

Preliminary Announcement



CoastGIS 2005: Defining and Building a Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure

Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC)
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

21st to 23rd July 2005

The 6th International Symposium on
GIS and Computer Cartography for
Coastal Zone Management

A collaboration between The International Cartographic Association's Commission on
Marine Cartography

and

The International Geographical Union's Commission on Coastal Systems



Register your interest with David R. Green: d.r.green@abdn.ac.uk

Website: www.coastgis2005.org.uk

CoastGIS Scientific Committee

Local Organising Committee

David R. Green - University of Aberdeen
Victoria Withy - AECC

COASTGIS 2005

The 6th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management

CoastGIS 2005 is the sixth International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management. It is also the second CoastGIS Symposium to be offered in Aberdeen, Scotland, UK.

In association with the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC) we are now pleased to invite you to visit Aberdeen once again and to participate in CoastGIS 2005: 21st-23rd July 2005.

As a major event, the CoastGIS series attracts an international audience of coastal researchers, managers and practitioners who use one or more of the geospatial technologies. CoastGIS 2005 will be held in Aberdeen, Scotland at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC).

Aberdeen is an ideal location for CoastGIS 2005 with its long coastal and maritime history, most notably the fishing industry and more recently as the Oil capital of Europe. Today coastal and marine research is a major activity of universities, research institutions, companies, consultancies and government agencies located both in and around Aberdeen City. The North East of Scotland is also fortunate in having some of the most beautiful and dynamic coastlines and beaches in Europe, a unique coastal heritage trail through the history of fishing and oil, as well as several maritime museums, harbours, and estuarine wildlife habitat. Inland Aberdeen is also blessed with being in close proximity to the beautiful landscapes of Royal Deeside and Balmoral Castle, castle country, golf courses, and the whisky trail providing an opportunity for sightseeing to enjoy the fresh air and scenery of Scotland.

Following on from CoastGIS 2003 in Genoa, CoastGIS 2005 seeks to build upon the overall theme of CoastGIS 2003 and the conclusions arising from the final Plenary session.

Some of the key points highlighted by different members of the Scientific Committee include the following:

1. We need political champions to help guard our interests in seeing that coastal information needs are not forgotten as larger national and regional (trans-national) spatial data infrastructure (SDI) frameworks are created.
2. GIS in the coastal zone is certainly about supporting science work, but there are also non-scientific and non-technical issues to be considered.
3. Data usability is a key concern and continues to require both research and information management focus for continued development of ways to harmonise data for wider use.
4. Information infrastructure developments are needed that permit easier discovery of existing data and use of data once located, in a variety of forms, from multiple data owners or custodians.
5. We need to find ways to engage stakeholders (data creators, custodians and users) even more widely in the data management and access issues.

As you are already probably aware, an event is also being offered in Australia in 2006 and, as such, there is a need also to embrace the theme of this following event to provide further opportunities for evolution and continuity. The theme for 2005 therefore is:

Defining and Building a Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure

Comprising data, metadata, computer networks, communication and access mechanisms, information technologies, policies and standards, and institutional arrangements, spatial data infrastructures are *fundamental* to our requirements to gather, store, process, analyse and use geospatial data. Furthermore, they facilitate access to, and the sharing of, disparate spatial data sources.

Management of coastal and marine problems is largely spatial in nature. Coastal and marine spatial data infrastructures are therefore becoming increasingly important as a means to facilitate access to accurate and up-to-date spatial data and also to provide for effective management. Seamless integration of the terrestrial, coastal and marine datasets is also seen as vital to facilitate integrated coastal management.

For the coastal GIS community, comprising researchers, administrators, users, data custodians and citizens, there is now a need to establish formal links between existing spatial data infrastructure initiatives, and to promote knowledge and understanding to the non-GIS and non-coastal specialists, addressing the responsible stakeholders in government, commerce, and industry.

The CoastGIS 2005 Symposium therefore seeks to stimulate an environment in which greater knowledge, understanding, and an appreciation of spatial data and spatial data infrastructures for coastal and marine management can be developed.

A CoastGIS 2005 website (www.coastgis2005.org.uk) has already been created, and over the coming months you will be asked to refer to this for the latest information on the symposium including important dates for your diary, abstract submission and paper submission deadlines, workshops, seminars, and field trips, as well as accommodation and the accompanying persons programme.

For those of you who came to Aberdeen in 1997, this will be an opportunity to visit Scotland once again and hopefully to renew old acquaintances, as well as meet new people, and to explore the technology and applications of the geospatial technologies to coastal environments.

We do hope that you will be able to join us in July 2005 in Aberdeen, and look forward to seeing you then when we can meet over a 'wee dram' or a round of golf, or whilst taking in some of the beautiful scenery the coast of Scotland has to offer.

As always this event promises to be a very rewarding experience and on behalf of the CoastGIS Committee we all look forward to welcoming you in Aberdeen.

David R. Green

CoastGIS 2005 Conference and Exhibition Chairman