



Local Government Association

ICZM & the Marine Bill

the **local authority** perspective

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LGA Coastal Special Interest Group

Local authorities and the marine environment



Local Government Association

Local authorities recognise:

- ◆ that the proposed Marine Act and the ICZM Strategies represent an **historic opportunity** to secure the sustainable use and exploitation of our coastal and marine environment
- ◆ The LGA's Coastal Strategy '*On the Edge*' provides the basis of the local authority viewpoint.

Local authorities and the marine environment



Local Government Association

Our vision:

"... to establish improved governance, management and community well being

...to ensure that the UK has the best managed coast in Europe."

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**on the edge -
the coastal strategy**

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**on the edge -
the coastal strategy
review and update**

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**bold contribution
to a growing debate**

"On the Edge - the coastal strategy", prepared by the Local Government Association's Special Interest Group on Coastal Issues in 2001, was a groundbreaking publication which set out for the first time a vision and priorities for one of England's most important assets - the coast.

"On the Edge - the coastal strategy" challenged the very legal, social and financial mechanisms by which we govern our coast. These mechanisms, it concluded, are no longer adequate to protect the coast as one of our greatest national assets, or meet the modern threats from climate change, the depletion of natural resources, development pressures, pollution threats or the economic deprivation which afflicts many coastal communities.

To achieve the vision - to ensure that we have the best-managed coast in Europe - "On the Edge - the coastal strategy" set out over 60 policy recommendations aimed at government at all levels, from Brussels and Westminster to the regions and local authorities. The recommendations amounted to a sweeping review of legislation and practice based on the principles of "joined-up thinking", efficiency, consistency and democratic accountability.

"On the Edge - the coastal strategy" was well received as a bold contribution to the growing debate on the future of the coast, not just in the UK, but also in the Europe - then engaged in its own sweeping review of coastal management after decades of over-development, pollution and growing pressure from competing uses on coasts from the Mediterranean to the Baltic.

"On the Edge - the coastal strategy", and the wealth of coastal management experience in the UK, undoubtedly influenced the EU's conclusions to this review as set out in "Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe" approved by the European Parliament and Council in May 2002.

The Recommendation asked Member States to undertake national inventories of legislation, institutions and actors involved in the planning and management of the coastal zone, and to then develop national Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) strategies.

With the support and encouragement of the LGA, the UK Government was quick to respond to the EU Recommendation. In May 2002, it published the Marine Stewardship Report "Safeguarding Our Seas" which set out a vision for the future of our marine environment. In November 2002 it launched the "stocktake" of coastal management in the UK as the first stage of in developing Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategies for England and each of the devolved administrations. Separate government-reviews are also focussing on marine nature conservation and development controls in coastal waters.

"As chairman of the Local Government Association's Special Interest Group on Coastal Issues, I would commend this document to you and would think all those involved with taking this Coastal Strategy forward. This has been done in a spirit of partnership and towards a common objective of a sustainable coast for future generations to come."

Geoffrey Allanson (2004)

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Local authorities, what we do:



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- ◆ Coast Protection
- ◆ **Spatial Planning**
- ◆ Transport planning
- ◆ **Emergency Planning**
- ◆ Recreation & safety
- ◆ **Ports and Harbours**
- ◆ Regeneration & tourism
- ◆ Sea Fisheries
- ◆ Permitting and bye-laws
- ◆ **Marine biodiversity & cultural heritage**
- ◆ Education & public awareness
- ◆ **Coastal land owners**
- ◆ Representing the coastal community
- ◆ **etc...**

Local authorities provide:



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- ◆ **leadership and support to partnerships** delivering coastal zone management across the UK, and the EU
 - we are best placed to take this work to a new level in terms of both quality and consistency...
 - ...but we urgently need an effective national policy

Key principles



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- ◆ Recognise the **land/sea interrelationship** of effects and impacts
- ◆ Ensure **consistency and compatibility** between the spatial planning of the marine and terrestrial environment
- ◆ Create the **capacity to deliver** (through skills, information, knowledge and finance)
- ◆ Enshrine **transparency and democratic accountability** in decision making
- ◆ **Empower and oblige** the key partners to deliver the sustainable development of the marine environment
- ◆ Establish financial and legal means of **sustaining local partnerships** for coastal planning and management

6 Key discussion points & recommendations



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1. Statutory marine spatial planning fully integrated with terrestrial spatial planning
2. **Priority coastal and marine areas of national, regional and local importance**
3. Duties and powers for local authorities and relevant bodies to promote integrated management and planning
4. **Extended local authority jurisdiction into inshore waters**
5. A 5-year RTD plan for marine research and technology development
6. **An 'amphibious' foresight agency to support sustainable coastal and marine development**

The Challenge



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The "2030" Test

Will this be a historic **landmark** piece of legislation worthy of a maritime nation?

...or just a re-arrangement of the regulatory deckchairs?





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