies on this and other local sites have shown substantial fish utilisation. This UK expertise now features in an Interreg IIIb project, *Comcoast*, with Dutch, German, Belgian and Danish partners. Studies into the multi-functional uses of these flood risk management treatments are now underway and will be described. Site design and sampling considerations will be described. The context of drivers such as the Water Framework Directive will be described as will the potential for multiple funding streams for new treatments.

Key words: flood risk management; managed realignment; Interreg IIIb; *Comcoast*; Water Framework Directive.

S.R. Colclough (presenter and corresponding author). Other authors to be advised with manuscript.

Contact point:

Steve Colclough, Marine Fisheries Policy Advisor
Environment Agency, Rivers House, Belvedere Road, Abbey Wood. London SE2 9AQ.
Tel 0044 208 310 5500 Fax 0044 208 311 9778
email- steve.colclough@environment-agency.gov.uk