

Summary

In May 2002 the EU Parliament and the Council agreed on a recommendation to the member states to implement integrated coastal zone management in the national administrations.

The Recommendation was based among other initiatives on the experience from the EU demonstration programme on Integrated Coastal Zone Management that ran from 1996 to 1999. One of 35 demonstration projects was carried out in Denmark's southern coastal zone.

The Recommendation proposes to elaborate national status reports on the existing management practise in the member states and on this basis develop a national strategy based on the principles put forward in the Recommendation. The national responses to the Recommendation are due in the spring 2006. This report is part of the Danish status report on management of the coastal zone.

In 2003 the Danish government decided to make a structural reform of the Danish counties and municipalities. The reform has been under development and implementation since then and will be functional from 2007. The process of evaluating the existing practice of coastal zone management in Denmark has been influenced by this structural reform. The Danish regions will be abolished and larger municipalities are being created. The main effect of this on coastal zone management is that the responsibility for water management, nature conservation and spatial planning will pass from the regions to the municipalities. Some responsibilities will be centralized to the national level.

Denmark is thus faced with a new structure in the local management system. The new municipalities will have the challenge of managing the coastal zone and secure a balance between conservation of valuable landscapes and habitat and development of the urban areas, tourism, harbours, farming etc.

The EU Recommendation emphasizes involvement of all coastal stakeholders and implementation of ICZM through the use of Community instruments and programs. The analysis presented in this paper focuses on stakeholders and their experiences with the management process and as such focuses on improving the process in an operational manner – from the user point of view.

This paper consists of three parts:

- A description of 12 cases of coastal zone management and interviews of a number of stakeholders, both private, municipal, regional and state.
- A survey of 100 persons - representatives of private, municipal, regional and state stakeholders - testing statements of the initial stakeholder interviews.

- Recommendations from a workshop, defining operational and implemental changes that might improve the Danish coastal zone management.

The analysis of the existing coastal zone management practice in Denmark shows, that the coastal zone management involves multiple stakeholders, but especially multiple authorities. Some projects may require permission from two or three authorities, although from a developer or layman point of view it is one single project. This often creates delays and frustration both for authorities and the applicants. It has therefore been discussed how to streamline communication between applicant and authority concerning management of the different cases for example by limiting the number of authorities that have to look into the cases.

The management process in the coastal zone is characterized by coordinating the different interests through a hearing process among the relevant authorities. One central body sends the case out to all relevant stakeholders. This process is timeconsuming, however it is considered satisfactory in general because the majority of stakeholders hereby get the opportunity to be heard. A tendency is however, that no prioritisation is made between the different interests. This makes it difficult for the responsible authority to act in cases of conflicting interests.

One way of solving disputes is to map interests with coherent data. This way the information level in each decision is enhanced allowing a broader perspective in the decision-making as well as shortening the time of gathering sufficient information. The information could be gathered on digital basis in a system much like the existing Geographic Information System used in regional planning on land in Denmark. One of the recommendations of this report is thus to:

- Establish a common website www.havet.dk with information, maps, links etc.
- On the basis of existing registrations in the coastal zone to point out areas where different actions are likely to be allowed and where they are not. These indications should be made in coordination between the competent authorities.

The process of establishing more aquacultures in Denmark has been conducted through a committee consisting of different relevant organisations and stakeholders as an advisory board for the state. Concerning coordination and prioritisation of interests the analysis therefore recommends:

- Establishment of a national advisory board on ICZM. The board should work to create a dynamic, thematic and problem-oriented planning tool through pilot projects.
- The national advisory board should work on recommendations concerning national coordination and prioritisation of interests in the coastal zone.

The coordination process should be complemented to a larger degree of public participation concerning projects at sea. As it is today, the public is rarely involved in planning at sea. Such

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participation would give the coastal zone management a broader societal legitimacy, because projects would be subject to public debate as is the case on land administration in Denmark. The report recommends among other things:

- Obligatory NGO involvement in the hearing process.