

EUCC Coastal News

No 11 November 2005

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Network Members and readers who now pay their fees for 5 years (total of € 20) will be provided membership discounts to EUCC conferences and events also in 2006.

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1. Cooperation agreement for sustainable development of Brazilian and European coastlines

Following the participation of the EUCC - The Coastal Union at the Brazilian National Conference on Coastal Management- ENCOGERCO, in Salvador (State of Bahia) November 2004, the first steps were taken towards cooperation between the European and Brazilian coastal and marine communities. The Brazilian Agency for Coastal Management – Coastal Agency - is the organisation in charge for the Biannual National Conference. It was founded in 2001, as an organization of the civil society of public interest constituted to promote the integrated management of the Coastal Zone in Brazil. Its main mission is to work as an independent discussion forum to foster the integrated coastal management and promote integration among stakeholders dealing with research, control, capacity building and financing activities related to the Brazilian Coast. The EUCC and the Coastal Agency have formally agreed to join forces and recently signed a Cooperation Agreement. Through cooperative action, the organisations commit themselves to increase interest of the public, decision makers and all stakeholders, in the activities in Brazil and in Europe, regarding the ICZM implementation. The agreement is part of the wider cooperation activities of EUCC - The Coastal Union in Brazil as European international contact of the Marine-Coastal & Water Network (RMCW-B) of Brazil, supported by the Brazilian representation of the AVINA Foundation. AVINA supports the promotion of sustainable society development by partnering with leaders in civil society and the private sector, and the Coastal Agency is one of the leaders represented at this network.

For more information contact Maria Ferreira at m.ferreira@eucc.net

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2. MOTIIVE - Data Harmonisation and Integration for Coastal & Marine Stakeholders initiative

MOTIIVE is a project funded by the EU Sixth Framework programme, as a specific support action and will be running until September 2007.

The European Commission's draft Directive INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) proposes a set of harmonised core spatial data - described in 'Annex I' of the document - and thematic data, listed in 'Annex II'. MOTIIVE (**M**arine **O**verlays on **T**opography for **A**nnex **II** **V**aluation and **E**xploitation) addresses the harmonisation requirements between the INSPIRE thematic data component "Elevation", comprising terrestrial, bathymetric and coastal elevation data, and marine and coastal thematic data for "sea regions", "oceanic spatial features" and "coastal zone management areas". This initiative builds upon and extends work completed in prior EU-funded projects, such as marineXML.

EUCC's role in the partnership is to communicate the importance of INSPIRE application in the coastal and marine environment and to facilitate stakeholder involvement in the process.

For more information please contact Maria Ferreira at m.ferreira@eucc.net and visit <http://marinexml.net/>

3. Sustainable Tourism & Coastal Management – key activity of the Coastal Practice Network

Recently the Coastal Practice Network – CoPraNet meet in the beautiful island of Gran Canaria to discuss and address issues related to sustainable tourism development of coastal destinations - the QualityCoast label programme, an network initiative. This activity aims to develop an international quality label for tourism destinations which specifically enhances the implementation of an information strategy for the visitors of coastal destinations. During this event the network partners presented the results and planned activities related to the pilot activities of the programme in their coastal municipalities and regions. In addition, ongoing cooperation activities between EUCC (lead partner) and The Cousteau Society regarding the complementary efforts to collaborate on the development of QualityCoast and Cousteau Label programmes have been discussed and shared with the partnership.

Moreover, this international event was a part of the Sustainable Tourism & Coastal Management Week which build upon an joint initiative between different Interreg¹ projects which are dealing with common issues and share concerns and expertise with common partners. The two initiators CoPraNet – The

¹ INTERREG IIIC is an EU-funded programme that helps Europe's regions form partnerships to work together on common projects. These projects enable regions to share knowledge and experience that will help them develop new solutions to economic, environmental and social challenges.

Coastal Practice Network (Interreg IIIC West) and DestiLink – Network on Sustainable Tourism Destination Development: linking rural regions and research institutions in Europe, (Interreg IIIC North). Additionally, the Interreg IIIC South project SUVOT – Sustainable and Vocational Tourism has also participated. The event has been successful and fruitful to all partnerships – better insight and willingness to share knowledge and further developments were the main outcomes.

The organisation was under the responsibility of the Canarian Institute of Marine Science (belonging to the Canarian Government) and the Centre on Biodiversity and Environmental Management (at Las Palmas de Gran Canaria University).

Report results will soon be available in a CD-Rom and will be made available on the project website at www.coastalpractice.net

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4. EUCC's SMAP III - project in Morocco approved

The decision on those proposals for ICZM Action Plans in MEDA countries, which will be financed under the Third Regional Environment Programme in the Mediterranean (SMAP III) of the EU Euro Mediterranean Partnership was communicated on October 25th.

We are pleased to inform our network that the EUCC -The Coastal Union led project "Reducing conflicts of coastal natural resources use in the Nador Area of Morocco" has been positively evaluated and the contract has been signed with the EU Delegation of the European Commission delegation in Egypt. The action implementation will start officially on 1st January 2006.

The overall goal of the project is to promote sustainable development in the coastal area of the province of Nador through the establishment of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan of Action with civil society participation. The main partners of this project are EUCC (lead), École Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs, Commune Rurale de Boudinar-Province de Nador and Forum d'Urbanisme, d'Environnement et de Développement (FUED). The project also received the impressive support of 13 other Moroccan organizations.

Moreover, the proposal "ALAMIN" submitted by MEDCITIES and aiming at an ICZM Plan of Action for the Lake Mariout area in Egypt has also been granted. EUCC is a partner to this project and will be closely working with the Alexandria Governorate, the NGO CEDARE, the Catalan Government, UNESCO-IHE Delft and others.

5. EUCC joins North Sea Advisory Council (NSRAC)

EUCC has joined the Executive Committee of the North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC). NSRAC has been created by the European Commission with the mandate to advise them in the Common Fisheries Policies and related matters. EUCC would like to use this opportunity to stimulate sustainable approaches, policies and techniques to fisheries and mariculture, in harmony with the biodiversity of the North Sea. EUCC believes that approaches can and should be adopted that ensure the protection of both important marine biodiversity and the nurseries for the fisheries communities. Following its role as a champion of integrated marine and coastal management (IMCAM) and of sustainable development EUCC will try to enter into the debate with the fisheries sector instead of taking a negative position.

The aim of the NSRAC is to work towards integrated and sustainable management of fisheries in the wider context of the sustainability of the marine environment. The principal objective of the NSRAC is to prepare and provide advice on the management of the fisheries of the North Sea on behalf of stakeholders in order to promote the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. This will be done within the general aim of attaining the sustainable management of fisheries, incorporating an ecosystem based approach and based on the precautionary principle.

More info: www.nsrac.org

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6. EUCC Mediterranean Centre becomes a full member of MIO-ECSDE

The 10th Annual General Assembly of The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) unanimously approved EUCC Mediterranean Centre to become a full member of their Mediterranean NGOs Federation.

MIO-ECSDE is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organisations (over 100 NGOs) active in environment and development issues. It functions as a technical and political platform and umbrella for NGO intervention in the Mediterranean scene. In co-operation with governments, international organisations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role in the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

MIO-ECSDE mission is to protect the natural environment (waters, air, soil, flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the cultural heritage (archaeological and more recent monuments, traditional settlements, cities, cultural diversity, etc.) of the Mediterranean. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote sustainable development in a peaceful and healthy Mediterranean.

Since the foundation of the EUCC Med Centre the communication and cooperation with MIO-ECSDE has been strengthening. The EUCC Med Centre Board decision to apply for a full membership of this federation responds to the necessity of joining forces to revert the unsustainable development trends in this fragile and complex geographical area.

EUCC Mediterranean Centre will especially cooperate with the members of this federation on the field of integrated coastal and marine management, marine protected areas, coastal and marine pollution, capacity building, communication and climate change.

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– NatureNet Coastal & Marine News –

News for Friends of the Coast

7. Disorientation seen in mass Australia whale deaths

The death of about 110 stranded whales in the southern Australian state of Tasmania was probably caused by the animals becoming disoriented in confusing coastal waters, officials said recently. The long-finned pilot whales died after two separate strandings end of October in the Marion Bay area, on the southeastern coast of the island state. Mark Pharaoh, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service official in charge of the incident, said the most likely reason for the stranding was the complex topography of the area. Weather patterns, environmental change and military and industrial underwater seismic testing have all been blamed for whale strandings.

In November 2004, 115 long-finned pilot whales and bottle-nosed dolphins died in two separate strandings off Tasmania, prompting the Australian government to establish a national database on strandings.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33201/story.htm>

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8. Japanese fleet sets out to double whale catch

A Japanese whaling fleet set out for the Antarctic on 8 November on its first hunt after the country doubled its target catch - a move condemned by anti-whaling nations. The six-ship fleet set off from the port of Shimonoseki in western Japan, aiming to catch about 850 minke whales, almost double the previous annual target of 440, and to add 10 fin whales to what Japan calls its scientific whaling programme, a spokeswoman for the Institute of Cetacean Research said.

Tokyo maintains that whale meat, though a rarity on menus now, is an important part of its culinary tradition. Anti-whaling nations and environmental groups condemn as cruel and unnecessary the practice of hunting the giant marine mammals, some of which are endangered.

Japan's whaling ships are due back in port in April.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33385/story.htm>

9. Polar bear vulnerable

The Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List classification of the polar bear should be upgraded from Least Concern to Vulnerable. The recommendation is based on a projected 30 percent decline in the polar bear population the next 35 to 50 years. The principal cause of this decline is climatic warming and its negative impact on the sea ice habitat of polar bears.

In some areas, contaminants may have an additional negative influence. High levels of PCB's and pesticides have been found in some polar bear populations. The group also called for stronger regulation and monitoring of harvest levels. Greenland will be regulating a quota system of 2006. However, there is still no regulation on hunting in north-eastern Russia. The group has also called for stronger regulation and monitoring of harvest levels. The group has also concluded that increases in harvest levels or estimates of sub-population size should not be based solely on traditional ecological knowledge without support from sound scientific data. They also advise that quotas should be set according to the precautionary principle. There are estimated to be about 20 to 25000 polar bears in the arctic. There has already been some decline in sub-populations. In Canada's western Hudson Bay for example, the polar bear population has fallen from 1200 to 1000. Scientists there are looking at possible links between climate change and the population size. The results of this work are expected later this year.

The PBSG is made up of polar bear specialists from Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Norway, Russia and the United States. The group meets every three to five years to review polar bear research that has taken place around the Arctic in recent years and review the worldwide status of polar bears.

Source: WWF Arctic Bulletin, No 3.05

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10. Remains of 'Godzilla' croc found

The fossilised remains of a crocodile that ruled the oceans 140 million years ago have been discovered in Patagonia. Scientists have nicknamed the creature Godzilla, because of its dinosaur-like snout and jagged teeth.

The US-Argentine team of researchers believes the animal was a ferocious predator, feeding on other marine reptiles and large sea creatures. The species is formally known as Dakosaurus andiniensis and has been unveiled in the journal Science.

Computer analysis of the bones shows *D. andiniensis* belongs on the family tree of crocodiles. Scientists believe it evolved a different feeding strategy from its contemporaries. The shape and size of its jaws and teeth suggest it hunted large marine vertebrates such as the giant marine reptile, *Ichthyosaurus*, rather than small fish.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4424734.stm>

11. UN urges protection for dolphins

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) says additional protection measures are needed for dolphins and small whales. A new global survey, released at a conservation meeting in Kenya, finds that more than 70% of species are at risk through snaring in fishing nets. Other major threats include intentional catching, pollution, habitat destruction and military sonar. UNEP is calling for an upgrade of international protection on eight species. It wants the Ganges river dolphin, Atlantic spotted dolphin, Northern right-whale dolphin and five other species to be given Appendix II status under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Existing protection measures on a further seven species should also be extended, it says.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4464784.stm>

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– International News –

12. English beach water quality at record high

The quality of bathing water at English beaches is at a record high level with only five sites around the country failing to meet basic standards, the government said 10th November.

Environment Minister Elliot Morley said a record number of beaches - 305 out of 414 - had passed the European Union's toughest test of the quality of their bathing water and almost 99 percent now met minimum requirements.

"These excellent results show that the 1 billion pounds that has been spent in improving sewage treatment over the last 10 years has paid off," Morley said.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33401/story.htm>

13. Wadden Sea nominated as World Heritage Side

One of the biggest wetland ecosystems in the world, the Wadden Sea, has been nominated by the Dutch and German governments as a World Heritage Side under the definition of the World Heritage Convention. Its is also the intention to nominate the area as a cultural heritage side. The inhabitants en users of the area will be consulted for the process. The nomination and eventual recognition as World Heritage Side will not have as a consequence that new restrictions will be put in place for inhabitants and users.

For more information: LNV Northern Directory, A. Ettema, e-mail a.j.ettema@lnvn.agro.nl, <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/tqc/whs-nl.html>

14. KIMO opposes proposed ultra hazardous radioactive cargoes near European coastlines

A report, issued by KIMO recently in Edinburgh, has highlighted significant differences between the types of ships and security arrangements carrying ultra hazardous radioactive cargoes near UK coastlines.

The report compiled by KIMO UK, which represents coastal authorities in Scotland, England and Wales, and which is affiliated with the local authority international environmental organisation representing over 6 million coastal inhabitants around northern Europe has highlighted that European coastal communities are being treated as second class citizens as compared to other communities when comes to the transport of ultra hazardous radioactive cargoes.

The full report is available on the KIMO website www.kimointernational.org

15. UN vote urges fishing limits to protect turtles

The UN General Assembly urged governments and fisheries management groups to take urgent steps to protect endangered sea turtles and sea birds from an indiscriminate fishing technique. A resolution adopted by consensus by the 191-nation assembly is aimed at restricting a form of industrial fishing known as longline fishing. It is used by large fishing vessels in the Pacific Ocean that trail lines studded with hooks that can stretch out as long as 60 miles (100 km) behind them, snaring millions of sea turtles and birds along with the fish they intend to catch.

The resolution calls for urgent implementation of measures set out in UN Food and Agriculture Organization guidelines intended to reduce such incidental sea turtle and bird deaths. The measures include closing some fishing areas on a seasonal or continuous basis as well as restricting particular types of fishing equipment.

<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33715/story.htm>

16. Brazil implementing FEE Programmes - the Blue Flag

The Brazilian application for becoming a member of the Foundation of Environmental Education – FEE and for implementing FEE programs was officially accepted during the Summer of this year. Brazil is a country of continental proportions. It has more than 8,000 km of coastline and nearly 200 million inhabitants. These numbers make the implementation of any National Programme a challenge.

The Brazilian Agency for Coastal Management – Coastal Agency and the Instituto Ambiental Ratonos - IAR establish a partnership and take the lead for implementing of FEE Programmes in the country. Until 31 December this year, all NGOs and other interested organisations acting in the field of environmental education in the coastal zone of Brazil are invited to submit proposals in order to formalize their participation and to become active in the implementation of FEE Programmes.

FEE Programmes have the potential to increase environmental awareness and to improve environmental quality in Brazil. The first FEE Programme to be implemented in Brazil is the Blue Flag initiative. Brazil is also interested in joining efforts on Eco-schools and Learning About Forest Programmes.

For more information please contact Marinez Scherer at IAR and/or visit www.iarbrasil.org.br, and www.agenciacoesteira.org.br

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– Aquaculture and Fisheries –

17. Illegal fishing threatens Arctic cod

Russian trawlers are not respecting cod quotas in the Arctic, threatening the last major stock of the fish, WWF announced in a report presented at a conference in Murmansk, Russia in August. The report says figures based on Russia's own accounting indicated that Russian trawlers were catching 70.000-115.000 tonnes more than the 480.000 tonnes per year quota set for the entire Barents Sea under a 50-50 shareout between Russia and Norway. The overfishing threatens the future of the cod stock. The Russian violations were worst, but Norwegian fishermen are said to be also to blame. But the Russian overfishing is destroying the image of the Barents Sea, the WWF states, which is reasonably well managed compared to the North Sea or Canada. The WWF states further that European Union ports including Britain and the Netherlands had landed Russian cod in violation of quotas. Ports and supermarkets should be stricter in checking the origin of imported fish.

Source: WWF Arctic Bulletin, No 3.05

18. Investigation driftnets in Irish and Scottish waters

Joe Borg, EU-Commissioner for Fisheries, has announced to look urgently into the problem of about 120 km of driftnets left behind by fishermen in the waters to the west of Ireland and Scotland for the fishing on deep sea species. The problem is caused by the results of a study of Irish and Norwegian scientists. According to this study there are about 25 to 30 non-Irish fishermen engaged in this activity, which causes the greatest casualties among deep sea sharks. All this leads to the putting overboard of 50 to 60% of the catch and is a great nuisance of local fishermen. The Commissioner made his promise during a visit to Ireland. Irish fisheries organisations were very pleased. According to them (and British fellow-organisations) these fishery-methods are a disaster to the fish stocks from which they live.

Source: LBA vol 15 nr 38, 18 November 2005

19. More reservations in oceans to save fish

Ocean reservations must keep up the fish population worldwide. This is a project by the IUCN, the World Conservation Union will be conducting in an assignment by the United Nations.

The IUCN will ask biologists and other experts to point out areas where fishing can no longer be allowed. The proposal must be ready in 2008 to be followed by concrete measures to ensure that there will be no more fishing in the areas from 2012 onwards. IUCN-director Achim Steiner states that a lot has already been done in recent years on nature protection in the oceans by the designation of reservations, but that this is still not enough. The first ocean reservation is almost a hundred years old, but most of the by now almost hundred reservations date from the last twenty years.

Source: NRC Handelsblad, October 25th 2005

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– Coastal & Climate Change –

20. Coastal and climate change- policy developments

This is a short summary of European and global policy developments for coasts, oceans and climate change. EUCC is closely involved in some of them. Contribution by: Magdalena Ariadne Kim Muir, EUCC's Board Advisor on Climate Change.

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European policy developments

The European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy or EPBRS met on October 2 to 5, 2005 in Aviemore, Scotland to make recommendations for climate change and biodiversity that included coastal and marine components, and recognized the greater impacts and governance issues for the coasts. The recommendations are posted as a pdf file on www.epbrs.org. In a meeting that followed directly afterwards, the EU Nature Directors welcomed the EPBRS recommendations for climate change and biodiversity, and recommended research priorities were included in the report of the meetings.

The European Climate Change Program II met in Brussels on October 24, 2005. The intent of the meeting was to introduce, receive limited comments and some degree of acceptance for the mandates of EU working groups under the ECCP II. The most relevant working group for EUCC is the Impacts and Adaptation Working Group, whose mandate includes marine resources, coastal zones and tourism, as well as the related topics of biodiversity, the water cycle and water resources management. Though the topic of marine resources, coastal zone and tourism may be most central to EUCC's mandate, water and water resources management, and biodiversity are sufficiently inter-related and important for coastal regions within Europe. Other working groups, which could have short and long term implications for coasts and oceans, are the Renewable Energy, and Carbon Sequestration and Storage Working Groups.

The EU undertaking consultation on a Marine Strategy and a Maritime Strategy. The Marine Strategy is aimed at protecting Europe's seas and oceans and ensuring that human activities in these seas and oceans are carried out in a sustainable manner so that current and future generations can enjoy and benefit from biologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas that are safe, clean, healthy and productive. The Marine Strategy will contribute to the work on the future EU Maritime Policy (http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/maritime/index_en.htm). In its Communication of 2 March 2005 "Towards a Future EU Maritime Policy: A European Vision for Oceans and Seas," the Commission committed itself to presenting in the first half of 2006 a Green Paper defining the scope and priority issues to be considered as part of the development of a new EU Maritime Policy, to be followed by a wide consultation. Hopefully both of these strategies will include consideration of climate change as key and cross-cutting issues.

There are ongoing EU research programs and activities where EUCC is participating or cooperating, such as the ENCORA (European Network for Coastal Coordination Action, <http://www.encora.org/>) and the ESPACE (European Spatial Planning: Adapting to Climate Change www.espace-project.org). The COAPEC (Coupled European Ocean Atmospheric Processes & Climate Change, www.soc.soton.ac.uk/coapec/coapec.php) was recently completed.

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Global developments

The UN Climate Change Conference began in Montreal on November 28 and concludes on December 9. This is the biggest inter-governmental conference since the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997. Discussions are scheduled on the protocol, and plans for action after the treaty's first phase ends in 2012. There is limited optimism about the outcome of this meeting given the US position on climate change, and the non-inclusion of large CO₂ emitters such as China and India. Please see http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_11/items/3394.php for ongoing reporting.

The TOPS 2005, The Ocean Policy Summit: International Conference on Integrated Oceans Policy was held in Lisbon, Portugal, October 10-14, 2005. Results from this meeting influenced the agenda of the Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands that will be held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris from January 23 to 28, 2006. The agendas for both meetings, and the results of the first meeting are located at www.globaloceans.org. The Third Global Conference will assess progress achieved and obstacles to implementation of international targets for oceans, coasts and small islands, particularly related to the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Development Goals, and other agreements. Two emerging and unresolved issues that will be highlighted are high seas governance, particularly for biotechnology and protection of sensitive resources and biodiversity, and oceans and climate, particularly those issues in relation to ocean acidification, carbon dioxide sequestration, and Arctic change. It is hoped that the meeting will result in international efforts and initiatives, including a focus on climate and coastal and marine issues.

Concluding remarks

There are many means of addressing climate change and coasts. One means may be focused programs that assess links between climate change and economic uses of the coasts such as fisheries, shipping and tourism. Another possible means might be international, regional and national programs that monitor climate impacts and implement precautionary management approaches for vulnerable areas of coasts and oceans- such as arctic coasts, deltas, estuaries, tidal rivers, lagoons, enclosed seas, tropical reefs, deep water reefs, and sea mountains. Longterm outcomes of these and any other programs could be policy developments and amendments to international and regional agreements to reflect the impacts of climate change.

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21. Fresh water transforms North Atlantic

Freshwater from thawing ice in the Arctic is gradually changing the temperature of the North Atlantic Ocean. Large regions of the North Atlantic Ocean have been growing fresher since the late 1960s as melting glaciers and increased precipitation, both associated with greenhouse warming, have enhanced continental run-off into the arctic and sub-arctic seas. Over the same time period, salinity records show that large pulses of extra sea ice and fresh water from the Arctic have flowed into the North Atlantic. But, until now, the actual amounts and rates of fresh water have not been explicitly known.

In an average year, about 5000 cubic kilometres of fresh water flows from the Arctic into the North Atlantic through passages located east and west of Greenland. Researchers estimate that in addition to this amount, an extra 19000 cubic km flowed into the diluted northern seas over the 30-year time period between 1965 and 1995.

About 80 percent ended up in the subpolar basins, which are about twice the geographic size of the Nordic seas. The amount of fresh water involved would be equivalent to a layer about three meters thick spread evenly over the total area of the subpolar basins, and a layer about 1.8 metres (about five feet) thick over the Nordic seas. Excessive amounts of freshwater could alter the ocean density that drives a portion of the heat circulation system with contributes to the North Atlantic Gulf Stream giving Europe its relatively warm climate. Excessive amounts of freshwater could alter the ocean density that drives a portion of this circulation, diminish the amount of heat that is transported northward, and significantly cool areas of the Northern Hemisphere. It is reported that the changes in salinity observed to date do not appear to have changed, as yet, the ocean circulation and heat transport, but continued freshening is expected to affect the ocean conveyor in the next two centuries. Precipitation and river runoff at high latitudes have been increasing. Fresh water has been accumulating in the Nordic seas layer that is critical to the ocean conveyor, so it is something to watch. The Greenland ice sheet represents a wild card. The amount of freshwater tied up there will, if melting, affect the headwaters of the ocean conveyor. It will therefore make sense to continue monitoring ocean, ice and atmospheric changes closely, also given the forecasted rise greenhouse concentrations. It is however a timescale of centuries to be measured with, the researcher is not suggesting that the Gulf Stream will shut down.

For more information contact Shelly Dawicki, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, sdawicki@whoi.edu

Source: WWF Arctic Bulletin, No 3.05

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22. Global warming could help salmon in Norway

Global warming may benefit salmon in Norwegian rivers by causing more rainfall that dilutes industrial acids blown from other parts of Europe, scientists said on recently. In the past, a spring thaw used to wash out large amounts of poisonous nitrates accumulated in winter snows, according to a long-term study of rain, snow and river acidification by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA). But climate change in the past 20-30 years means that more precipitation falls as rain, washing nitrates more evenly around the year into rivers and curbing a spring surge when salmon smolt are most vulnerable to poisoning. A smolt is a young salmon at the stage when it migrates from fresh water to the sea.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33337/story.htm>

23. New reports underscore link between humans and global warming

Two new reports released lately show that concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are increasing and sea levels are rising more quickly than they have for thousands of years thanks to increased development around the world during the 20th century. One report in the journal Science by a Rutgers University team found that sea levels have risen twice as fast in the last 150 years as in the previous millennium. The Rutgers researchers believe that although the planet is in a naturally occurring warmer phase, human industrial and transportation activities have in essence doubled the effect. "Half of the current rise was going on anyway. But that means half of what's going on is not background. It's human induced," said Kenneth Miller, a Rutgers geology professor who spearheaded the 15-year study.

Meanwhile, another report released simultaneously in Science by European researchers found that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are rising 200 times faster than any previously recorded increase. "The study does not directly address global warming. But what we provide is an important new baseline for the climate models with which we investigate global warming," says Thomas Stocker, a professor of climate

and environmental physics at the University of Bern in Switzerland and lead author of the European report.

Source: <http://planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33645/newsDate/25-Nov-2005/story.htm>

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24. Snow in Alps disappearing, Mediterranean heating up

Climate change in Europe has the most thorough effect in the Alpine region and the Mediterranean. A great number of skiing-areas disappears because the snow line is expected to be two to four hundred meters above the current heights at the end of the century.

In the Mediterranean area it will become very hot and dry. Up to forty percent of the population there will have too little water for everyday use in the decades to come. This are the conclusions of a big international investigation on climate change in Europe. Researchers from sixteen institutions, among them Wageningen University, have worked for more than four years on the investigation. In the interpretation of data the investigators were helped by people with practical experience, from entrepreneurs in the winter sports areas to forest owners. In Switzerland now 85 percent of the skiing centres contains enough snow. In the course of the century this will decrease to 63 percent. In the European mountain areas it will not only snow less frequent, but it will rain more, causing the rivers to overflow more often. In the summer tourist activities in the southern Alps in particular will also be affected, because it will become simply too hot.

According to researcher prof. Rik Leemans from Wageningen University Dutch pensioners in forty-fifty years ahead will be better served with a vacation home in the provinces Drenthe and Zeeland than with a second home in southern Europe. "On the Mediterranean it will be unbearable then with 40 degrees". Apart from the expected water shortages the risk of forest fires is also increasing.

In The Netherlands the summers will also be hotter. The country is rightly preparing itself for more flooding of its rivers during the winter. Farmers will grow different crops. Leemans: "We will go for example from wheat to grapes."

The article written by Dagmar Schröter, Wolfgang Cramer, Rik Leemans, et al., Ecosystem Service Supply and Vulnerability to Global Change in Europe can be found at: www.sciencexpress.org

25. Key warming ocean current slowing down

The Atlantic Conveyor, a life-giving ocean current that keeps northern Europe warm, is slowing down, scientists said recently. If the 30 percent slowdown seen over the past 12 years is not just a blip, temperatures in northern Europe could drop significantly, despite global warming, they added.

Scientists have long forecast that the Atlantic Conveyor that carries warm surface water north and cold deep water back to the equator could break down because of global warming.

According to the theory, rising air temperatures cause ice caps to melt, making the water less salty and therefore less dense so it can't sink and flow back south.

The scientists said this was the first time that observations had put flesh on the bones of the theory.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33773/story.htm>

– EU News and Initiatives –

26. EU tightens rules to protect Baltic cod and herring

EU fisheries ministers agreed 22 November to streamline rules for trawling in the Baltic and give threatened species like cod and herring a chance to boost their numbers after years of over-fishing, officials said. Cod is one of the species most at risk in Baltic waters, say scientists, who have called for a blanket fishing ban for 2006 in a stretch between Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Although such a ban is unlikely to replace the seasonal bans already in place, the 25-nation EU will work towards raising fish stocks by streamlining paperwork and tightening requirements for trawlermen whose vessels work the Baltic waters. Driftnets will be outlawed across the Baltic from 2008.

The ministers are also expected to agree cuts to annual fishing quotas at their meeting end of December. The main Baltic fisheries that are subject to total EU annual catches are herring, sprat, cod, salmon and plaice.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33600/story.htm>

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27. Financing Natura 2000 – Guidance and workshops

As the designation of Natura 2000 sites is nearing completion and management plans for selected sites are in preparation, it has been recognized that there is lack of clarity regarding how these sites are to be financed. In July 2004 the Commission issued a Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on Financing Natura 2000 presenting its aim to co-finance Natura 2000 using the existing funding Instruments. Preparations for the new EU financial period 2007-2013 are to be completed by the

end of 2006. The financial needs of the Natura 2000 network relate to a broad range of measures required to ensure the efficient conservation management of the designated sites.

The Commission wishes to advise and support Member States in using the options of Community co-financing for Natura 2000 in the period 2007-2013. This will be achieved by:

- Publishing guidance on how the Community funds for the period 2007-2013 can be used to support the Natura 2000 network;

- Organisation of workshops in all Member States to explain on the spot how the Community funds for the period 2007-2013 can be used for the Natura 2000 network.

These workshops are aimed at informing and supporting Member States on how to apply the Community co-financing opportunities on the national level. National workshops will be held in 25 countries to present the handbook and show how it is to be used. These workshops will also promote co-operation among all involved national authorities and stakeholders and include discussion of country specific problems and challenges.

A consortium comprising of WWF (Germany), Nova (Germany) and Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) will be responsible for the preparation of the guidance Hand Book and the conduct of the workshops. They will work in close liaison with the EU DG Environment and National Project Partners in each country.

For further information please contact Peter Torkler at Torkler@wwf.de

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28. European Commission proposes a Marine Strategy Directive

The European Commission has proposed a new strategy to protect the marine environment across Europe. The objective of the proposed Marine Strategy Directive is to achieve good environmental status of the marine environment by 2021. The Directive will establish European Marine Regions as management units for its implementation and each Member State, in close cooperation with the relevant other Member States and third countries within a region is required to develop Marine Strategies for its marine waters. The Marine Strategies are expected to contain detailed assessment of the state of the environment, a definition of "good environmental status" at regional level and establish clear environmental targets and monitoring programmes.

The proposed Directive will only define common principles at EU level. The Commission is of the opinion that the adoption of a Decision, binding in its entirety, or a more stringent Directive would not provide the flexibility required to implement the instrument in highly diverse region such as the EU, where the conditions and imperatives of marine management are highly variable. However, whether an instrument, containing no binding commitment (like the non binding ICZM recommendations) is sufficient or not has been questioned by several organisations.

The text of the Marine Strategy Directive and the Communication to the Council and to the European Parliament - Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment can be downloaded from: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/marine.htm>

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29. LIFE-Nature helps to protect the Mediterranean monk seal

A LIFE-Nature project has been successful in its efforts to protect the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) at two Greek Natura 2000 sites: the Kimolos-Polyaigos and the north Karpathos-Saria islands. The monk seal is one of the most threatened marine animals in the world. The main threats come from deliberate or accidental killing, reduction in food sources (mainly because of over-fishing), human disturbance, and the deterioration and destruction of its habitats. Greece has a special responsibility for this species, as its waters host the largest European population.

For more information, visit the project website (English and Greek) at: www.mom.gr/life and read the project summary.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/news/lifeflash/lifenews10_05.htm#monkseal

30. MESH project aims at providing a unified habitat mapping approach

A lack of consistent habitat maps at an international scale hinders regional, national and international perspectives on the seabed resource in spatial planning and decision making. However, the MESH project aims to provide such maps to aid marine management. Despite it covering over two thirds of the area of the planet, relatively little is known about what lies at the bottom of our seas; possibly less than we know about the surface of Mars. The seas around northwest Europe are a typical example, with less than 10% of an area exceeding one million square kilometres having been mapped in sufficient detail to describe the habitats present. Gathering information about the distribution of these habitats has progressed slowly in the past. Currently, information about the distribution, extent and quality of seabed habitats is patchy, inconsistent and poorly collated. There are few national programmes in the northwest of Europe (except in France) which collate such information.

The project, development of a framework for Mapping European Seabed Habitats or MESH, aims to resolve some of these data issues and to provide unified seabed habitat maps for northwest Europe to aid marine management. It is a three year programme, which began in the spring of 2004, being undertaken

by a consortium of twelve partners across Belgium, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK, with financial support from the EU INTERREG IIIB fund (www.nweurope.org).
Source: Marine Scientist No 12. 3Q 2005

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– Publications –

Publication – Natura 2000 - Europe's nature for you

European Commission (2005, 28 pp), Office for Official Publications for the European Communities, Luxembourg, ISBN 92-894-9214-7.

Natura 2000 is the most ambitious initiative ever undertaken to conserve Europe's rich natural heritage. It enables all 25 countries of the EU to work together to protect hundreds of Europe's most vulnerable species and habitats across their natural range in Europe, irrespective of national boundaries. At its heart lies the creation of an ecological network of sites known as the Natura 2000 network. Some 18000 sites have been included in this network so far. They now cover together almost 20% of the EU – an area the size of Germany and Italy combined. This publication aims at informing the general public in the EU on the initiative, colourfully illustrated.

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Implementation of Natura 2000

Experiences of the French Nature Reserves Network

Jean Louis Michelot and Alain Chiffaut, Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels, ISBN : 2-912801-71-0, €20,00 , e-mail : aten@espaces-naturels.fr

Natura 2000 has become a major conservation and natural heritage tool in France. Nature reserve managers and their umbrella organisation, French Nature Reserves Network (RNF), committed themselves very early on to this approach, often experimenting with innovative solutions, in terms of concertation, scientific approach, and operational implementation. Based on this experience, this guide aims to provide a technical aid to all the stakeholders of this policy, complementing and updating the methodological guide to DOCOBs.

New book encourages better implementation of EU environmental law

EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas has launched the new EU Environmental Policy Handbook published by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Europe's largest federation of environmental citizens' organisations. The Environmental Policy Handbook is a unique reference volume, which gives practical assistance on both understanding and using EU environmental laws. "All stakeholders interested in the further development of our policies will find this handbook extremely useful", declares Stavros Dimas. "It will make them see where we come from and where we are today - and why we are pushing for a comprehensive and holistic approach to environmental policymaking".

To order copies of the Handbook:

International Books, Grifthoek 151, 3514 JK Utrecht, the Netherlands or i-books@antenna.nl, <http://www.antenna.nl/~i-books>

EEB EU Environmental Policy Handbook - editor Stefan Scheuer - ISBN 9057270552 - € 29.95

The book's chapters are also available at: http://www.eeb.org/publication/policy_handbook.htm

Sounding the Depths II

The Rising Toll of Sonar, Shipping and Industrial Ocean Noise on Marine Life

Most whales and many other marine species depend on sound as they hunt for food, avoid predators, find mates, and maintain their awareness in the darkness of the sea. But over the past century the acoustic landscape of the ocean has been transformed by human activity -- intensely loud military sonar, oil-and-gas surveys, and the ever-increasing traffic of commercial ships. This noise can have impacts on marine life ranging from long-term behavioral change to hearing loss to death. This November 2005 second edition of NRDC's groundbreaking 1999 report on ocean noise has been completely rewritten to reflect the rapid growth of the scientific record. It reviews the science, surveys the leading contributors to the problem, and suggests what might be done to reduce the impacts of noise on the sea - before the proliferation of noise sources makes the problem unmanageable.

<http://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/marine/sound/contents.asp>

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Küsten Newsletter 6/2005

The sixth newsletter of EUCC Germany had been issued in German. If you wish to subscribe to this newsletter please send an email to: newsletter@eucc-d.de. The newsletter can be found at: <http://www.eucc-d.de>

CoPraNet newsletter

The fourth CoPraNet newsletter is now online and can be found at:
<http://www.coastalpractice.net/en/newsletters/copranet/index.htm>

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– Events and training, 1st Announcements –

This list only includes the 1st Announcements of conferences and training courses.
For a complete overview of conferences please visit: <http://www.coastalguide.org/meetings>
EUCC related conferences are added in boxes.

March 6 – June 16, 2006 – Online

UNESCO-IHE Online ICZM Course

<http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/ilearning.htm#5>

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June 6 –8, 2006 – Algier, Algeria

Mediterranean Workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Problems and perspectives

For more information please contact: dpgr-ismal@ismal.net

September 18-20, 2006 – Gdansk, Poland

Littoral 2006 Conference "Coastal Innovation and Initiatives"

<http://www.littoral2006.gda.pl/>

September 18 – 21, 2006 – Boston, USA

MTS/IEEE Oceans Conference

<http://www.oceans2006.org/>

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– Colophon –

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Please note that back issues will be transferred to <http://www.eucc.net>

EUCC Coastal News Editorial Team: Miranda Wien, Ben Spaans, Albert Salman, Marleen Smallegange.
Special Editor: Magdalena Ariadne Kim Muir (EUCC Advisory Board Member): Climate Change.

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 2005/12: 19 December 2005.

Established in 1989, EUCC - The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2750 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel.: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>

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