

Enhancing Collaborative Governance for Coastal Stewardship in the UK

Participant Information Sheet

Invitation

You are being invited to join an expert panel due to your experience in the management or governance of coastal resources in the UK. To inform your decision on whether to take part, this information will explain why the research is being carried out and what it will involve.

Purpose of the Research

This research seeks knowledge of governance practices in the coastal environment to improve sustainability and stewardship. The aim is to offer an insight into the existing approaches to coastal governance across the UK, assess future options - and through expert input and further research - make recommendations to improve stewardship through practice, policy and/or legislation.

Background

Where land meets sea at the coast, a dynamic environment exists with a unique set of challenges for sustainable and integrated management. The coast is not a distinct area; its definition is dependent upon the issue concerned. Different resource users and government agencies have interests and responsibilities that reach across the land-sea interface and to different geographical extents inland and offshore. Management and decision-making over coastal resources is challenging due to multiple uses at difference scales, seldom corresponding to existing administrative or planning units. Stakeholders are engaged in decision-making, but the approach is often based on specific consultation steps in response to sectoral legislation.

This research approaches the subject by analysing two key aspects of coastal governance:

- **Collaborative Governance**
A *process* bringing together the state, private sector, civil society and the scientific community to engage collectively in decision-making across the land-sea interface.
- **Coastal Stewardship**
The *outcome* of governance processes which improve the management of coastal resources and the health of the coastal ecosystem for future generations.

Your Role in the Research

1. Why have you been chosen?

You have been asked to participate because you have been identified as an expert in coastal, marine or terrestrial governance. This research has the following inclusion criteria, which we think you meet:

- You have a minimum of five years post-qualification experience of working in a field relating to the UK coast or inshore marine space;
- You are working in at least one of the following areas: planning, resource management, land ownership, government, regulation, advice, research, business/industry, non-governmental/voluntary sector, community leadership.
- You are likely to have an interest, the capacity and willingness to participate.

2. What will I gain from participating?

By participating in this research you will join a group of UK experts engaged in a collective dialogue about the future governance of the coast. The information obtained through this research should offer a perspective to inform, improve and integrate future governance of the UK coast at a key time for UK policy and legislation. You will learn about the collective views of others' on the future direction for coastal governance and some of the latest approaches to best practice through participating directly in the research.

3. Must you take part?

You are not obliged to participate in this research. If you decide to participate, it is on a voluntary basis and you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

4. *What will happen if I engage in the research?*

The research will use the Delphi survey method which facilitates information gathering from experts in an open and unbiased manner. Its core characteristics are anonymity, iteration, controlled feedback and statistical group response. There will be two online surveys and a workshop:

- Round #1 online survey: brainstorming;
- Round #2 online survey: ranking and narrowing down of ideas;
- Workshop: discussion to see if there is any consensus amongst participants.

If you engage in the research, it is most valuable if you continue through to the second online survey and ideally the workshop. After each stage you will receive feedback and a final report at the end.

5. *Will my responses be anonymous?*

No other respondents will be able to see your answers to survey questions. All responses will remain anonymous through the use of a unique identifier code in the analysis. Only the principal researcher will be able to link the identifier code back to the individual respondent. Any use or longer term storage of the survey data will remain un-attributable to individuals.

6. *What if something goes wrong?*

We are not aware of any complications or risks that could arise from you taking part in this study. If you decide to participate, and you have any complaints or difficulties with any aspect of the study, you should contact the principal researcher and/or another member of the Research Team (see Section 8).

7. *What happens to the results?*

Research results will inform future coastal governance through feedback of the collective findings to the participants who are actively involved in the field. The findings are likely to be published and disseminated at conferences and events, whilst the confidentiality of individual responses will remain.

8. *Who is organising and funding this study?*

The principal researcher is Natasha Bradshaw who is undertaking a PhD at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol. The research is part-funded by the International Water Security Network with a range of partners led by the Faculty of Environment and Technology in UWE Bristol and funded by the Lloyd's Register Foundation. The research process has been approved by the Faculty's research ethics committee and will comply with their policies and procedures.

9. *Further information*

If you wish to clarify any aspect of this research or speak to someone about it, please contact the principal researcher, Natasha Bradshaw:

- Natasha Bradshaw, Doctoral Researcher: natasha.bradshaw@uwe.ac.uk / 0117 3286919
- Dr Tom Appleby, Supervisor: thomas.appleby@uwe.ac.uk / 0117 3286563
- Dr Enda Hayes, Director of Studies: enda.hayes@uwe.ac.uk / 0117 3283825.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

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