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### **HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANNING THE UK: 1990-2024**

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This paper evaluates three generations of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) in the UK (1992-2024). These SMPs are one key component of a wider regime for governing risks of flooding, erosion and long-term change at the coast. SMPs in England have recently been reviewed by the Environment Agency with coastal groups and independent experts as part of a “refresh” but this study evaluates how the system of governance has evolved over the longer term to encourage sustainable solutions. Policy analysis reveals a range of sustainability principles which have become dominant in UK Shoreline management planning. Findings show that shoreline management planning has evolved considerably over the last 30 years. It has transformed governance from a reactive, administratively based approach; to a risk based, geostrategic, technically-informed approach. In the most recent phase, it has increased consideration of adaptation to the impacts of future climates. However, strategic goals are not always translated into locally implemented action, because of problems with costs, collaboration, cultural attitudes, and contentious decisions giving rise to burdens to individuals. One of the implications is that SMPs need to further evolve to deal with the tensions between “working with nature”, “social justice” and “adapting to future climates”. Having considered some of the strengths and weaknesses, the paper concludes with reflections about how policy and planning extends beyond SMPs to engage with ambitious solutions such as: living with inundation; improving acceptance of nature-based solutions; and support for re-location.