

KustINzicht2019 - Figures and analyses for the Flemish coastal zone

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In 2019; VLIZ and the province of West Flanders launched the first edition of KustINzicht2019; a handy pocketbook full of fascinating figures and analyses about the Flemish coastal area. After all; the Flemish coast strongly distinguishes itself from other regions in Belgium and Europe because it has to serve a whole range of users and functions in a limited area: from important economic actors such as ports and coastal tourism to the development of a unique nature on beaches and dunes and intense agricultural activities in the hinterland. In addition to combining economic activities with space for nature; the Flemish coast also faces major social challenges as it exhibits a characteristic social landscape with many second homes; an aging population and underprivileged people. Furthermore; its location by the sea and intensive land use mean that the coastal region is highly susceptible to the consequences of climate change. Not only does the Flemish coast have to be protected against rising sea levels; but it also has to face up to challenges in terms of water supply and salinisation. All these elements together mean that our coast is confronted on a daily basis with area-specific phenomena and administrative issues on a social; economic and ecological level.

With the publication of KustINzicht2019; VLIZ and the Province of West Flanders provide a wide range of scientifically sound figures; maps and time series that serve as an accessible area-oriented knowledge base. The aim is not only to inform local policy makers and stakeholders about local coastal processes and phenomena; but also to increase the visibility and applicability of coastal knowledge. Like the Compendium for Coast and Sea; the KustINzicht2019 functions as a gateway to other sources of information and data; such as the Knowledge Guide of the Compendium for Coast and Sea; the Coastal Portal; Provinces in Figures; etc.

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