

2024 IAG WG ON ROCKY COASTS REPORT

WG description

The rocky coast working group of the IAG/AIG was established in 2005 to further geomorphic enquiry into a relatively unstudied landform system, the rocky coast. The working group was extended in 2009 (Melbourne), 2013 (Paris), 2017 (New Delhi) and 2022 (Coimbra). In 2025 it incorporates more than 110 members disseminated among about 20 countries, and dealing with rock coast geomorphology from multiple perspectives and approaches: process focused studies, long-term evolution, technological development for the study of rocky coasts, biogeomorphology of rocky coasts, boulder accumulation in rocky coasts, etc.

Past activities

During the period 2022 – 2024 the working group have managed a Special Issue at Marine Geology (Elsevier) on rocky coast geomorphology entitled “Rock Coasts: A mosaic of Dynamic Landscapes and Landforms” <https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/10MF3832VCN>). It includes 13 research papers that summarizes the topics and the challenges of international research on Rocky Coasts.

In 2020 it was envisaged to celebrate and International Conference on Rocky Coasts at Trieste (Italy) but it was postponed because COVID pandemic. Then in order to avoid to coincide with other reference meetings for geomorphologists (IAG, ICS, etc.) the WG decided to postpone this conference until June 2025.

During this period the WG have been organizing the Conference (keynote lectures, conference fieldtrip, sessions and conveners, etc.) as well as promoting contact and communication between senior and early career researchers.

Future activities

The International Rock Coast Conference will take place on 25-26 June, 2025, in Trieste (Italy), following postponement from 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This meeting, organized by IAG Working Group on Rocky Coasts serves as a platform to discuss advances in the study of rock coasts and will include a range of oral presentations and posters relevant to Rock Coast Geomorphology. There will be more than 60 attendants and 45 oral presentations, as well as many others as posters. Two key lectures from most well-known researchers in the area, as well as a closing keynote by early career researchers on their vision on the rocky coast discipline challenges and future evolution. Communications are organized in seven sessions (Geomorphological processes along rock coasts; Landforms on rock coasts; Climate, geohazards and sea-level change impact on the rock coasts, Rock Coasts in the Anthropocene; Monitoring Rock Coasts; Modelling rock coasts evolution; Techniques and methods in rocky coasts. During the meeting WG community will acknowledge Professor Alan Trenhaile, Windsor, Canada for his contribution to rocky coast geomorphology.

A key focus of the Conference will be an organized two-day (27-28 June) field trip from the Gulf of Trieste (Italy and Slovenia) to the Premantura Cape (Istrian peninsula, Croatia) in order to visit some of the classical rock coast study site locations in the NE Adriatic Sea.

<https://irc2025.units.it/index.html>

Also, the WG is involved in a thematic session on rocky coasts at the 2026 IAG Conference on Geomorphology at New Zealand.

WG Chairs:

Prof. Stefano Furlani sfurlani@units.it
University of Trieste (Italy)

Dr. Lluís Gomez Pujol lgomez-pujol@uib.es
Universitat de les Illes Balears (Spain)

Dr. Matt Strzelecki mateusz.strzelecki@uwr.edu.pl
University of Wrocław (Poland)

Past Chairs:

Wayne STEPHENSON (University of Otago, New Zealand)

Larissa NAYLOR (University of Glasgow, UK)

David Kennedy (University of Melbourne, Australia)