

Can we help?

For details of how we can help with projects in the marine and coastal environment, or to add us to your contractors lists for this range of services, please contact the Coastal Sciences Coordinator, Emily Hastings to discuss your requirements.

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For more details go to:
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Coasts @ Hutton

Coastal Science, Research and Consultancy from The James Hutton Institute



- Furthering Research
- Building Partnerships
- Working with Communities
- Delivering Education and Awareness



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Coasts @ Hutton

This is an exciting time for coastal and marine management in Scotland, with recent legislation providing a focus and requirement for innovative research and adaptive management. This legislation will undoubtedly bring new responsibilities for us all and provide new challenges as we strive to optimise economic growth whilst enhancing nature conservation.

Our research aims to protect resources and propose mitigation measures against impacts. Much of this is in collaboration with partners across the UK and internationally and working closely with communities.

The two-way process of knowledge exchange is a fundamental part of our research. We aim to disseminate information in accessible formats including visualisations, presentations, reports, seminars and newsletters.

Understanding Policy

The way we manage our coastal and marine environment is changing. Legislation such as the Water Framework Directive, Marine (Scotland) Act, Climate Change (Scotland) Act, Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act, and Marine Strategy Framework Directive will give us an opportunity to plan and better deliver natural resource management for our coasts and seas.

Consensus Building

- Stakeholder engagement
- Participatory approaches
- Visualisation
- Society, institutions and governance
- Conflict resolution

Data Collection

- Habitat and species surveys
- Land use
- Water quality assessment
- Soil surveys
- Analytical services

Our work and expertise includes

Management Planning

- Ecosystem approach
- Coastal planning
- Spatial planning
- Catchment management
- Spatial mapping

Evaluation

- Site evaluation
- Landscape modelling
- Climate change and flooding
- Stakeholder feedback
- Policy implications

Coasts @ Hutton – Areas of Current Research

Global Change – The Local Context

Our work in this area reflects the external pressures Scotland is facing and explores how we can adapt to global changes such as demographic shifts, social attitudes, global trade and climate change.



Examples of work and commercial contracts;

- Climate change and coastal flooding
- Wind farm developments and community perceptions
- Pathogen impact on bathing waters
- Coastal habitats and climate change
- Public attitudes towards biodiversity management
- Renewable energy impact assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Understanding the ecological and physical dynamics of the land and sea interface
- Understanding the drivers and pressures on coastal systems

Scotland's Natural Coastal Assets

Our work aims to assign values to natural assets, identify threats and propose measures to reduce risks and protect these resources for future generations.



Examples of work and commercial contracts;

- Application of the Ecosystem Approach
- Contaminated land surveys and risk assessments
- Flood risk assessments and modelling
- Water quality/effluent sampling, monitoring and analysis
- Marine Litter Issues Impacts and Actions-towards a Strategy for Scotland
- Analytical Services including Specialist/Bespoke Analysis
- North East Scotland State of the Coast Report
- Ecosystem functioning
- Water resources assessment

Understanding our Resources

To optimise the potential of Scotland's natural assets and provide local responses to global change, we undertake policy driven work and create and manage long term data sets on our environmental resources, providing the background information for well informed decision making.



Examples of work and commercial contracts;

- Sand dune survey of Scotland
- Monitoring schemes
- Habitat and vegetation surveys including invasive species
- Protected species and fauna surveys
- Mapping: soil, climate and land cover
- Site evaluation
- Expert Witness
- Policy evaluation
- Public engagement in marine planning through new technologies, tools and innovations
- Understanding of coastal assets in Scotland for Regional Marine Planning