

Fac Sheet 2: Understanding and defining the NSW coastal community

Defining the coastal community

A common challenge in coastal management is identifying, understanding, and engaging with the multiple, often contrasting, perspectives of the coastal community. In reality, a homogeneous 'coastal community' simply does not exist. Rather, 'coastal communities' consist of multiple, often overlapping groups of different individuals that are constantly changing spatially and over time. The MyCoast Study identified various communities of place and interest to define the NSW coastal community.

As shown in Table 1 below, communities of place and communities of interest were surveyed as three distinct groups: Coastal Management Professionals (CMPs), General Coastal Users (GCUs), which consisted of six distinct

Table 1. Coastal Communities included in the MyCoast NSW Study.



People generally have some kind of existing 'mental model'; a knowledge structure that helps make sense of new information received about a subject. These mental models may be constructed through
