

Round-up

Research on nature and use of coastal zone

- Oceanography is a key factor in shaping the ability of fjord areas to cope with human activities – much known, yet much to be learned
- The nature of Icelandic coastal habitats is diverse, not the least the intertidal zone, more mapping needed
- Case studies of local phenomena, productivity and communities are essential for improved understanding – the billion dollar question of cod juvenile survival is still relevant !
- Fish farming is certainly an interesting option and provides future opportunities
- Lack of knowledge on the nature and dynamics of the coastal zone calls on intensified research and long-term monitoring that needs to be undertaken on a holistic basis

Planning of coastal areas

- Increased multi-use of the coastal zone developing
- Serious need for coastal zone management - current legal/institutional framework can be used for initial steps
- Some planning already in hand
- Lack of common vision at government/communal level ?
- More holistic/integrated thinking needed

Governance of coastal areas

- EU legislation increasingly playing role in our management and planning – for bad and good
- Water Framework Dir. Addresses population aspects: sewage, road construction, sand extraction, aquaculture/fisheries
- National conservation strategy from 1999
- Several conservation areas in place (incl nature formations)
- Climate change and subsequent sea level rise 0,2-08++ ?
- Flood problems, but counteracted by land lift
- Capacity building a key factor needed for further development – in progress e.g. our programme