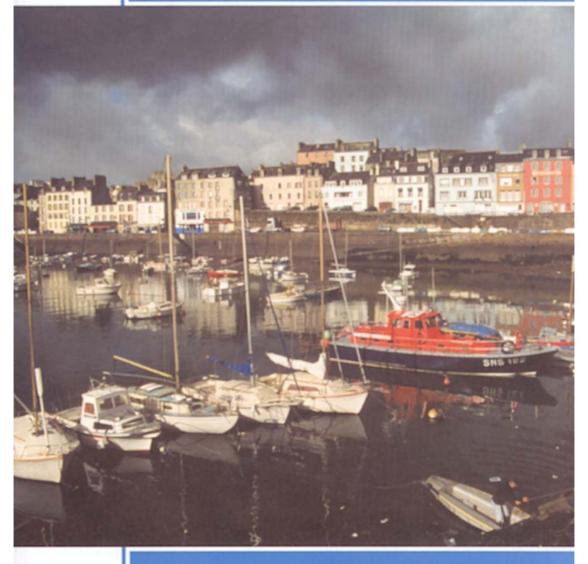


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ICZM in the Regional Seas

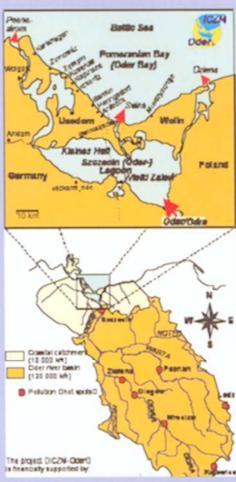
by Gerald Schernewski, Peter Dehne, Thorsten Permien, Irene Lucius, Carolina Pérez Valverde & Peter Heslenfeld

Management of coastal and marine resources has long been based on economic factors which tend to impact the ecosystems. Therefore, in order to lead towards a sustainable use, Integrated Coastal Zone Management is increasingly being implemented. In Europe, the different regions are advancing in different ways.

The Baltic Sea: regional Agenda 21 "Szczecin Lagoon" as a basis for ICZM

In 2002, the regional Agenda 21 "Szczecin Lagoon" was signed by the Federal State Minister for the Environment in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, and the Polish Vice-Marshal for the Environment of the Voivodeship Western Pomerania. This cross border agenda 21 covers the entire Oder/Odra estuary region, with the city of Szczecin in the south, the large shallow Szczecin Lagoon and the two Islands of Usedom and Wolin at the Baltic Sea coast. It focuses on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), sustainable tourism, environmental education, scientific cooperation and indicators for monitoring and evaluation. "Szczecin Lagoon" actively wants to promote sustainable development and involvement of the regional population and coastal stakeholders.

Against this background, the project 'Research for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Oder Estuary Region' (ICZM-Oder) was initiated. The special challenge of the project lies in carrying out science on an international level and, at the same time, to establish and support the implementation of ICZM within the regional Agenda 21. The aims and tasks within the project result from the specific situation and demands of the region. The project will tackle e.g. "Strategic Approach", "Principles", "National Status Quo" and "National Strategies. One scientific focus is the interaction between the Oder river basin, the adjacent coastal zone and the Baltic Sea. On the basis of model simulations and existing river catchment scenarios, climate change, changes in land-use and practise on coastal water quality will be determined. The creation of sustainable perspectives and structures, exceeding the duration of the project, is the core of all activities.



The Oder river basin (bottom) and the German/Polish Oder estuary region, area of the project ICZM-Oder.