

# Competing scientific and cultural constructions of the coast

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Coasts everywhere in the world have undergone significant changes in the past centuries and decades. In the past, the usage of the coastal seas was mostly unregulated, but nowadays a detailed planning (“coastal zone management”) of the coast sea area is prepared, with regulated usage in different parts, such as natural preservation, shipping, tourism, military use and wind energy. This transformation did not happen without broad public debates and conflicts. These conflicts were based on very different perceptions of what the coast *is* and what it *should* be. The traditional perceptions are culturally and socially constructed. However, in recent years scientific constructions are joining into the competition of “images of the coast”. The concept of competing “images of the coast” is illustrated with examples from Europe and Asia.

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