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'Making Connections': Proceedings of the second North East Kent Coastal Conference, 11 November 2004

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Introduction

The North East Kent European marine sites stretches from Whitstable to Deal and includes parts of SSSIs, two SACs, an SPA and a Ramsar site. The Management Scheme for the area was put in place in June 2001, following a stakeholder dialogue process. The Scheme provides guidance and an action plan for the management of a range of ongoing activities around the coast, including shoreline management, recreation, fishing and harvesting and research.

Following the first North East Kent Coastal Conference in October 2002, the North East Kent Coastal Scientific Advisory Group (NEKCSAG) was formed to advise the Management Group, and to carry out scientific research in the area. NEKCSAG organised a second conference in November 2004, and this Research Report includes synopses of presentations and discussion sessions.

What was done

The conference focused on taking an Ecosystem Approach to the management of the North East Kent coast. It consisted of a range of presentations, plus a workshop session to consider how the Ecosystem Approach could be applied to this area.

The presentations were a mixture of scientific study specific to North East Kent and some wider ranging topics, as listed below:

Systems thinking (Diana Pound BSc MSc, IEEM, IUCN CEC)

North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme: Where have we got to and where are we going? (Susannah Peckham)

Making links with local people - The Thanet Coast Project (Tony Child)

An anthropological study of Kent Fishing communities - research objectives and methodology (Yoshitaka Ota)

continued >>>

The Kent Coastal Network (Liz Holliday)

Starting to think about the questions science may need to consider to understand the ecosystems of the NE Kent European marine site (Diana Pound BSc, MSc, MIEEM)

Eastern Channel Habitat Atlas for Marine Resource Management (CHARM Project) (C.S. Martin and others)

Pilot survey of seal haul-out sites off of the north Kent Coast (Jon Bramley & Brett Lewis)

Littorina littorea considered as an indicator of recovery from sewage pollution (Carol Torry, Ian Humpheryes and Georges Dussart)

The marine algal flora of Thanet - stability or change? (Ian Tittley)

English Nature's viewpoint

A lot has been achieved since the North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme was launched in 2001, and the conference highlighted some of the key areas. It was also valuable in bringing together scientists and coastal managers to improve mutual understanding and sharing of ideas.

The Management Scheme is now up for review, and this will be undertaken during 2005-6 using a stakeholder dialogue process, and following an ecosystem approach as far as possible. A new scheme is to be put in place by April 2006. NEKCSAG will continue to advise the Management Group and to investigate the further application of an ecosystem approach to the future management of the area

Further information

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