

'SEASTATS': HARD FIGURES ON SEA AND COAST

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Looking for reliable figures on our seas and coasts? In need of that particular number to finish your introduction or presentation? 'SeaStats' offers interesting facts, each with a direct link to the source document and author(s). The primary criteria for selection are 1) reliability and quality of the source and 2) relevance of the figures. 'SeaStats' is a bilingual product that allows for a thematic search through 9 topics and 40 subtopics that are relevant marine, coastal and estuarine themes. 'SeaStats' wishes to a) facilitate the search for reliable anecdotic information on seas and coasts, with a focus on figures and numbers and 2) provide an additional exposure of marine and coastal research results to a wider public. Figures can be looked up through the 9 different symbols in the start-screen www.vliz.be/cijfers_beleid/zeecijfers (Dutch and English) or by filling in specific search terms. Take this example; you want to know the exact length of the Belgian coastline? Follow the symbol 'Sea of space' on the start-screen, click on 'geography', or use the search term 'coastline'. The result of your search will inform you that there are 3 different and scientifically valid ways of measuring the coastline, and lead you to the source document: www.vliz.be/docs/Zeecijfers/seabordernl.pdf, where each alternative is explained. Source documents are by preference full texts of publications documented in IMIS, on relevant Belgian research or relating to the Belgian part of the North Sea, the Scheldt Estuary and the Belgian coastal zone.