Participant Information

**Resilient coasts: optimising co-benefit solutions (Co-Opt)**

Elina Apine

What is the study about?

We invite you to participate in a research project about understanding what influences social acceptance of green/nature-based solutions in coastal flood and erosion management in the UK.

Why have I been invited to take part?

We have approached you as a resident of [case study site].

Do I have to take part?

This information sheet has been written to help you decide if you would like to take part. It is up to you and you alone whether you wish to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be free to withdraw at any time without providing a reason, and with no negative consequences.

What would I be required to do?

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire that contains 29 questions that we anticipate will take 15 minutes to complete. You can choose to complete an online survey or return a postal survey.

Are there any risks associated with taking part?

There are no risks associated with taking part in this survey.

Are there any benefits associated with taking part?

This study will provide essential information on how we can make more sustainable decisions in the management of our changing coasts, and how the views of local residents can be taken into account.

Informed consent

It is important that you are able to give your informed consent before taking part in this study and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions in relation to the research before you provide your consent.

Who is funding the research?

This research study is being funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and Economic and Social Research Council (NERC-ESRC) through the Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources (SMMR) Programme. Project reference code: NE/V016245/1.

Reward/compensation

If you are interested, you can also enter the prize draw with a chance to win one of the £50 or £25 One4all Gift vouchers. The information you give us will remain anonymous.

What information about me or recordings of me (‘my data’) will you be collecting?

The questionnaire will contain questions about your perceptions of coastal protection, trust, engagement, and preferences in coastal protection schemes. Voluntary demographic information on your age, education, gender and annual household income also will be asked.

How will my data be securely stored, who will have access to it?

* Your data will be stored in an ANONYMISED form, which means that parts of your data will be edited or deleted such that no one, including the researchers, could use any reasonably available means to identify you from the data. Your un-anonymised data will then be permanently deleted. Your data will be stored on a secure cloud-based platform and only Dr Tim Stojanovic and I will be able to access it.
* If you wish to enter the prize draw, your contact details will be stored in a separate file and will not be associated with your replies at any stage and will be deleted according to the GDPR guidelines.

How will my data be used, and in what form will it be shared further?

* Your research data will be analysed as part of the research study. It will then be published in research publications in an aggregated form.
* If shared (published and/or placed in a database accessible by others), your data will be in an ANONYMISED form, which means that no one could use any reasonably available means to identify you from the data.

It is expected that the project to which this research relates will be finalised by November 2024.

Where can I find out about the results of the study?

This study is part of the Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources (SMMR) programme and you can follow news and results on their webpage: <https://www.smmr.org.uk/>

The results of this particular study will be published in a peer-reviewed academic journal and will be used to develop a new integrated and interdisciplinary framework that supports the transition from hard ‘grey’ defences to greener ‘soft’ defences.

When will my data be destroyed?

Your data will be retained in an anonymised form, which means that parts of your data will be edited or deleted such that no one, including the researchers, could use any reasonably available means to identify you from the data The deletion of this data will be subject to regular review in accordance with the University of St Andrews guidance which is 10 years.

Will my participation be confidential?

Yes, your participation will only be known to myself and Dr Tim Stojanovic.

Use of your personal data for research and data protection rights

The University of St Andrews (the ‘Data Controller’) is bound by the UK 2018 Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which require a lawful basis for all processing of personal data (in this case it is the ‘performance of a task carried out in the public interest’ – namely, for research purposes) and an additional lawful basis for processing personal data containing special characteristics (in this case it is ‘public interest research’). You have a range of rights under data protection legislation. For more information on data protection legislation and your rights visit <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/terms/data-protection/rights/>. For any queries, email [dataprot@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:dataprot@st-andrews.ac.uk).

You will be able to withdraw your data before the 20th of July 2022. If your data is anonymised, we will not be able to withdraw it, because we will not know which data is yours.

Ethical Approvals

This research proposal has been scrutinised and subsequently granted ethical approval by the University of St Andrews Teaching and Research Ethics Committee.

What should I do if I have concerns about this study?

In the first instance, you are encouraged to raise your concerns with the researcher. However, if you do not feel comfortable doing so, then you should contact my Supervisor or School Ethics Contact (contact details below). A full outline of the procedures governed by the University Teaching and Research Ethics Committee is available at <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/integrity-ethics/humans/ethical-guidance/complaints/>.

Contact details

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| **Researcher(s)** | Elina Apine | **School Ethics contact** | Dr David McCollum |
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