

Sea meets Land

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Abstract: The overall aim of the EU-funded project “Hav möter Land” – Sea meets Land (2010-2013) is to contribute to a sustainable use of the unique values of the seas and coastal areas of Kattegatt and Skagerrak. The vision is to create an ecosystembased management and proactive spatial planning of the Kattegatt and Skagerrak area involving all administrative levels and relevant stakeholders. Where usage goes hand in hand with environmental consciousness and where interests are managed in a context of climate change adaptation.

The 26 partners from Sweden, Norway and Denmark including local, regional and national levels are collectively the building blocks of the project. Climate, water management and spatial planning are three main focus areas.

Sea meets Land have intended to develop common planning tools, methods, platforms for exchange of information and knowledge for a better management. The project has produced a regional climate model. The model estimates sea’s status and how it will change in a future climate. The model has an excellent resolution; around 3.5 km instead of 125 km or so normally used in a global model.

Visions and guidelines for crossborder strategies for a sustainable management and use of the coasts and sea of the Kattegatt-Skagerrak area have been developed. Such as: Harmonisation of methods to assess environmental status of coastal water in order to be able to agree upon appropriate measures needed to be taken to improve water quality.

Better preparedness with proactive planning in coastal municipalities to adapt to climate change and rising sea level has been another important issue dealt with in the project.

We have developed a handbook for planning eco-friendly harbours for leisure boats, we have been running a campaign for eco-friendly boating, environmental measures in boat cleaning areas, made a film about marine litter involving artist and a younger generation.

We have been looking into methods for environmental monitoring in the future, developed a handbook for how to handle contaminated sediments in marine environment.

We also have been working with methods to jointly develop a plan for management of an area far out in the open sea. This area feature steep, deep ravines with horn corals and many other rare species. An area that at the same time is important for commercial fishing for all three countries and sometimes sport fishermen. The project has also enforced the link between management and scientific knowledge, which will contribute to create a dynamic adaptive ecosystem based management strategy of the region.

In all we have strived to reduce our environmental footprint and together secure that our common marine resource and marine ecosystem will be able to deliver services and goods also for future generations. And to move a step further towards our common vision “It shall always be good to live where Sea meets Land – there are no borders under the water surface”.