

Gaps and gluts in evidence at the nexus of resilience, wellbeing and sustainability in UK marine systems

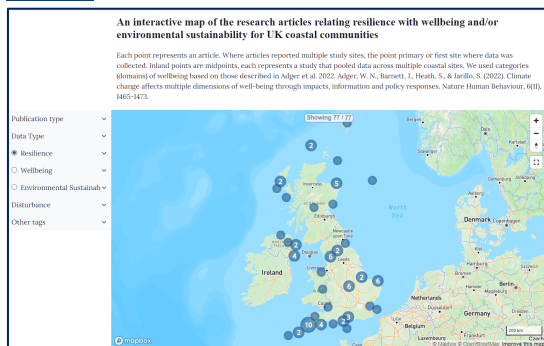
Policy Briefing: Resilience of Coastal Communities (ROCC) Project

Resilience is a growing policy priority in the UK, adding to existing policies to improve peoples' wellbeing and marine environmental health. Based on **systematic evidence mapping**, this policy briefing documents existing research around the UK coast on resilience alongside human wellbeing and/or marine sustainability to **identify gaps and gluts in evidence**.

INTERACTIVE ONLINE EVIDENCE MAP

Find and explore the map:

<https://tinyurl.com/ROCC-evidence-map-studies>



KEY FINDINGS

1. Sector focus

When analysing resilience alongside wellbeing and/or sustainability, 6 sectors are identified:

- Fishing is the sector most frequently investigated (55% of articles), with marine tourism second (14% of articles).
- Aquaculture, renewable energy and non-UK workers feature in only 1 article each.
- Remaining articles focus on coastal residents, businesses and communities.

2. Geographical focus

- South and south-west England are studied most intensively.
- There is a dearth of research in Wales, west-coast Scotland and north-east England.

3. Disturbance events

- Studies tend to examine resilience to one or two disturbance events.

- Out of 13 identified disturbances, those related to the environment are researched most often (primarily coastal environmental change and fish stock decline).
- Economic and regulatory disturbances are then equally represented in the evidence.

4. Resilience, wellbeing and sustainability

- 27% of articles research all three policy objectives.
- Resilience and wellbeing are also often researched together (71% of articles).
- There is a gap in social resilience research that considers environmental health outcomes.
- Community and business resilience are better studied than personal resilience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Resilience to disturbance as a distinct policy and research objective. Ensure resilience is clearly defined and distinguished from sustainability and wellbeing objectives to ensure an evidence base on resilience - as a response to perturbation - can be developed.

2. Cumulative and intersecting disturbance. Build evidence on general resilience to different and overlapping impacts, in addition to specific resilience to singular disturbances.

3. Address sectoral and geographic disparities in the evidence. Promote research investment to better reflect: i) a diversity of marine sectors; ii) the importance of these sectors to different parts of the UK, and; iii) the sectors and locations experiencing high levels of disturbance.