

**COST Action TD0902: SPLASHCOS**  
**Scientific Report on the Meeting of 14–16 March 2013, Esbjerg, Denmark**

### **Aims**

This was the seventh and last but one general meeting of SPLASHCOS and had 5 principal aims:

1. An open workshop bringing together SPLASHCOS and representatives of the offshore industry
2. A review of progress of the four Working Groups
3. A Management Committee (MC) meeting with specific emphasis on progress with the final conference and publications
4. Assessing the role and impact of the fishing industry in relation to management of submerged landscapes
5. A meeting of the Deukalion Planning Group (DPG)

### **Organization**

The meeting took place over 3 days at the Esbjerg campus of the University of Southern Denmark. The first two days were organized as an international conference and networking event under the title "Offshore Industry and Archaeology: A Creative Relationship", hosted jointly by the Maritime Archaeology Programme at the University of Southern Denmark and the Offshore Center Denmark, the organisation which promotes the interests of the great majority of Danish enterprises engaged in the offshore industry. This attracted 83 participants, including 36 SPLASHCOS members and a wide representation from the offshore industry, including global enterprises involved in exploration and exploitation of offshore oil and gas, installations for renewable energy, cables and pipelines, construction of artificial islands, offshore aggregates and dredging, as well as SMEs involved in survey, consultancy, technological development and archaeological services. The late afternoon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day and the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> were devoted to SPLASHCOS working group meetings and the Management Committee meeting.

### **Results**

- The presentations by high-profile industry representatives and researchers proved the conference title on the creative relationship to be more than wishful thinking or a self-fulfilling prophecy. Discussions were so fruitful that it was decided to consolidate the event into a publication, a deliverable that had not previously been foreseen in WG 4's work plan. Additional funds will be sought.
- A short mini-symposium in the context of WG1 addressed the relations with the fishing industry, which laid out how different fishing techniques affect the knowledge base on prehistoric landscapes and how fishing techniques can profitably be deployed to enhance that knowledge base.
- The MC meeting monitored the planning for the final conference in Szczecin and the two previously agreed publications. Budgets and reports were approved and confirmed as appropriate.
- MC and WG members were up-dated with progress in DPG, despite the absence of key members.

### **Conclusion**

The conference served effective networking role of SPLASHCOS with industry as envisaged in the working plan. The attendance and level of discussion was beyond expectation and shows that the Action breaches disciplinary boundaries not only in research, but also with other sectors of society.