



Sea-level rise: Solutions

Gerd Masselink Coastal Processes Research Group University of Plymouth





Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs







Outline

- 1. Sea-level rise (SLR)
- 2. Impacts of SLR
 - Enhanced coastal flooding
 - Enhance shoreline retreat
- 3. Solutions to impacts of SLR
 - Do nothing
 - Hold the line
 - Managed retreat
 - \circ Advance the line
- 4. Take-home messages



1. Sea Level Rise at Bude





Enhanced coastal flooding







Enhanced coastal retreat – gentle coastal slope





Enhanced coastal retreat – intermediate coastal slope





Enhanced coastal retreat – <u>steep</u> coastal slope





Enhanced coastal retreat – role of sediment budget





3. Solutions to impacts of SLR

Adaptation toolbox





3. Solutions to impacts of SLR Do nothing



- Sensible when nothing at risk
- Implications along the coast (generally positive)
- Easier said than done social justice argument



3. Solutions to impacts of SLR Hold the line



- Sensible when lots at risk
- Implications along the coast (negative)
- Expensive and no long-term solution



3. Solutions to impacts of SLR Managed retreat





3. Solutions to impacts of SLR Managed retreat



- More sustainable solution
- Implications along the coast (generally positive)
- Requires accommodation space
- Challenging to implement needs community buy-in



3. Solutions to impacts of SLR

Advance the line



- New 'solution'
- Implications along the coast (generally positive)
- <u>Very</u> expensive



3. Solutions to impacts of SLR Coastal planning and nature-based solutions





4. Take-home message

- Sea level is rising and will continue to rise over the next few hundred of years
- Sea level can be up to 1 m higher by 2100 than present
- This will lead to increased magnitude and frequency of coastal flooding
- It will also lead to increase in shoreline retreat (erosion)
- Coastal response can be highly variable (slope, sediment supply)
- Different adaptation options are available to deal with sea-level rise
- Selecting adaptation tool requires careful consideration of many factors
- Prevention is better than cure: planning!

