

Resilient Coasts focus group guide

Introduction:

Thank Participants	Thank you for participating in today's focus group...
Housekeeping rules for in person FG	Fire exits and assembly point
Brief introduction to the project	Co-Opt is...
Purpose of the FG	The purpose of today's focus group is to find out more from a range of stakeholders about what people think are the appropriate coastal solutions to deal with coastal flood and erosion, and sea level rise, at the same time as meet other objectives. We are interested in understanding better the reasons people have for their preferences.
Introduce focus group team	
Confidentiality/anonymity	As you can see, we do have a recorder and we are recording the discussion today but before we get started, I'd like to share with you the strategies we will be using to protect your anonymity. Only Elina Apine and Tim Stojanovic will have access to recordings and unanonymised transcripts. The results will be showed in an aggregate form. We will strip out as much identifying information as possible to ensure that your comments are protected. We will also use some quotes, but we never identify who provided the quote, just the sector such as (use the examples of FG participants). So I'd like to encourage you to share as much as you feel comfortable.
Ground rules	I want to make sure that everyone in today's focus group gets a chance to share their experiences, thus please don't be offended if I have to draw some of your contributions to a close so that others can have space to speak. Let's aim to speak one person at a time, so we can follow the conversation
Opportunity to ask questions	Do you have any questions for me before we get started?

Introductions and ice breaker: Please tell us your name, what you are presenting today and what was is your motivation for attending today's focus group discussion.

Theme 1 – Risk vs Priority & Short-term vs Long-term & Uncertainty and Competing interests – 20 min

Q1. How would you describe approaches to coastal management in the UK and England/Wales/Scotland?

Q2. What is your opinion about current decision-making process regarding coastal protection?

Q3. How well do you think long term strategies, in the light of climate change, are incorporated in these plans?

Q3.2. How could it be improved?

Q4. What are the main reasons in your opinion for protecting the coast? *

Probing questions if there are very different opinions: Could you elaborate? Why do you disagree?

Q. 5. How would you rate your trust to decision making bodies (should we specify?)

Q6. How coastal protection should be funded?

Q7. What type of solutions should be priorities?

Q7.1. Which areas should be prioritised? Or how the decisions should be made which areas to defend completely?

Theme 2 – Coastal protection schemes for case study sites - 30 min

Task 1. Here you have a map of estuary/coastline of Airth/St Andrews/Hesketh Bank/Pensarn. We would like to hear how you would like this area managed

Q1. Could you please elaborate on your choices and describe why you chose them?

Q2. *To those who have made completely different decisions:* Could you please tell me more why did you choose solution x in this particular site?

Q3. *If those solutions are not there yet:* What would help with implementation of solution X in this site?

Q3.1. *What challenges might there be for presently undeveloped solutions?*

Q4. What are some of the design features you think are important?

Q5. Who should implement/pay for these schemes?

Theme 3 – Nature-based solutions - 10 min

“...actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature” (IUCN, 2016)

Q1. Could you please each tell me how you interpret the term nature-based solutions (NbS)?

Q2. What is your opinion on the use of NbS in coastal flood management?

Q3. What are the main benefits of NbS in your opinion?

Q4. What are the main perceived risks of NbS in your opinion?

Q5. What do you think could improve the uptake of NbS in coastal flood and erosion management?

Wrap up: Thanks for the time that you’ve given. We will aim to have some outline list (bullet points) of main findings which we can share with you. We will also circulate the results of the survey so that you can find out more what the public think. CoOpt project continue until 2024 exploring this at 4 sites in UK.

Suggested probing questions:

- “Can you say more about that ...”
- “Can you share an example ...”
- “What experiences have made you feel that way?”
- “Is there more you’d like to share?” or “Is there more you’d be willing to share?”
- “Has anyone had a different experience?”
- “Does anyone see it differently?”
- “What about other points of view?”