

Annual report for the Southern Coastal Group and Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline 2009/10

Andrew Bradbury - Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Highlights of the year

- The Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC have continued to contribute a leading role to the national and regional agenda of flood and coastal erosion risk management.
- A major initiative this year has been the publication of an updated version of SCOPAC's 'Coastal risk management – A non-technical guide' which was launched at the House of Commons in April 2009. The guide demonstrates both the technical prowess of the coastal group, and also the ability of the group to “punch above its weight” by engaging in key meetings at the highest political level.
- In September 2009 the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group Dr Robin McInnes, stood down after many years of chairmanship; his excellent service was acknowledged by a presentation at his last meeting. Professor Andrew Bradbury was appointed as Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group, with Tim Kermode and Lyall Cairns appointed as Vice-Chairmen. Dr Samantha Cope was appointed as research sub-group Chairman.
- Councillor Roger Elkins has overseen much of the transitional work involved in the creation of the new SCOPAC as an important political voice for the south of England and in creating a sound relationship with its partner the Southern Coastal Group.
- The introduction of the new coastal group team has seen a change in direction, with a back to basics approach to training. The first event in the new “A problem shared” workshop series encouraged attendance by many that are new to coastal risk management. The workshop was extremely well attended and also well supported by those experienced coastal group members, willing to share their experience. The event is the first in the line of a whole series planned to further professional development at very low cost, and truly within the spirit of the cooperation of the coastal group. With efforts to achieve succession planning within local authorities and the Environment Agency, this approach is likely to become an important element of the training programme for future coastal engineers.

- The Southern Coastal Group has led on the coordination and development of the highly successful southeast regional coastal monitoring programme. Many of the initiatives originally developed for this programme now form keystones of the proposed National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes, in which the Southern Coastal group is also leading on the development. A completed submission to the Environment Agency's National Review Group has been prepared, together with the sign-up and collaboration of all of the other coastal groups nationally.
- An important role for both the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC has been to support the delivery of the second round of shoreline management plans. Excellent progress is being made with adoption of second generation Shoreline Management Plans and the group is on target to meet the government delivery targets by the end of 2010.
- A positive rapport has been developed with the Regional Flood Defence Committees, with other bodies in our region and nationally with the other Regional Coastal Groups and other National Stakeholder Groups.

Coastal group performance

A clear demonstration of the value for money to coastal group members is evident, by reference to the deliverables achieved from both the action plan and from the SCOPAC research programme. The savings made to the partner organisations through the coordination of investment to optimise delivery is clearly evident.

Deliverables achieved from Action Plan

1. Prepare, approve and adopt new Terms of Reference and Constitution for SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group.
2. Publish an annual forward programme of meeting dates for SCOPAC
3. Maintain an up to date database of SCOPAC Contact details.
4. Continue to develop and improve the Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC websites.
5. Prepare an annual report and business plan.
6. Arrange early meetings with the RFDC Chairman and Environment Agency officers to discuss coast protection input to Regional Flood Defence Committees.
7. Maintain firm links with the Solent and Dorset Coastal Fora and the LGA Coastal Special Interests Group.
8. Continue to support technical field meetings and conferences where appropriate.
9. Support the successful completion/implementation of SMP2s, Strategy Studies and Medium Term Plans.

10. Oversee the successful completion of the SCOPAC research programme.
11. Launch SCOPAC Guide to Coastal Risk Management.
12. Deliver the research programme for SCOPAC through the Southern Coastal Group.
13. Support the future extension of the Strategic Monitoring Programme.
14. Examine and support opportunities for joint-working, collaboration and joint-procurement between Group members
15. Support workshops and training activities within the Group and/or with adjacent Groups on key topics and new scientific advances
16. Encourage attendance by Group members at key coastal-related national/international conferences
17. Liaison with EA over funding issues relating to Group's new role and delivery of Strategic Overview
18. Facilitate improved links between coastal engineers, development control and planning policy officers through their involvement in meetings and events
19. Exchange good practice on coastal risk management with Officers of the Environment Agency
20. Assist EA officers with preparation of Medium and Long Term Plans
21. Review research programme against timescales and targets
22. Monitor progress on individual research projects
23. Approve minor projects for funding within agreed 'De-minimus' limits

Annual value of coastal group activities to partner organisations

Activity	Method of saving and technical benefits	Specific examples	Typical annual value of coastal group contribution to each partner organisation i.e. cost of doing work in isolation
Consultations on strategic coastal issues and representation on regional and national groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of individual organisation effort • Coordinated regional approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floods and waters act • CLG revenue funding • National coastal chairs • National coastal forum • Representation on RFDC 	<p style="text-align: right;">£30,000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lead officer time</p>
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused regional programme • Improved design and risk assessment • Improved maintenance techniques • Raising political profile of regional issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme wave climate • Timber maintenance • Sediment tracer studies • ACCESS • Non-technical guide • Beach management manual 	<p style="text-align: right;">£40,000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Contracts and officer time</p>
Political representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated approach to political consultations with central government • Raising political profile of regional issues with Westminster politicians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landslide funding • Non technical guide launch 	<p style="text-align: right;">£3,000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Officer time</p>

Activity	Method of saving and technical benefits	Specific examples	Typical annual value of coastal group contribution to each partner organisation i.e. cost of doing work in isolation
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of expert advice • Courses and conferences • Sharing experiences • Sharing skills • Succession planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber workshop • Field visit • Regional Monitoring Annual review • MTP workshop 	<p style="text-align: right;">£2,000-5000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(depends on number of officers/members)</p>
Sharing resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of procurement frameworks • Collaborative working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portsmouth/Havant led consultant framework • Regional monitoring 	<p style="text-align: right;">£12,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Officer time in development and management of framework</p>
Regional delivery of Coordinated programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional coastal monitoring programme • SMP delivery of plans • SMP coordination of action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff time running regional programmes 	<p style="text-align: right;">£70,000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Survey contracts and officer time</p>
Streamlining funding of capital programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of admin procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium term plan 	<p style="text-align: right;">£5,000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Officer time</p>
Estimated total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p style="text-align: right;">£162,000</p>

Estimates are based upon actual timesheet records, staff time costs and contracted activities for delivery of each activity on behalf of the coastal group.

Research

Over the last year the Southern Coastal Group has provided technical support for SCOPAC including the delivery of SCOPAC's approved research programme. The research programme continues to provide valuable information for its constituent members with the aim of undertaking cutting-edge research that will be of direct benefit to those involved in coastal risk management, both by contributing funding towards national projects that can be tested along the south coast of England as well as by supporting sub-regional research projects and providing guidance information. A particular benefit is the use of the in-house skills from within the partner organisations to conduct some of the research, which enables focused research to be conducted with the benefits of excellent local knowledge.

- A major initiative this year has been the publication of an updated version of SCOPAC's 'Coastal risk management – A non-technical guide' which was launched at the House of Commons in April 2009. The new guide, which updates the earlier version published in 2004, has been distributed to all members of Parliament with coastal constituencies as well as other key national players in the coastal management field and all SCOPAC elected members and officers together with other local interest groups; a very positive response to the new guide has been received.
- A study which has attracted particular interest this year has been the first phase of the 'extreme wave conditions study' which is being undertaken by Professor Andrew Bradbury. A presentation on this study was made to SCOPAC which resulted in significant discussion particularly in the context of climate change. The outcomes of the study have far reaching implications for beach management and flood management. The study demonstrates the value of conducting regional scale research programmes that would otherwise not be funded. It is anticipated that the outcomes are likely to result in requirements for a major overhaul of the methods used to assess standards of protection for many sites on the south coast
- SCOPAC has also contributed £10,000 towards the new edition of the CIRIA Beach Management Manual which is to be published in late 2010. This important publication will benefit from a launch along the south coast of England in order to maximise its value to Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC's members.
- The membership of the Southern Coastal Group has been concerned at the apparent national lack of focus on assessment of erosion related risks. A major project is currently underway to address these concerns and is known as ACCESS (Adapting to Climate Change along England's Southern Shoreline). This provides valuable links also with the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping project and is expected to provide some useful insights that will provide further and future technical development of approaches to assessing erosion risk. The programme is scheduled for completion in spring 2011.

A Group organisation

The Southern Coastal Group, covering the central south coast of England between Selsey Bill in West Sussex and Portland Bill in Dorset, including the Isle of Wight, was formally established on 12 September 2008 following extensive discussions in the months leading up to its formation at meetings of SCOPAC Officers' Working Group and the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline.

The formation of the Southern Coastal Group arose following the publication of the government's response to the extensive consultation on 'Making space for water', which took place between 2004 and 2006. The results of this consultation led to the recommendation that coastal groups should be streamlined and their activities undertaken in accordance with a more standardised approach around the English coast. The chairman of SCOPAC Officers' Working Group, together with his colleague chairmen from the other coastal groups, was actively involved in developing the structure and roles for the new coastal groups working closely with Defra and the Environment Agency.

In April 2008 the Environment Agency was given a 'Strategic Overview for flood and coastal risk management' by Defra, which essentially provided a new way of working between the government, the Environment Agency, local authorities and coastal groups in order to improve the sustainability, prioritisation and management of all work on the coast. Whilst the Environment Agency was given the Overview, close collaborative working with local authorities on the coast was recognised as essential to ensure that vital skills and expertise are used most beneficially for coastal communities in the future. The Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC has been actively involved in ensuring the successful restructuring of coastal risk management arrangements along the central south coast of England following the delegation by Defra to the Environment Agency of a 'Strategic Overview for flood and coastal risk management' in April 2008. As a result there has been considerable administrative activity for the group over the last year but, despite this, SCOPAC has continued to play a leading role in terms of investigation, research and dissemination on coastal issues.

New Constitutions for both SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group have been developed as well as new Terms of Reference, Business Plans and Action Plans. This work has resulted in the creation of a new structure whereby SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group continue to work in close partnership to their mutual benefit with SCOPAC retaining its key policy role including information-sharing and provision of guidance to its members as well as the commissioning of research, which is now delivered by the Southern Coastal Group on its behalf.

B Administrative Changes

In September 2008 the Isle of Wight Council advised that it was no longer able to provide the secretarial and treasurer services for SCOPAC. Following discussions with Havant Borough Council, it commenced the secretarial role on 1 January 2009 and the treasurer role from 1 April 2009. As a result meetings, which had previously been held at the Guildhall, Portsmouth, have since taken place at Havant Borough Council offices. The new arrangements supported by Havant Borough Council have been working extremely well both in terms of officer support and accommodation for Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC.

The Environment Agency has supported Southern Coastal Group through financial contributions towards some of the time spent by the chairman of the Southern Coastal Group in involvement with some strategic national and regional activities. In discharging their responsibilities to deliver the strategic overview the Environment Agency requires the coastal group to be represented at a range of national and regional groups. Some of the coastal chairs provide a specialist representation on selected groups on behalf of the other coastal groups. Research representation figures prominently in the Southern Coastal Group's support to other coastal groups and the Environment Agency.

These activities include attendance at a range of events including the following groups.

- Wessex and Southern RFDCs
- Environment Agency / DEFRA coastal forum
- UK Coastal Monitoring and Forecasting
- Environment Agency performance of asset management systems
- Environment Agency beach management manual steering group
- Environment Agency sustainable asset management research grp
- Defra / Environment Agency FCERM conference
- National monitoring workshop
- National coastal erosion risk map coastal engagement and governance
- Coastal group chair

The Southern Coastal Group has been strengthened by its new constitution, terms of reference and action plan it now forms one of seven new pro-active coastal groups delivering sustainable risk management for the English coast. It has established a firm working relationship with the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline and continues to deliver effectively the research programme.

APPENDICES

C Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC Events 2009/10

- Launch SCOPAC Guide to Coastal Risk Management House of Commons.
- Annual regional coastal monitoring review
- Timber structures training workshop
- Southern coastal group meetings (4)
- SCOPAC meetings (3)

D Coastal group documentation

The Group's websites www.southerncoastalgroup.org.uk and www.scopac.org.uk continue to be populated with relevant information and members are encouraged to provide feedback and contributions via the Group's webmaster, Samantha Cope, snc@noc.soton.ac.uk. Further details of the coastal group can be found on the websites related to the following topics.

- Terms of Reference
- Membership
- Business Plan
- Meetings
- Funding & expenditure
- SMPs
- Coastal group activities
- Regional monitoring

E Links with Regional Flood and Coastal Defence Committees

Southern Coastal Group and SCOPACs area covers 2 Regional Flood and Coastal Defence Committees' areas, namely the Southern and Wessex regions.

The Group has established a growing dialogue with the Committees with coastal issues now becoming embedded in their respective agenda.

The Chairmen of the Regional Committees have a standing invitation to attend the Group's meetings and it is pleasing to note that they do take advantage of this and provide regular and helpful feedback. Equally, the Group's Chairmen attend the Committee meetings. Regular reports on coastal matters are provided to the Committees.

The future membership of the Regional Flood and Coastal Defence Committees will be of interest to Southern Coastal Group and SCOPACs.

F Engagement

The Group continues to seek to engage with the communities it serves and with partner organisations, including other Regional Coastal Groups and stakeholders. It has in place sub-groups dealing with shoreline management, strategic coastal monitoring and research to help it deliver some key outcomes.

At a national and regional level the Group has, inter alia, been represented at meetings with Defra, the Environment Agency, the Local Government Association and the Technical Advisory Group.

The Flood and Coastal Risk Management Stakeholders Forum and Conference continue to provide valuable events and opportunities for wider engagement with key partners, and the Environment Agency's regular National Forum allow a continual means of allowing, collectively, an input into the national agenda from a regional perspective.

G Strategic Coastal Monitoring and Coastal Erosion Mapping

The Group continues to play a key role in monitoring how its coastline is evolving and using the data collected to inform future coastal erosion risk management, including the projections used in its Shoreline Management Plans and coastal strategies.

The publication of coastal erosion information for public consumption has been an important consideration for the Group during the previous 12 months and it is hoped that this will come to fruition soon, allowing the general public and others with an interest in coastal evolution to be better informed about the risks and policies along our coastline.

H Business Planning and Strategy

The Group maintains a Business Plan which is updated on a regular basis.

I Medium Term Strategy

The Group has submitted its combined bids under the Environment Agency's medium term (2010-2015) Strategy.

J Shoreline Management Plans

The Group encompasses 4 second generation Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2), namely:

- North Solent
- Isle of Wight
- Poole and Christchurch Bays
- South Devon and Dorset

All are scheduled to be, completed, approved and signed off by the end of the year in line with Government targets. This means that the Group is well placed to take forward some very robust coastal policies for managing erosion risk management. It also demonstrates the widespread engagement undertaken with stakeholders in deriving a consensus about the coast.

The Southern coastal group and local SMP Steering sub-groups will continue to monitor the delivery of the SMP Action Plans.

K Legislation

A 'raft' of legislative changes has been promoted throughout the year not least the Royal Assent to the Flood and Water Management Bill in April 2010. The Upper Tier Authorities within the Group are taking the lead on the deliverables of the Bill and are being assisted, as determined, by District Councils according to local circumstances

L Officers of the Southern Coastal Group

Chairman – Dr Robin McInnes OBE (until september 2009)
Professor Andrew Bradbury (from September 2009)

Vice-Chairman – Professor Andrew Bradbury (until September 2009)
Tim Kermode and Lyall Cairns (from September 2009)

Research sub-group chair– Professor Andrew Bradbury (until September 2009)

Dr Samatha Cope (from September 2009)

Secretary – Havant Borough Council

Treasurer – Havant Borough Council

APPENDICES

SCOPAC/Southern Coastal Group Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2010

	2009/2010	2008/2009
	£	£
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	55,599	10,068
Environment Agency Contributions	19,409	18,800
SCOPAC Field Trip Contributions	2,240	-
South Downs Coastal Group Contribution	2,000	-
Officers Chairman's Fees	-	2,802
Research Contributions	-	46,857
Interest on Balances	-	3,419
	<u>79,248</u>	<u>81,946</u>
Expenditure (Note 1)		
Administrative Expenses		
Secretary and Treasurer Costs	11,800	7,020
Southern Coastal Group Chairmen Expenses	30,776	14,268
SCOPAC Chairman Expenses	354	-
Printing & Administration	-	1,217
Research	29,682	68,763
Other Expenditure		
Liability Insurance	919	851
Displays/Exhibitions	1,437	500
Artwork and Graphics	1,407	684
Annual Report/Business Plan	1,294	-
SCOPAC Field Meeting	6,688	-
Launch of Non-Technical Guide	702	-
Website Management	1,215	-
Good Practice Guides	-	2,970
	<u>86,274</u>	<u>96,273</u>
Deficit for the Year	<u>7,026</u>	<u>14,327</u>

SCOPAC/Southern Coastal Group Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

	2009/2010	2008/2009
	£	£
Current Assets		
Debtors (Note 2)	19,409	10,000
Cash	19,384	35,818
Total Current Assets	<u>38,793</u>	<u>45,818</u>
Represented By		
General Balance (Held by Havant Borough Council)	<u>38,793</u>	<u>45,818</u>

APPENDICES

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1 - Breakdown of Expenditure 2009/2010

	SCOPAC	Southern Coastal Group	Total
	£	£	£
Secretary and Treasurer Costs	5,100	6,700	11,800
Southern Coastal Group Chairmen Expense:	5,587	25,189	30,776
SCOPAC Chairman Expenses	354	-	354
Halcrow	4,301	-	4,301
Coastal & Geotechnical Services	13,944	-	13,944
Extreme Wave Study	8,000	-	8,000
Local Projects	3,437	-	3,437
Liability Insurance	459	460	919
Displays/Exhibitions	718	719	1,437
Artwork and Graphics	832	575	1,407
Annual Report/Business Plan	575	719	1,294
SCOPAC Field Meeting	6,688	-	6,688
Launch of Non-Technical Guide	702	-	702
Website Management	607	608	1,215
Total	51,304	34,970	86,274

SCOPAC was restructured into two distinct organisations in December 2008 - SCOPAC and the Southern Coastal Group. A breakdown of the expenditure between the two organisations has been provided for 2009/2010. No comparators have been provided for 2008/2009 as the two organisations were not accounted for separately until 2009/2010.

Note 2 - Breakdown of Debtors

	2009/2010	2008/2009
	£	£
Environment Agency	19,409	10,000