



Let's talk about Coastal Challenges

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📍 Inspire Area – European Digital Ocean Pavilion

🌐 United Nations Ocean Conference 2025

Abstract

Shom's action in coastal surveillance

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The coastal zone is subject to intense pressure. It is the focus of numerous uses: exploitation of the seabed, fishing, leisure activities, environmental protection, wind farms, etc. To organize these uses, well-informed maritime spatial planning is essential. It relies on an accurate depiction of this fragile environment. It is not just a static representation, but also a capacity to monitor and forecast the evolution of this area, from the short term to the (not so) long term of climate change.

Shom, the French national hydrographic service, plays a specific role in this respect. Its activities, which range from collecting data at sea to deploying a permanent operational observation network and providing products and services to a wide community of users, are essential in helping decision-makers make the right decisions.

While the sea is generally not a good playground for the otherwise highly effective optical techniques used on land, the coastal zone is partly accessible to these techniques. What's more, the drone revolution in, on or above the sea is changing the situation and speeding up our knowledge of the coastal area.

Two examples will be given to illustrate the action of Shom in terms of coastal monitoring. The first, in Mayotte, concerns the reassessment of navigation safety following the passage of cyclone Chido, and the second concerns the risk of marine submersion in Saint-Malo (Britany).

