



The European Coast in the Anthropocene

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There has been progressive human influence on the geomorphology of the European coast over the past two centuries from several perspectives. The reduction or augmentation of sediment supply, stabilisation and destabilisation of existing sediment, construction of barriers landward of beaches and tidal flats, and emplacement of structures to modify hydraulics and sedimentology have profoundly modified the functioning of large sections of the coast. Large sections of Europe's coast are currently dominated by humans as geomorphic agents. Under a rising sea level (itself an outcome of anthropic influences) and vastly increased human population density at the coast, the behaviour and future evolution of coastal sedimentary environments will become even more dominated by human actions. The course of future coastal evolution will depend on policy decisions at high levels of government but all will have serious social, economic and political as well as purely geomorphological implications