

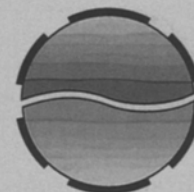
# THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION REPORTS

## URA 904 - CNRS

### Dynamique et Gestion des Espaces Littoraux

under the patronage of:

IGU Commission on Marine Geography, IGU Commission on Coastal Systems



**Continuities and breaks on European coastal areas:  
from the Barents Sea to the Mediterranean and from the Atlantic to the Black Sea**

**International Conference, Nantes (France) 13-18 novembre 1995**

#### sponsored by

- CNRS,
- Universities of Nantes and Bretagne Occidentale,
- Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe,
- Mission Interministérielle de la Mer (France),
- Regional Council of Pays de la Loire,
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Phone: (33) 40 14 13 08, Fax: (33) 40 74 60 69

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#### Themes of the Conference

Since the second half of the 80's, coastal areas in Europe have been suffering many quantitative and qualitative changes; some are the expression of a simple continuous evolution which stands in the **continuity**, others attest to **breaks** linked with conflicts and crisis which are sometimes spectacular.

These changes, that may be the beginnings of a coastal "new deal", result from various external and internal **factors** among which are:

- the new world economic balance of power,
- the rising of world-wide exchanges,
- the transformations in international sea transport,
- the evolution of the geopolitical and geoeconomic framework in which a new and increasingly integrated European space is building up (dismemberment of Eastern European block, Maastricht Treaty, widening of the European Union),
- the new geostrategic conditions which bring about a reshuffling of the naval forces that induces major consequences upon coastal cities,

- the increasing building of structures which removes some of the great marine discontinuities (such as the Channel tunnel, recent bridges, fixed links on the Danish Straits, etc.)
- the inadequacy of tourism development models inherited from the times of high growth rates
- the evolution of regulations in terms of coastal planning and management (community law, national laws)
- the fact that societies are becoming increasingly sensitive to environmental issues.

In this respect, the work and debate will consist in analysing the nature, intensity and rhythms of changes that affect societies, activities and territories on all scales.

**Two languages:** French and English

#### **The main lines of the programme**

**13 and 14 November:** field trip.

Theme: natural dynamics. Place: Charentes and Southern-Vendée coastline, from the Bay of l'Aiguillon to the Coubre Point.

**15 and 16 November:** work sessions.

**17 and 18 November:** field trip.

Theme: the socio-economic changes.

day 1: from Nantes to Saint Nazaire: an industrial and port estuary, la Baule and the Guerande peninsula.

day 2: Vendée coastline: fishing, aquaculture, tourism.

During the conference, work will follow four main lines:

#### **1. Social dynamics:**

How are the recent evolutions of demography?

What kinds of changes concern the habits and the behaviours of the users of the coastal zones?

What factors (economic, ideological, cultural) contribute to explaining these changes?

#### **2. Economic dynamics:**

What are the intensity and the nature of changes which concern activities (fishing, aquaculture, transport, tourism, military function, etc.)?

Do these evolutions induce new interactions between the coastal uses (new forms of complementarity, of competition and conflicts)?

How is the impact of these changes upon coastal societies and spaces?

#### **3. Spatial dynamics**

What is the place of coastal zones in the process of spatial decompositions and reconstructions that have happened in Europe for a few years?

What challenges are there in the planning projects and strategies for coastal areas at a broad scale (Atlantic Arc, North Arc, North Sea-Baltic region) or at a medium and a local scale (the place of coastal zones in regional and national land planning policies)?

How are the different levels of proposal, competence and decision articulated for coastal zone planning, from the local to the community level?

#### **4. Natural dynamics:**

How are they considered in coastal management?

What is the balance between conservation and development in coastal management?

What kind of new regulation tools and new technique allows a better consideration of these environments?

How does a better scientific knowledge from now on condition a better coastal management which links natural and socioeconomic dynamics?

We will give great importance to:

- new **concepts** (integrated development, sustainable development, ecodevelopment, etc. How are they compatible with the deregulation and state disengagement trends happening in many fields?).
- new **methods** and new research **tools** (criticism of quantitative and qualitative data sources, use of remote sensing and GIS, etc.)

The approach to the question will be geographic; nevertheless, **neighbouring disciplines** (law, economics, sociology) will be called for.

The Scientific Committee will give greater place to works (general, theoretical issues or practical studies) *relating to the problematic on dynamics of interactions between societies and coastal areas.*