

PREFACE

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When the 'Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association' (ECSA) asked us to consider hosting its annual symposium for 1999 in Hamburg, we immediately agreed because the heavily estuary-influenced German Bight is one of the target areas of the institutes that comprise the 'Centre for Marine and Atmospheric Research' (ZMK), University of Hamburg. Our proposal for a symposium theme — Climate Impact — was accepted by the Council of ECSA, provided that the focus be on the coastal zone, including estuaries.

We asked renowned specialists in the field to act as members of an advisory board, some of whom also accepted the invitation to participate at the symposium. This was made possible thanks to financial support from the Ministry of Education and Research, Federal Republic of Germany, and the German Society for Limnology.

The symposium took place at the 'Geomatikum' of the University of Hamburg from 10 to 13 August 1999. Overall, 46 papers and posters were presented in 8 sessions, each of which was introduced by a keynote speaker. During a half-day excursion to the German Wadden Sea, the participants visited the Eider River barrier, a huge construction that serves as an excellent example of the difficulties inherent in managing a coastal site by technology alone.

A selection of the presentations, which have been subjected to peer-review, are published in this CR SPECIAL, along with a summary of the discussion that concluded the symposium.

Scientific advisory board

J. Dera, Institute of Oceanology, Sopot, Poland
H. Graßl, World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland
J. Huthnance, Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, Birkenhead, UK
I. Kröncke, Senckenberg Institute, Wilhelmshaven, Germany
H. Lindeboom, Netherlands Institute of Sea Research, Texel, The Netherlands
C. N. K. Mooers, University of Miami, USA
U. Schiever, University of Rostock, Germany
M. Schirmer, University of Bremen, Germany
S. Jilan, Second Institute of Oceanology, Hangzhou, China

Session topics

- Regionalization of climate change
- Historical records of climate-related changes
- Morphodynamics and coastal evolution
- Socio-economic implications and coastal zone management
- Storm surges and coastal protection
- Circulation and transport
- Changes in the ecosystem
- Fish as indicator of environmental changes

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