

# 11. Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium Esbjerg 4 – 8 April 2005

## **Preliminary abstract catalogue**

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National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark  
The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

## **Monitoring salt marsh accretion and erosion at Ameland**

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Gas extraction at Ameland started in 1986. The resulting soil subsidence may influence geomorfology and vegetation of a narrow strip of salt marsh of the eastern part of the island. This strip contains a gradient in salinity and is very rich in plant species. In order to monitor a possible erosion of the salt marsh caused by soil subsidence, changes in shore line location were quantified by interpretation of aerial photographs. The available photographs were made at least every ten years since 1949. Salt marsh accretion occurred until *ca.* 1979. After that year, mostly erosion took place. In conclusion, coastal erosion began long before the start of the gas extraction and acceleration of the erosion could not be demonstrated.