

South West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

Annual Meeting – Tuesday 9th September 2008

Questions Raised

- **Will an OS Mastermap licence be required to access the ecological monitoring data?**

Yes and No. A MasterMap licence is required to access the shape files (which will be available from the Environment Agency). All that can be made publicly available, via the website, are maps of the areas covered for each habitat, plus a spreadsheet with the actual area of habitat. It is possible also that mudflats and saltmarsh will be hand-digitised (without MasterMap) and therefore the shape files may be made freely available.

- **What is the probability that the programme will be extended past the first five years?**

The expectation is that the programme will continue for a further 5 years in Phase II.

- **What is the situation regarding the Welsh Coastal Monitoring Programme?**

A proposed scoping study was awarded by the Welsh Assembly Government to Gwynedd Council. Its proposals have yet to be reported.

- **Are the data from the wave buoys and tide gauges used by Harbour Masters?**

Several of the tide gauges and wave buoy shore stations are in Harbour Master's offices, where a display screen has been designed specifically with the data they require.

- **How can the data be used for / with the SMP?**

The first round of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) in England and Wales were completed nearly 10 years ago. These identified that long-term data sets are required in order to make informed decisions for managing coastal erosion and flood risk. Data obtained through the Coastal Monitoring

Programme will feed into the SMP review process, ensuring that management decisions are sustainable and made with confidence.

- **How will the habitat surveys inform the planning process?**

The Environment Agency and other public bodies have a duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to conserve biodiversity. DEFRA policy has set a target of no net loss of biodiversity (this is generally measured as the extent of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats in an area). All strategic plans should therefore identify BAP habitats such as woodland, heathlands, saltmarsh etc and safeguard these areas - irrespective of whether or not they are formally designated. The habitat maps will provide the baseline data for this. It will enable planners to identify areas of biodiversity interest, to measure extent and to set this in context e.g. there are 26 ha of coastal saltmarsh in the district council area. If a proposal threatens the habitat then the habitat mapping data will inform decisions as to the acceptability of the proposal, the extent, and type of mitigation required.

- **Is the data collected by the programme freely used and by whom?**

Yes, all data collected by the Programme is freely available, via the website, and can be used by anyone.

- **Will the extension of the programme be promoted to other universities?**

Proposals are under consideration to hold an Academics Workshop to promote the programme to universities.

- **Do you have any 'as built' records of coastal defences following the NFCDD survey?**

The NFCDD coastal data gathering exercise provides the spatial representation of sea defence and coast protection assets (a line on a 1:10000 map) and associated attributes e.g. crest level, width of asset etc. 'As built' records may be available from coastal engineers.

- **Will the NFCDD survey be extended to cover the Severn Estuary extension?**

Yes, we are looking at extending the survey to Lavernock Point (Penarth).