

ICZM2.0 - A NEW ICZM FOR AN ERA OF UNCERTAINTY

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ICZM is facing a an unprecedented period of uncertainty and vulnerability, resulting not only from external global drivers that are destroying old certainties, but also from intensified policy 'competition' in the coastal space. These problems are compounded by ICZM's own fundamental inadequacies and weaknesses. Paradoxically, ICZM has amassed an armoury of practical tools, scientific techniques and many of the policy instruments it needs, along with long experience. Unfortunately however, ICZM's modern political profile and status is weak, its benefits are ill-defined, and it lacks a clear, simple and transferable process. Simply, the status quo is not an option if ICZM is to survive.

The time has come for a revitalized ICZM – an iCZM2.0 - that is politically robust and legitimate, coherent in its outcomes, and with a clear roadmap of how to achieve them.

The architecture of a new iCZM2.0 model is proposed based on first principles, along with a working 'beta' version in real-time. These principles include: a clear and unambiguous definition of the geographical dimensions of the coastal zone that encompasses both the marine and terrestrial space, along with a recognition of ICZM's status as the overriding policy space within which other instruments operate within the coastal zone. The future iCZM2.0 will also have a legal basis at multiple governance levels - providing a coherent framework for governance and actions. Rather than the current "scattergun" approach, there must be a strategic, hierarchical context of regional, national and local ICZM strategies and plans.

A strong, disciplined outcome-driven iCZM2.0 is proposed to clearly identify and deliver outcomes that are appropriate to the local context and capacities; a simple transferable jargon-free process leading to a shared vision of coastal sustainability.

Sceptics will doubt all this is possible, but a real-time 'beta' example will be presented that meets these prerequisites with a powerful legal basis, one that is currently being developed in one of the world's most complex and challenging regional seas.