



The effect of urban growth on coastal changes: a case study of Slovenia

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Slovenia has one of the shortest coasts in Europe: it is just 46.7 km long. However, the pressure of urban growth on coastal change is older than the nation-state itself. Tourism had already started in Portorož by 1885. In Koper, the city's island character, still recognized on cityscapes from the early twentieth century, disappeared due to drainage and infill of the Smedela salt pans between the two world wars. The city of Izola was completely transformed during the industrial revolution: changes occurred to both the growth of its urban and social structure as well as the character of the city. The city spread to the west and east along the coastal strip because the city wall no longer existed. After 1991, when Slovenia gained independence, the impact of human activity on the waterfront increased. Strict ecological planning conditions near Koper and in the area towards Ankaran influenced the land-sea interfaces that were planned and partly accomplished.