Coastss in Germany have undergone significant changes in the past centuries and decades. In the past, the usage of the coastal seas was mostly unregulated, but nowadays a detailed planning of the coast sea area is prepared, with regulated usage in different parts, such as natural preservation, shipping, tourism and wind energy. This transformation did not happen without broad public debates and conflicts. These conflicts were based on very different perceptions of what the coast is and what it should be.

In this talk, an attempt is made to list and describe different perceptions for the German coasts.