

UK Coastal Governance

Enhancing Collaborative Governance Mechanisms for Stewardship

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1. Introduction

Recent and future changes in UK marine legislation put the land-sea interface under the spotlight. The **UK Coastal Governance** research was launched in Autumn 2017 to review existing and new methods to support coastal governance in the UK. The purpose of the research is to explore:

- Marine and terrestrial approaches to governance across the land-sea interface;
- Opportunities, barriers and mechanisms to support collaboration;
- How to improve coastal stewardship and what benefits that may bring.

This poster illustrates the method for the research and some initial findings prior to completion later in 2018.

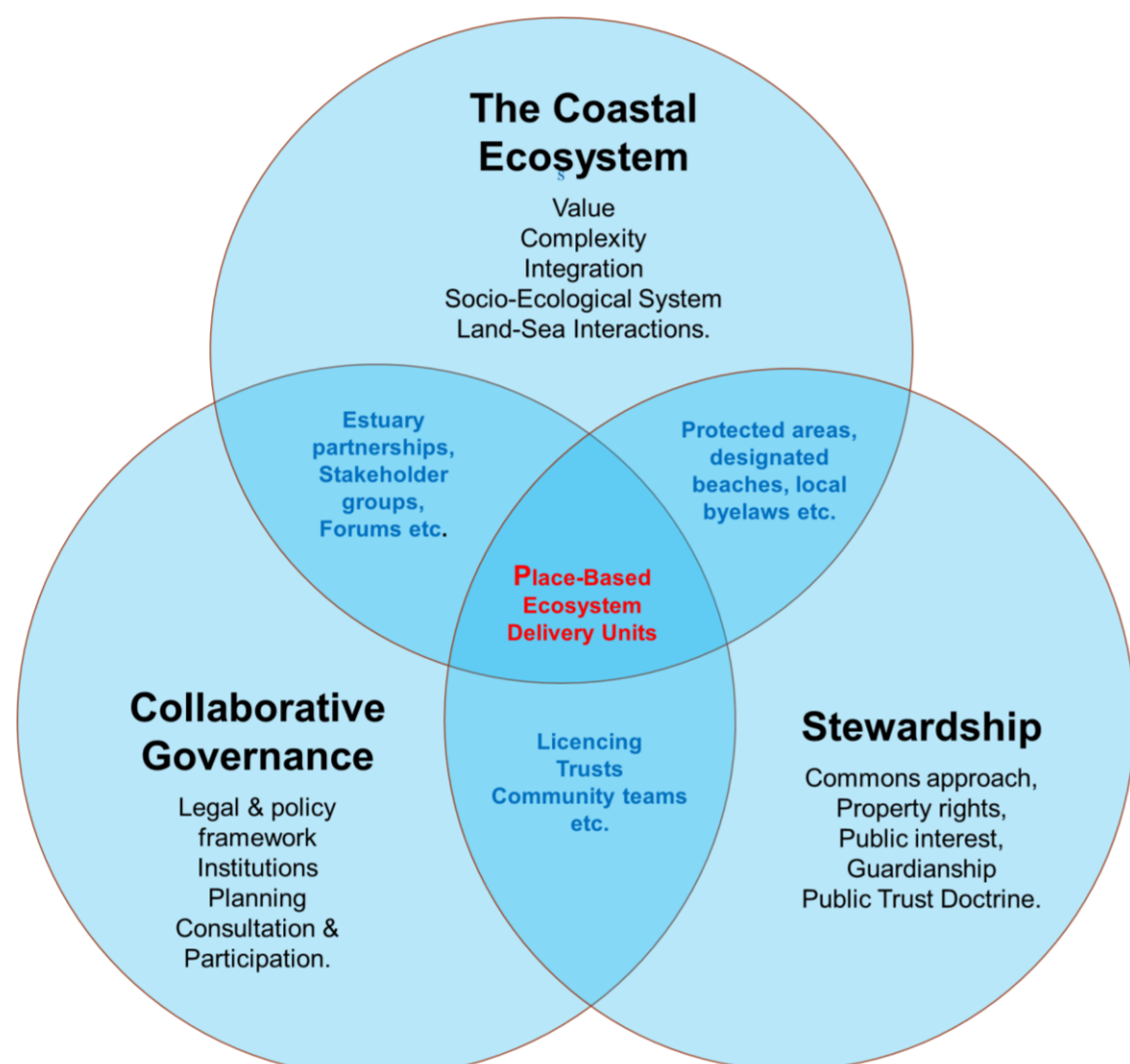
2. Research Objectives

The overall objective is to evaluate the current coastal governance arrangements which operate in the UK focusing on an assessment of the role of participatory engagement mechanisms and their socio-legal context to improve coastal stewardship. There are four specific objectives:

- Critical review of socio-legal and participatory engagement mechanisms that may support better governance and stewardship of coastal ecosystems.
- Identify enabling mechanisms which can enhance collaborative governance to promote coastal stewardship.
- Assess the opportunities and constraints to implementing the mechanism(s) for optimal collaborative governance.
- Consolidate the recommendations to promote coastal stewardship.

3. Key Concepts

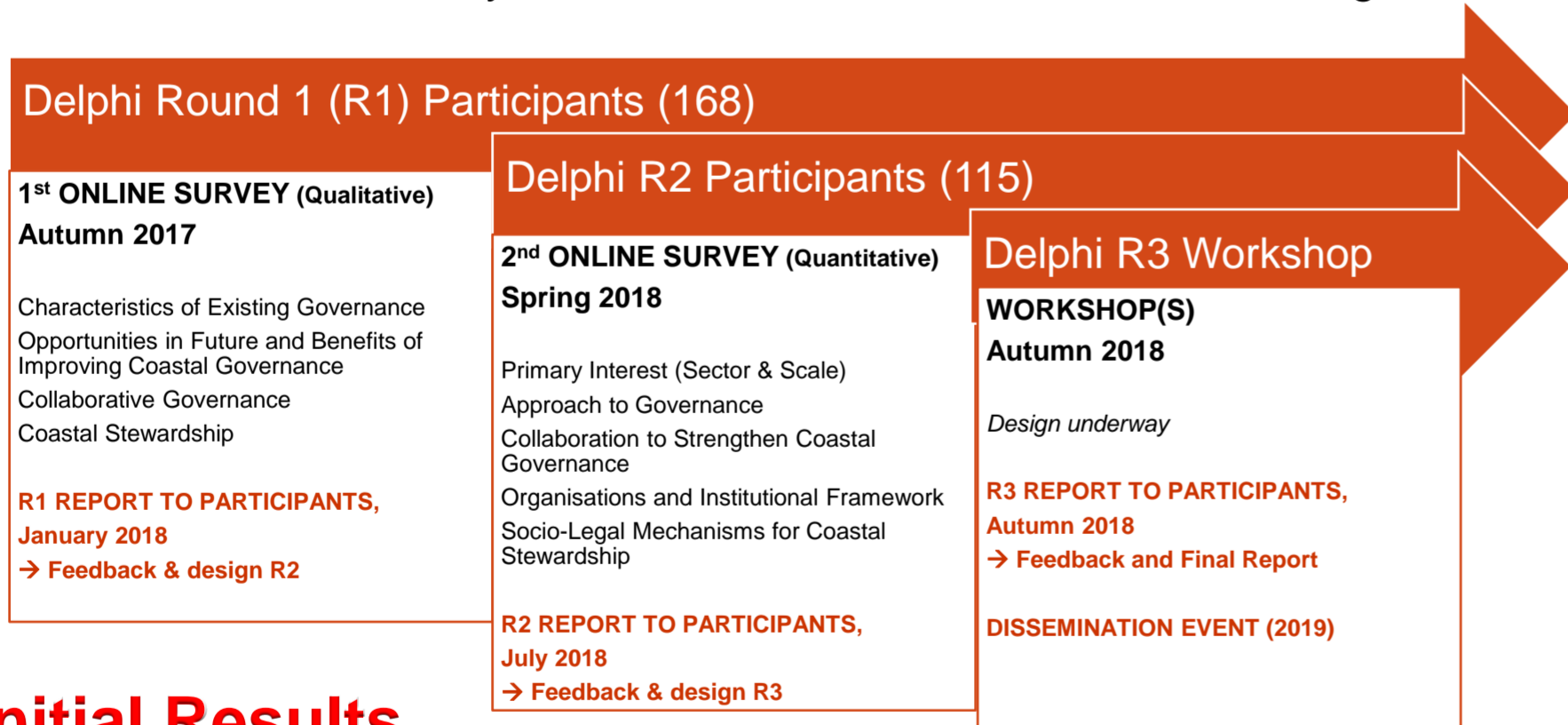
The **UK Coastal Governance** research is part of a PhD which will explore overlaps between three key concepts in the literature (see diagram) to address the research question 'Enhancing collaborative governance mechanisms for Coastal Stewardship in the UK'.



4. Methodology

Delphi Method

The current context for UK coastal governance is researched with a group of experts in a three-stage, iterative Delphi process involving two online surveys and a workshop. Working from a grounded theory approach using mixed methods, the results assess current opinion and explore future options for improvement. The **UK Coastal Governance** survey method and timeline is shown in the diagram below.



5. Initial Results

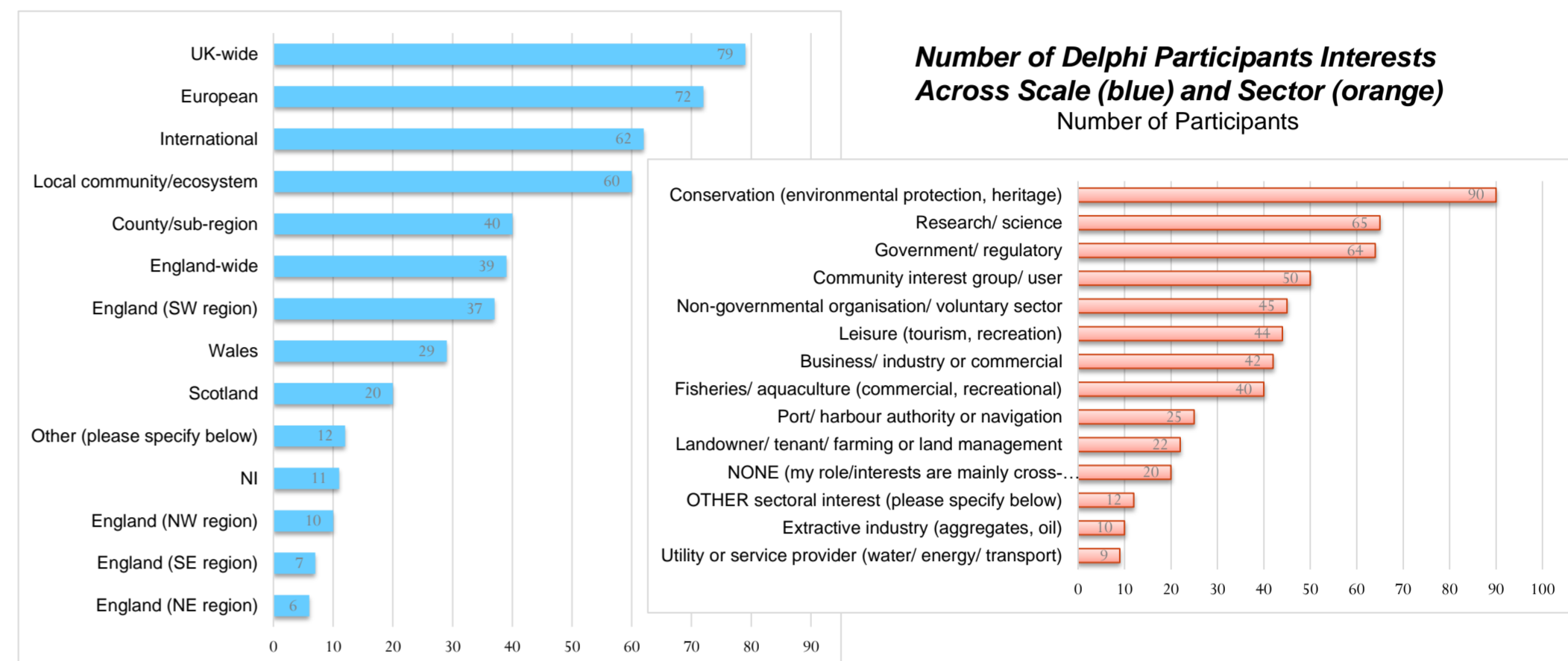
Over 900 people with experience linked to coastal/marine planning, resource use, regulation, policy or law were invited to participate. The Round 1 (R1) response rate was 16% with 173 participants, of which 168 were eligible to participate in the full Delphi process. The Round 2 (R2) response rate was 70% with 115 participants completing the second online survey. The Round 3 (R3) workshop is now being planned for September 2018 in Bristol as the final stage of the Delphi process.

Results of the R2 online survey are being evaluated prior to convening the Delphi workshop in Autumn 2018. Based on this primary research and key concepts in the literature, a future framework for improving **UK Coastal Governance** will be offered with recommended options towards coastal stewardship. Initial results indicate that recommended options may include the evolution of existing place-based local delivery networks through furthering trusteeship models. The legal governance framework maybe strengthened towards a guardianship approach which empowers coastal communities towards coastal stewardship.

This research is part of a PhD supervised by Dr Thomas Appleby and Dr Enda Hayes, members of the International Water Security Network <http://www.watersecuritynetwork.org/> at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, UK. Funded by Lloyd's Register Foundation, a charitable foundation, helping to protect life and property by supporting engineering-related education, public engagement and the application of research. For more information, see: www.lrfoundation.org.uk

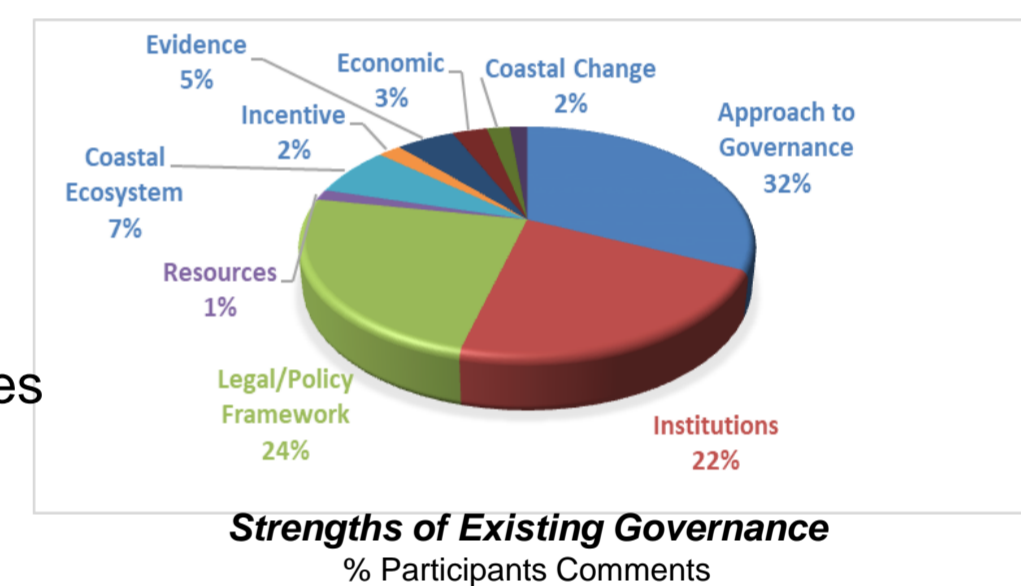
6. Participants

The combined expertise of participants' is approximately 3000 years with 65% having >10yrs experience and 70 participants offering >20 or >30yrs experience. Over 80% of the participants' undertake professional work relating to the coast every day or weekly. Their expertise is more marine (34%) and coastal (28%) as opposed to terrestrial (6%), but 24% of participants' felt their experience spanned terrestrial, marine and coastal areas. The following charts illustrate the number of R1 participants operating at different geographical scales across the UK and their interest sectors.



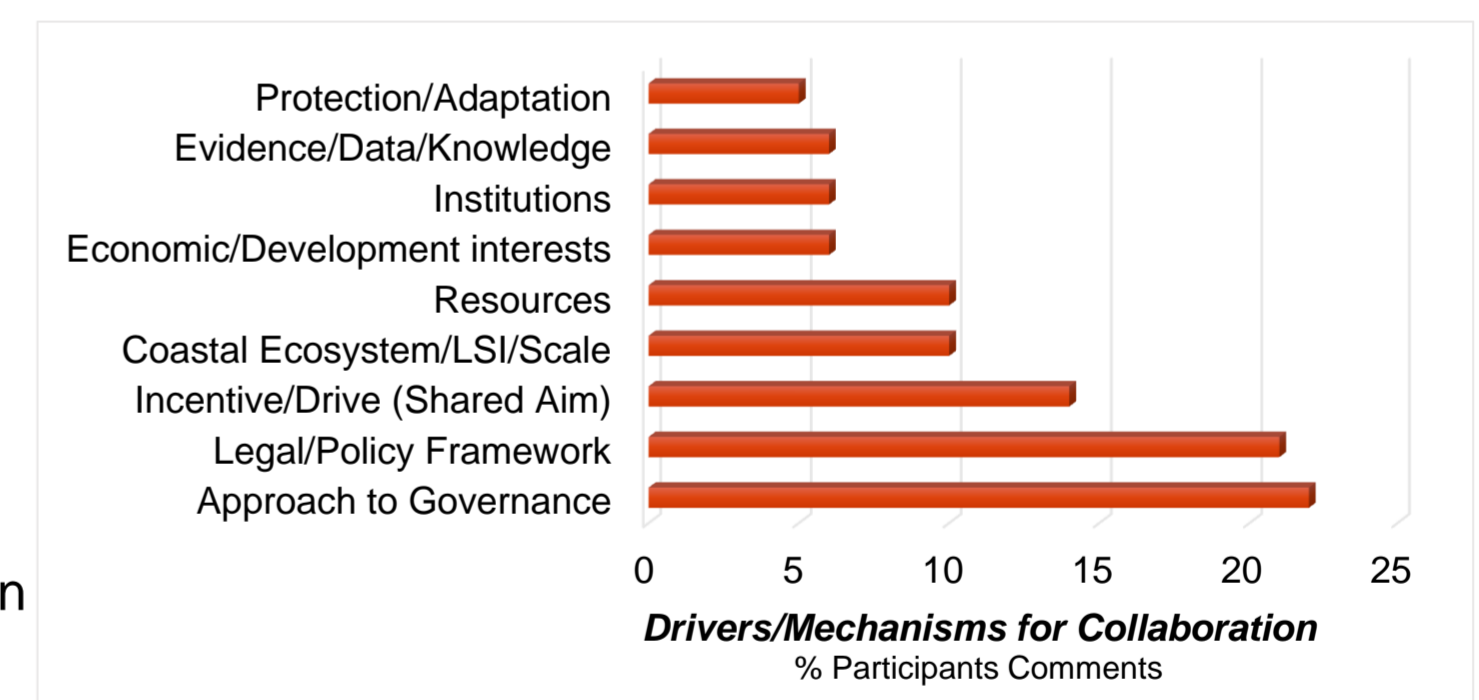
7. Characteristics of Existing Governance

The R1 Delphi Survey asked very open questions about participant's views and interests in current and future coastal governance and how they could be improved. The first four questions focused on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and benefits of improvements in coastal governance. The majority of comments, analysed using NVivo software, related to the approach to governance, legal/policy framework and institutions. The balance of comments in these categories was compared and reported back to participants prior to the R2 survey with opportunity provided for further comment. The pie chart shown here illustrates *Strengths in Existing Governance*.



8. Collaboration and Stewardship

Participants were asked about the concept, extent, drivers, mechanisms and barriers for collaboration and stewardship, with results presented in categories as shown in this example.



9. Vision for Future Coastal Governance

Participants in the **UK Coastal Governance** Delphi process have so far suggested that good participation and collaboration across communities and sectors underpins a shared vision. The UK's approach to coastal governance could involve clearer lines of communication, better knowledge of responsibilities, stronger leadership, engagement and awareness amongst coastal communities. A more democratic, transparent approach would further collaboration. The possibility of enhancing an ecosystem approach through more place-based governance structures is worthy of further exploration.

10. Next Steps



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