

Coastal waters are fundamental natural resources in Germany and all over the world. For many years now, hydro-engineers have been confronted with the major challenge of working on strategies and techniques to protect and improve the environment of coastal water systems. Today, it is of vital importance to society as a whole to retain possession and to achieve sustainable development. The EU Water Framework Directive (2000) and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008) were established to this end. These formulate several obligations for the EU Member States with regard to monitoring. The EU implemented the INSPIRE Directive (2007) to facilitate these reporting obligations and to support the development of a European spatial data infrastructure relying on interoperable Web based software components. This has also become a very important task within the realm of hydro-engineering work.

Deep scientific knowledge and technical understanding, combined with specialized skills in discussions and communications as well as transparent state-of-the-art methods and models for the different coastal systems, are needed. This is an extremely demanding task in the field of hydrosience and engineering. This task can best be fulfilled by acting within a national and international collaborative framework.

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