



# UK Coastal Research Conference

## Liverpool 2025

### WORKSHOP

**How can working across disciplines and sectors improve decision making in coastal management? Lessons learned from the CO-Opt project.**

**Tuesday 1 July**

**The Liner Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool, L3 5QB**

Coasts are a dynamic interface between land, sea, and air under the combined influence of climate-driven environmental change and human interventions. The resulting complexity implies that effective and sustainable management of the coastal zone requires approaches that bridge across disciplines and across sectors. However, interdisciplinary working is also significantly more difficult, takes additional time, and can be unpredictable. There is a need to better communicate on the benefits of working across disciplines and sectors so that these approaches become integral to decision making.

We will present lessons learned during the CO-Opt project on the benefits of working across disciplines and across sectors for decision making in coastal management. The workshop will be structured around role playing activities and fictional coastal management case studies.

## Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Arrival & Coffees	
09:30 – 10:00	Introductions	
10:00 – 11:30	Session 1: Generating a common understanding of the coastal system	<p>Understanding the value of structured assessment and reflection of diverse values</p> <p>Exploration of Co-Opt collaboration findings of Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping</p>
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2: Assessing coastal management solutions under future climates	<p>Understanding how structured assessment (session 1) influence choice of possible management option</p> <p>Explore a range of flood protection solutions through role play, and reach consensus on preferred option from the point of view of protection from coastal flooding and erosion</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	Session 3: Appraising co-benefits	<p>Assess coastal flood and erosion management options through role-play accounting for co-benefits and trade-offs.</p> <p>Allocate resources strategically based on role priorities, balancing costs, benefits, and trade-offs.</p> <p>Understand diverse perspectives in decision-making for sustainable coastal management.</p>
15:30 – 16:30	Open discussion in plenary	Share experience and learning outcomes of the day.

Sessions will include interactive elements and role playing. Coffee & Tea will be provided both in the morning and the afternoon during Sessions 2 and 3.