



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Contact: Steve Bradley
Tel: 01946 514069
Fax: 01946 514091
Email: Steve.Bradley@westlakes.ac.uk
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ESTUARINE MODELLING “USE AND ABUSE”

A rip roaring success was the general consensus of over 60 delegates who attended the Westlakes Environmental Research Conference on Estuarine Modelling in September. The conference concluded that there was an increasing need for uncertainty analysis in environmental modelling and that future research should focus on combined long-term monitoring and modelling studies on estuaries such as the Ribble, Tamar and Solway.

The 2 day event featured presentations from several leading universities, Westlakes Research Institute, Proudman Oceanographic, ABP Research & Consultancy, BNFL, The Environment Agency, SEPA, CEFAS, the Marine Biological Association and Plymouth Marine Laboratories and attracted representatives from academia, government agencies, industry and research institutes throughout the whole of the UK.

The first in a series of annual events, the conference was designed to provide a forum for academic institutes, regulatory bodies and industrial organisations sharing knowledge and best practice to address issues of environmental modelling and monitoring, public health and environmental policy. This year’s theme ‘Estuarine Modelling, Use or Abuse’ provoked debate on the current status of physical, chemical and biological modelling within estuarine systems. In particular the conference

highlighted the advantages of using numerical models as decision support tools, but also looked at the problems and pitfalls of applying these models to the very real environmental issues facing Britain's Estuaries – impacts from agriculture, industry and leisure activities.

It is hoped the implications of these issues set in the context of legislative changes will be addressed during the next Westlakes Environmental Research Conference scheduled for September 2002.