

# Consultation Summary

The West of Wales SMP2 covers over 1000km of coast.

The shoreline has been divided into Coastal Areas (A to G), as shown on the figure below. Within each area the plan is developed by Policy Development Zones (PDZ) as identified below.



## Background

The first SMPs (SMP1s) were produced in 2002. The West of Wales SMP2 draws together the areas previously covered by the Cardigan Bay and the Ynys Enlli to Great Orme SMP1s. We are currently in the process of developing the second generation of the SMP. The SMP2 process has undergone significant changes since the SMP1s were developed.

## Looking Forward

How we manage the coast now sets the pattern for how we manage in the future.

SMP2 looks ahead for 100 years, looking at where management is taking us. It considers management over the short term, the medium term and into the future. We recognise the increasing uncertainty in the future but equally the need to plan for this uncertainty. The SMP addresses the present problems while highlighting the issues that will arise.

## The Increasing Risk

Flood risk will increase in the future, due to climate change, as will coastal erosion and pressure for change at the shoreline.

In areas where there is the need to manage defences, defences will cost more. We have to look at different ways in which defences and risk can be managed. This may require improved flood warning, emergency response and community resilience. In other areas continuing to manage risk in the way in which we do at present may not be sustainable. We will have to adapt. We need to understand and plan how we can change.

## Social & Environment

How we manage the shoreline, the risk from flooding and erosion, and the sustainability of defences, has a major impact on the way in which we value, live and work at the coast.

There are important communities at the coast. The coast supports a thriving tourist industry, important agricultural use, and other commercial and industrial interests at the shoreline. The coast is important for recreation, leisure activities and the quality of life, particularly given the superb landscape, the quality of the beaches and access to the sea. An essential part of this quality relies on the important ecology and the historic environment.

Future management of the shoreline must allow natural habitats and features to respond and adjust, and must comply with legislation relating to conservation designations. It must also work with spatial planning in delivering balanced sustainability.

## Improved Understanding

Since SMP1, the behaviour of the coast has been monitored and various detailed studies have been undertaken.

SMP2 develops from the understanding provided by SMP1. Where additional information is now available it has been built in to assessing how the shoreline may be managed.

## Who has prepared the Shoreline Management Plan?

The Cardigan Bay and Ynys Enlli to the Great Orme Coastal Groups have led the development of the SMP2. The process has been managed by Pembrokeshire County Council on behalf of the Groups.

The Steering Group includes:

- Pembrokeshire County Council
- Ceredigion County Council
- Powys County Council
- Gwynedd Council

- Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Environment Agency Wales
- Countryside Council for Wales

- Network Rail
- National Trust
- National Park Authorities

Development of the Plan is supported by the Welsh Assembly Government.

# West of Wales SMP2

## Consultation Summary

Public Consultation Period  
6<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011

## What is a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)?

The West of Wales Shoreline Management Plan provides a high level strategy for managing flood and erosion risk for the coastline between St Anne's Head, at the entrance to Milford Haven, and the Great Orme.

The Plan assesses these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment. It considers the immediate risks and how management of this risk can be developed in to the future in a sustainable manner, to ensure that this does not tie future generations to costly and unsustainable management. Although the Plan focuses on management of risk and defences, it has to take account of the broader issues of coastal management. It provides a framework within which opportunities for broader management can be considered and aims to provide the foundation for balanced management of other issues relating to the coastal area.

## Your opportunity to comment

The draft SMP2 Documents are available for review on the SMP website ([www.westofwalesmp.org/](http://www.westofwalesmp.org/)) where you can also provide us with your comments.

You may also post your comments to:

Emyr Williams (T&E)  
West of Wales SMP  
PO Box 115  
Haverfordwest  
SA62 9DG

A series of public exhibitions will be held during May / June 2011 to present the draft Shoreline Management Plan

Llangefni –	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Council Chambers 3pm to 8pm
Llandudno –	18 <sup>th</sup> May	Llandudno Swimming Centre 3pm to 8pm
Plas Menai –	19 <sup>th</sup> May	Plas Menai 3pm to 8pm
Fairbourne –	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Village Hall 3pm to 8pm
Pwllheli –	25 <sup>th</sup> May	Pwllheli Sailing Club 10am to 8pm
Machynlleth –	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Y Plas, Aberystwyth Road 3pm to 8pm
Borth –	27 <sup>th</sup> May	Community Hall 3pm to 8pm
Cardigan –	7 <sup>th</sup> June	Guildhall 3pm to 8pm
Aberaeron –	8 <sup>th</sup> June	Memorial Hall 3pm to 8pm
Broad Haven –	9 <sup>th</sup> June	Broad Haven Village Hall 3pm to 8pm
Fishguard –	10 <sup>th</sup> June	Town Hall 3pm to 8pm
Porthmadog –	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Y Ganolfan 3pm to 8pm
Aberdyfi –	15 <sup>th</sup> June	Neuadd Dyfi 3pm to 8pm

Further details of meetings will be publicised in the local press and on the web site.

## Contact Details

Pembrokeshire County Council  
Emyr Williams  
Tel: 01437 776143  
[emyr.williams@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:emyr.williams@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

Ceredigion County Council  
Rhodri Llwyd  
Tel: 01545 572434  
[rhodri.llwyd@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:rhodri.llwyd@ceredigion.gov.uk)

Powys County Council  
Graham Astley  
Tel: 01597 826209  
[graham.astley@powys.gov.uk](mailto:graham.astley@powys.gov.uk)

Gwynedd Council  
Huw Davies  
Tel: 01341 424405  
[HuwRDavies@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:HuwRDavies@gwynedd.gov.uk)

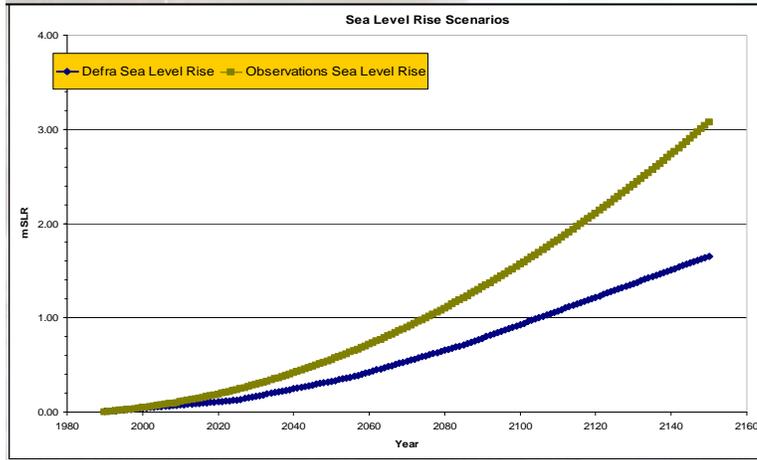
Isle of Anglesey County Council  
Rowland Thomas  
Tel: 01248 752312  
[ERTHT@anglesey.gov.uk](mailto:ERTHT@anglesey.gov.uk)

Conwy County Borough Council  
Richard Evans  
Tel: 01492 575193  
[richard2.evans@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:richard2.evans@conwy.gov.uk)

## The coastline is changing – and it will affect you

The coast is a dynamic environment. The coast is in continual change, it has changed in the past and it will continue to change in the future.

Waves, tides, wind and storms move sand and sediment around the coast and into and out of estuaries, changing how the shoreline looks, behaves and protects or threatens homes, communities and other use of the coast. Human activity has also affected our coastline through the construction of ports and harbours, railways and roads, coast protection and flood defences.



The graph shows the Defra Guidance values for sea level rise (SLR), together with the UKCP09 H++ scenario. These scenarios are referred to within the SMP document as the 1m SLR scenario and the 2m SLR scenario. Defra Guidance has been used to assess policies for management for the three time periods covered by the Plan. Considering different scenarios is useful in testing sensitivity and identifying long-term issues of sustainability. If sea level rise was in fact less than the 1m scenario, then the changes discussed in the main SMP2 document would be over a longer period of time. However, as noted by UKCP09, the 2m scenario provides a baseline for considering future change in behaviour.

## Developing the Plan

The SMP sets out a Plan for management. The Plan considers how we manage the shoreline now, looking at how, where necessary, this may change in the future.

**Policies are assigned to different sections of the coast (policy units) to achieve the intent of the Plan. Policies are defined covering three periods of time; short term, medium term and long term (nominally from now for 20 years, from 20 to 50 years and 50 to 100 years).**

The generic policy options are:

**No Active Intervention (NAI):** where there is no investment in coastal defence or operations.

**Managed Realignment (MR):** by allowing the shoreline to move backwards or forwards, with management to control or limit movement (such as reducing erosion or building new defences on the landward side of the original defences).

## Structure of the Plan

The SMP2 has drawn together a large volume of information on a wide range of issues including geology, geomorphology, coastal processes and the natural, built and historic environment. The significance and relevance of this information has been assessed and has been fed into the development of the Plan. This information is presented in the Appendices to the main document. The main document is set out in the following sections:

## Climate Change

Rates of sea level rise will increase due to global warming. Although this is clear, the amount of change is uncertain.

At the peak of the last ice age, global water levels were around 120 metres lower than they are today. During the last warm period, it has been estimated that sea level was some 2m higher than at present.

The SMP is looking forward over a period of 100 years. Over that period of time the change from present sea levels will have a profound affect on the way in which we may perceive the coast and how we manage important interest on the coast in specific areas.

## Planning for Change

We have to plan despite the uncertainties.

Sea level rise will increase the risk of flooding and will increase the pressure from erosion. We have to recognise the important value that the coast provides in terms of a place to live and work but we need to look at how our use of the coast will need to respond over time. The SMP considers how we may need to change from now into the future. This will be a continuous process.

**Hold the Line (HTL):** by maintaining or changing the standard of protection.

**Advance the Line (ATL):** this policy is limited to those policy units where significant land reclamation is considered.

The way in which these policies are applied to sections of the coast has to be considered in the context of the overall Plan. To assist in this, policy units are grouped together as management areas.

## What is at risk – what are we managing

### No Active Intervention. The possible risk

Without defence there would be significant loss to all the major towns on the coast. Overall it has been assessed that some 1600 properties could be lost due to erosion, in addition to services and loss of amenity. This includes major towns such as Little Haven and Broadhaven, New Quay and Aberaeron, Aberystwyth, Borth, Aberdyfi and Tywyn, Criccieth, elsewhere around the Llyn Peninsula, around Anglesey and at Conwy and Llandudno. There is also risk to many smaller villages. There are, at present, some 14,000 properties at risk from flooding within the SMP area. The risk of damage and loss would increase over the next 100 years. The principle areas at risk are shown below.

- Newgale and Solva (40 properties)
- Cardigan (100 properties)
- Aberystwyth (950 properties)
- Aberdyfi to the Dysynni (350 properties)
- Barmouth (250 properties)
- Porthmadoc (1650 properties)
- The Western Menai Strait (176 properties)
- Rhosneigr and Valley (250 properties)
- Traeth Coch area (35 properties)
- Bangor (330 properties)
- Conwy and the inner Conwy Estuary (1000 properties)
- Lower Town Fishguard and Newport Parrog (50 properties)
- Aberaeron (350 properties)
- Borth and the Dyfi Estuary (500 properties)
- Fairbourne (400 properties)
- Harlech Area (450 properties)
- Pwllheli (1200 properties)
- The Cefni and Malltraeth area (140 properties)
- Holy Island (350 properties)
- Beaumaris and Porthaethwy (270 properties)
- Llanfairfechan (78 properties)
- Llandudno (4800 properties)

In many areas there are roads at risk, the loss of which would have significant impact on communities. There is also significant risk to the various lengths of the railway lines.

Virtually every mile of the coast of Wales bears the traces of Welsh history from prehistoric burials and forts through to present day aspects of the cultural landscape. Many heritage features are at risk from slow erosion of the natural cliffs.

While such a scenario would clearly have very significant consequences on many aspects of the West of Wales coastline, it does highlight where intervention at the shoreline may influence and potentially harm the highly valued natural environment. This baseline scenario highlights the risks but also shows the scale of impact defences may have.

The right balance needs to be achieved between the need to intervene in the natural processes whilst making sure inflexible and unaffordable management is not passed on to future generations. Even where the coast is currently managed, future intervention may not be the right choice if it is likely that on-going management will have a detrimental impact on other parts of the coastal system. It is likely that costs will increase in the future as the coast changes, either as it is now doing or because of climate change. Careful consideration has been given to the balance between whether it would be sustainable to continue existing management practices rather than letting the coastline behave more naturally.



This does not mean that we should walk away from management at the shoreline. Indeed, in the West of Wales area the coastal zone is essential for the future prosperity of the area. The majority of the major towns are at the coast and there are numerous small villages along the coastal fringe, whose character and cultural heritage are inextricably linked to their association with the sea. These towns and villages are an essential part of the character of west Wales as well as being important residential areas and providing vital services to the largely rural hinterland. The various harbours add immediate value to these settlements. Many of these harbours also provide important services to the local fishing effort as well as supporting more generally the tourism industry.

The outstanding natural beauty of the coast is important in terms of landscape, its ecological value and in understanding the geological and geomorphological changes that have occurred. This, together with the historic landscape, has an intrinsic value, but also underpins the attraction of the coast for tourism and as a place to live and work. The beaches provide a significant value in this respect. All these aspects have to be balanced alongside the increasing risk from erosion and flooding and assessed in terms of the management approach and effort that is required to sustain these features now and in the future.

### Consultation on the Draft Plan

**There are important issues being discussed within the draft Shoreline Management Plan for the West of Wales. Your views and comments will contribute to this process.**

Your comments need to be provided to us by 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011

Following consultation, all responses will be considered and the SMP will be updated taking into account all comments.