

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS FOR THE COASTAL ZONE OF THE NETHERLANDS: A FIRST INVENTORY

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Following the EU Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Rijkswaterstaat - National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ), has appointed VLIZ to develop a first inventory of the European set of indicators of sustainable development in coastal zones of The Netherlands. The objective in this first stage is to obtain an overview of the availability and accessibility of data and to calculate the set of indicators adopted by the EU ICZM expert group in November 2004. The study area includes all municipalities of the five coastal provinces of The Netherlands (Zeeland, Zuid-Holland, Noord-Holland, Friesland and Groningen) and measuring stations in coastal waters. Amalgamated 'coastal municipalities' represent the 'coastal zone', which is compared to the 'hinterland' (non-coastal municipalities) and to the national level.

VLIZ actively participates in developing the methodology for collecting, storing, calculating and representing the data in the frame of the DEDUCE Interreg IIIc project. The aim is to provide a common approach that allows to compare indicators and trends at the European level. To this end, VLIZ works together in a partnership of organisations and data managers involved in ICZM in five other member states (France, Latvia, Malta, Poland and Spain). The inventory has been completed for all 27 indicators and 45 measurements. Preliminary results of this inventory were included in the Dutch report concerning the implementation of ICZM (February 2006). A wider group of stakeholders will discuss and evaluate the usefulness and relevance of the set for measuring sustainable development in the coastal zone of The Netherlands. To this purpose, VLIZ has prepared a publication for the wider public, which will be accessible from the websites starting April 2006 (<http://www.vliz.be> and <http://www.kustzonebeleid.nl>)

References

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