

EXPERIENCES FROM THE COASTAL AND MARINE WIKI: AN INTERNET ENCYCLOPAEDIA PROVIDING UP-TO-DATE QUALITY INFORMATION FOR AND BY COASTAL AND MARINE PROFESSIONALS

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The Coastal and Marine Wiki (www.coastalwiki.org) is an Internet encyclopaedia providing up-to-date high quality information for coastal and marine professionals, which is continuously improved, complemented and updated by expert users. The Coastal Wiki was developed within the framework of the European Network for Coastal Research, ENCORA. Main difference between the Coastal and Marine Wiki and the online Wikipedia are the procedures to maintain the quality, consistency and comprehensiveness of the information. This resulted in the requirement of an editing authorisation for contributors. Anonymous contributions are precluded; authors and co-authors of articles or article revisions are explicitly acknowledged. The access to the Coastal and Marine Wikipedia is free to any coastal and marine stakeholder, but only experts registered in the Wiki Contact Database are entitled to enter new information. This contact database has been developed in house and is managed at the Flanders Marine Institute. Editing authorisations are granted only to users with a professional background, checked by the editorial team. This team also oversees the overall quality of the Coastal and Marine Wikipedia. The Coastal and Marine Wiki targets professionals who are either generalist who need to update their knowledge about a broad range of subjects or specialists who need to gain an understanding of other sectors or disciplines in order to work in an integrated manner. Besides the internal linking, similar Wiki Articles can also be grouped together using different categories. The combination of internal linking and categorisation allows creating a web of linked information that can be organised and accessed in several ways. Recently, SPICOSA (Science and Policy Integration for Coastal System Assessment) and MarBEF (Marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning), two Coastal and Marine European projects, decided to contribute their project results to the Coastal and Marine Wiki. In this way the major outcomes of their research will be reflected in the Coastal and Marine Wiki enhancing the knowledge dissemination and integration of their project-specific information. At the moment, the Coastal and Marine Wiki is already used in several research curricula throughout Europe. Currently the Coastal Wiki contains about 1,200 information pages, has 300 registered editors and receives about 12,000 unique visitors a month.

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Welcome to the Coastal and Marine Wiki, an Internet encyclopaedia of 1,136 information pages for and by coastal professionals providing up-to-date high quality Coastal and Marine information. More about the Coastal and Marine Wiki

This weeks featured article

Bathymetry from inverse wave refraction

It is possible to determine the bathymetry of a certain area using radar data. On the Island of Sylt at the German Bight Coast, measurements are done during storm conditions. This data is processed based on inversion of the non-linear and linear wave theory. More about the area of investigation, data processing, result and discussion of the results can be found in the article.

Bathymetry of area of investigation acquired by multibeam echosounder.

The determination of the bathymetry in coastal environments by utilizing the ocean wave-shoaling photographic imagery, and the observed reduction of ocean wave phase speed with decreased water depth, is used since the WW-II (Williams 1945)^[1]. The last decade, with the expansion of different ground based instrumentations, mainly radar and video imagery, for the observation of the sea surface and the exponential increase of the computational power, several methodologies for the bathymetry reckoning have been published. The core of the previously mentioned methods is the inversion of the wave characteristics by assuming the validity of linear or non-linear models for the propagation of the wavefield over uneven sea bottom.

In the present investigation, twelve hourly radar datasets acquired during storm conditions are analyzed by two methods: The non-linear method of Bell et al. 2004^[2] (henceforth BW04), which is based on the inversion of the non-linear wave dispersion equation of Hedges (1975)^[3] and the Dispersive Surface Classifier (henceforth DiSC08), Senet et al. 2008^[4], which is based on the inversion of the linear wave theory. The results are validated as bathymetric retrieving instruments and the two wave propagation theories are compared about their sensitivity to the local bathymetric relief. The two methods are compared under the assumption of fundamentally similar implemented algorithms. **More..**

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Fig. 1. The Coastal and Marine Wiki (<http://www.coastalwiki.org>).