

The Coastal Atlas Flanders/Belgium: an interactive data-driven atlas

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The Coastal Atlas Flanders/Belgium was first published in hardback in 2004 to respond to the EU Recommendation on ICZM, with no intention to move towards a web version. The many requests for maps encouraged the developers to launch a web-based atlas in 2005. The interactive nature of the maps was kept simple.

In June 2011, the Coordination Centre on ICZM launched a new web version, this time a more interactive data-driven atlas. The final product has become a portal for the Belgian coast and sea, backing the ICZM process for a wide range of coastal actors, planners and managers. It provides core information through an interactive website, to help local citizens, stakeholders and policy makers make better decisions or gain a better understanding of the coast. Great attention has been given to an attractive lay-out and the ease of navigating through the website. The information is thematically ranged in 13 chapters, taking the land-sea interface into consideration. Each chapter provides static, ready-to-use maps, coastal data and an interactive map. All static maps can be downloaded in PDF format; the data in excel format. The interactive map contains tools as measuring, zooming, printing and downloading which makes personalised maps possible. The shape files are available for download. Also, the sustainability indicators are integrated in the Coastal Atlas; 21 indicators are grouped in 7 chapters, giving an insight about the state of the coast and the sustainability of its development. Some indicators can be visualised geographically on the interactive map, in this way showing differences between regions, trends and patterns. The Coastal Atlas is available in 4 languages:

www.kustatlas.be

www.coastalatlas.be

www.atlascotier.be

www.kuestenatlas.be

In September 2011 the Coordination Centre published a second hardback version of the Coastal Atlas Flanders/Belgium with new maps, photographs and additional chapters in Dutch and English. The Coastal Atlas Flanders/Belgium has been realised with the technical support of the Task & Finish Group Coastal Explorer, the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and developers Aquaterra and Quoted, and was financially supported by the Interreg IV A project C-SCOPE and the partners of the Coordination Centre.

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