

SCOPAC Meeting – 23rd September
Southern Coastal Group Meeting – 5th October

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Implications of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 on the Coast

Introduction

The Flood and Water Management Act received Royal Assent in April 2010, but not all of it comes into force immediately. There is a considerable amount of information on the [Defra website](#) including a series of Factsheets. This paper summarises the key implications for Coastal management, mainly from the factsheets.

Key Areas

The Act introduces the Environment Agency's Coastal Overview – this is the first point on the Key Areas

To give the Environment Agency an overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management and unitary and county councils the lead in managing the risk of all local floods

Changes to Regional Committees

The Regional Flood Defence Committee's (RFRDC) will become Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC). There is provision for changes to the committee's by secondary legislation, but no significant changes are envisaged.

The committees can still raise a "local levy" and this change will allow for the levy to provide funding for Coast Protection (erosion) schemes as well as flood defence schemes.

Local Authorities

The Act provides a new role as the "Lead Local Flood Authority" and this is allocated to the upper tier (county) or unitary authority. It enables partnerships to be formed, but does not prescribe how.

It requires the Environment Agency to develop a nation strategy for coastal erosion and flooding from all sources and for this to be laid before parliament. The Lead Local Authority then must produce a strategy for local Flood Management in their Area, which is consistent with the National Strategy.

The Lead Local Authority has a duty to ensure that all flooding incidents are investigated and to maintain a register of structures or features that have a significant effect on Flood Risk.

It provides Lead Local Authorities, District Councils, the Environment Agency (and IDB's) to designate structures and features that affect flooding or coastal erosion. Once designated the owner must seek consent to change the feature. This is a significant change and will require co-operation between authorities and agreement about when a structure or feature should be designated.

Funding for Local Authorities

Defra recognize the additional burden on Lead Local Authorities and are committed to fund it, however this is subject to the spending review.

Other Aspects

There are also provisions for Internal Drainage Boards (IDB's), reservoir owners and property developers, but they are not significant for the coast.

Tim Kermode
9th September 2010