

## **INQUA:S CONTRIBUTION TO SEA LEVEL RESEARCH THE NEW COMMISSION AND ITS NEW PROGRAM**

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At the INQUA XV conference in Durban, the old Shoreline Commission was reorganized and re-named to “the INQUA Commission on Sea Level Changes and Coastal Evolution”, by that emphasising that that our research is by no means limited to shorelines but the entire coastal zone, its evolution and dynamics. Changes in sea level are one of the most characteristic phenomenon of the Quaternary Period. The problems related to the recording and understanding of sea level changes are far from simple: on the contrary, they need our constant examination and attention. Today we are not only asked to reconstruct the Past but also to predict the Future; the near future on a decadal to centennial basis as well as the distant future of major glacial-eustatic cycles. Our commission has always been the leading forum for the understanding of sea level changes within the Holocene and the Pleistocene. We hope to re-establish this position (1) establishing an effective global network on sea level research, (2) defining the processes and factors driving sea level changes and coastal evolution, (3) reconstructing the spacial and temporal differentiation of these factors, and (4) estimating coastal vulnerability and future prospects. Besides local, regional and global studies of sea level changes and coastal evolution by Sub-Commissions, research groups and individual members, our commission will devote special attention to a number of research topics (agreed upon in Durban), out of which we will select a few research projects. Our program also includes two training program. Very much of the commissional work will be performed via networking, and we, therefore, invite all sea level investigation to visit our homepage.