

Coastal Evolution in North Western Europe: Assessment and Policy Related Issues

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Abstract

Scientific information on the evolution of coastal systems was needed because they are very sensitive to changes in any natural processes. They are heavily impacted by human activities and some disturbances affect the coastline dangerously. Research programmes on estuaries along the French coast of the English Channel have been carried out since 25 years by a research team named G.E.M.E.L. (Groupe d'Etude des Milieux Estuariens et Littoraux). They applied a morpho-sedimentary approach to understand those ecosystems better. The same methodology has also been applied to the North-East coast of England (Yorkshire coast and Humber estuary) by CERCI (a Centre for Environmental Research into Coastal Issues) and to the Irish coast (Bertra Strand, Westport) in the 1990s.

Consideration to managerial issues in Ireland, England and France is given.