

EUCC Coastal News

No 04 April/May 2006

EUCC Coastal News is a monthly newsletter published by EUCC - The Coastal Union for its members and for the press. Readers and Network members (only entitled to newsletters) are encouraged to join the EUCC as a Private or Professional member. Members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in www.eucc.net/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions, please contact: news at coastalguide.org (apologies for anti-spam code).

DID YOU PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE?

All EUCC Network members are kindly encouraged to PAY their annual fee for 2005 (€5) or to make their payment for 5 years (€20). Please transfer the requested amount to bank account 916 , EUCC (Name of bank: Postbank, IBAN-code: NL10 PSTB 0000 0009 16, Swift code: PSTBNL21).

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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– EUCC News –

1. EUCC joins "Marine Coalition"

EUCC – The Coastal Union has become a full member of a coalition of marine-orientated environmental NGOs. This coalition brings together Greenpeace, Birdlife International, Oceana, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), WWF, Seas at Risk, the Fisheries Secretariat, and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB). In the past three years, the coalition has focused its work on strengthening the content of the EU's Thematic Strategy on the Marine Environment, which is a product of the EU's Sixth Environment Action Programme (6th EAP), adopted by the European Parliament and Council in 2002. In October 2005, after three years of consultation, the Commission adopted the Marine Strategy and related proposal for a new EU marine law.

http://eu.greenpeace.org/issues/oceans_coalition.html

2. ENCORA - European Platform for Coastal Research and Coordination Action

The EU networking initiative ENCORA started on February 1st. Coastal networks in 13 EU countries will work together to enable easier access to knowledge and experience in Europe on coastal processes, practices and policies. This Coordinating Action project is being led by the Dutch National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ) recently approved within the 6th Framework Programme.

ENCORA will implement a range of mechanisms to stimulate and facilitate progress towards its objectives, based on national and European networking agreements between the ENCORA associate institutes. Therefore, ENCORA is structured as a network matrix. National coastal networks are the basic components which will be interlinked by European thematic networks. The thematic networks address major fields of concern shared by many member states e.g. multi-functionality & valuation and stakeholder involvement. EUCC is taking the lead on the theme of participation & implementation and also leading the work package on Promotion, Dissemination and Exploitation.

It is intended that ENCORA will stimulate multi-disciplinary approaches to ICZM, strengthen communication between scientists, practitioners and policymakers, strengthen national coordination mechanisms and initiate a self-sustaining process of cooperation in Europe. The next meeting of the ENCORA Executive Committee will meet in London on June 29/30 to discuss details of the work programme.

For more information, please visit www.encora.org

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3. Help us gather information for ENCORA

In the ENCORA project, EUCC is theme leader for ICZM Participation and Implementation. One of the main aims of the ENCORA project is to share knowledge and information on coastal practises, policies. In order to collect valuable information regarding our theme, the EUCC would like to ask for your help.

We need information about stakeholder participation in the partner countries. If you want to make a contribution, please fill in the questionnaire which you will find as an attachment to the EUCC Coastal News message. If you feel that you can not provide information that might be of help but know of other (expert) people that can, please forward the questionnaire to them.

Please send the completed questionnaire to Anthoinette van Winkoop at a.vanwinkoop@eucc.net If you have any questions or additional information you can contact her as well. *Thank you very much in advance!*

- EECONET / NatureNet News – News for Friends of the Coast

4. Island nation creates third largest marine park

A tiny island nation in the Pacific Ocean has created the world's third-largest marine reserve, as global efforts to preserve biodiversity widen to include everything from insects to fish to forests. President Anote Tong of the Republic of Kiribati announced the formation of the park at the 8th United Nations conference on the Convention on Biological Diversity that was held from March 20 till March 31 in Brazil.

The Phoenix Islands Protected Area bans commercial fishing to protect more than 120 species of coral and 520 species of fish inside its 184,700 sq km (73,800 sq miles). It is the world's first marine park with deep-sea habitat, including underwater mountains. Subsistence fishing will be allowed in the park for local residents.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/35816/newsDate/29-Mar-2006/story.htm>

5. Military blamed for beaked whale deaths in Spain

Four Cuvier's beaked whales were found stranded near to the town of Mojacar, on the Spanish South East coast in January. The results of detailed post-mortem investigations conducted on them have just been released. All showed a 'gas and embollic syndrome' judged to be very similar to what has been seen in other beaked whale strandings associated with military activities. The most likely primary cause of this type of beaked whale mass stranding event is anthropogenic acoustic activities, most probably anti-submarine active, mid-frequency sonar used during the military naval exercises. There is growing concern about the impact of human produced underwater noise on sea mammals.

<http://www.wdcs.org/dan/publishing.nsf/allnews/4BE39A0315AC3DB080257137005D3BBD>

6. Polar bear threatened with extinction due to global warming

The World Conservation Union IUCN has published a new Red List of species facing extinction. Polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) have entered deeper into the danger zone and are set to become one of the most notable casualties of global warming. Dependent upon Arctic ice-floes for hunting seals and highly specialized for life in the Arctic marine environment, polar bears are predicted to suffer more than a 30% population decline in the next 45 years. Previously listed by IUCN as a conservation dependent species, the polar bear moves into the threatened categories and has been classified as Vulnerable.

The total number of species declared officially extinct is 784 and a further 65 are only found in captivity or cultivation. Of the 40,177 species assessed using the IUCN Red List criteria, 16,119 are now listed as threatened with extinction. This includes one in three amphibians and a quarter of the world's coniferous trees, on top of the one in eight birds and one in four mammals known to be in jeopardy.

www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2006/05/02_pr_red_list_en.htm

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– International News –

7. Norway protects Arctic oil areas

Norway has approved increased oil exploration in its Arctic waters but will limit drilling in some areas until 2010 to protect the environment. Under the long-awaited plan, a 50km (31-mile) zone near Norway's coast, which includes the Lofoten islands, will be off-limits. The area in the Barents Sea is seen as being important for the environment and has large supplies of fish. Environmental groups criticised the move as giving too little protection.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4865530.stm>

8. UK: consultation for sea planning framework launched

The British Government has opened a consultation on a new, integrated marine planning framework, aimed at managing the activities and developments in UK seas while safeguarding the marine environment. Proposals include a marine spatial planning system, streamlined marine development permission mechanisms, means of managing coasts, estuaries and fisheries, and the establishment of a new Marine Management Organisation.

The Marine Conservation Society welcomed the proposals. The MCS is pleased that the UK plans to lead the way as the first country in Europe to introduce comprehensive Marine Spatial Planning.

The Marine Bill consultation was given a more cautious welcome by the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA). The renewable industries body expressed concerns over new bureaucratic hurdles the Bill could introduce for offshore wind development.

www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=11255

9. Ireland: water pollution warnings directly to desktop

A programme of new and innovative technologies, funded by the Irish Marine Institute (MI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) brings together research on the Water Monitoring Issue. Planned are instant alerts on pollution incidents, falling water quality levels and poisonous plankton blooms in bays, rivers and lakes all over Ireland, to be delivered directly to computer screens anywhere in the country. The continuing availability of clean water is deemed a vital policy area by the agencies concerned.

See: www.epa.ie/NewsCentre/PressReleases/MainBody_9067_en.html and www.marine.ie/

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10. Denmark: study of oil pollution Ertholmene from Fu Shan Hai

In June 2003, the archipelago of Ertholmene in the Baltic Sea north of Bornholm was hit by oil from the wrecked bulkcarrier Fu Shan Hai. The oil pollution lasted for a month, and an estimated 1100-1600 seabirds, mainly auks and eiders, were killed. A two-year study of the impact of the oil pollution on the breeding birds of Ertholmene, Denmark, has now been published. In 2004-05 the private organisation Christiansø Naturvidenskabelige Feltstation (Christiansø Biological Research Station) undertook a detailed investigation of the impact of the oil pollution on the breeding birds of Ertholmene. It concludes that ducks were the hardest hit, auks less so.

http://www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_baltic/en_GB/1143707191730/

11. UK: offshore wind "at crossroads"

Offshore wind energy in the UK is unlikely to reach its full potential unless there is additional support from the government, a report shows. The study says the fledgling industry is at a "critical stage" and economic and environmental opportunities could be lost without further assistance. The research was commissioned by the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA). The research - carried out on behalf of the BWEA and Renewables East, a renewables agency for eastern England - said that an estimated 8,000 MW of capacity, enough to power five million homes, could be online by 2015. The findings said this would be equivalent to 6% of the UK's electricity supply. However, the study warns that only about 2,000 MW is likely to be built without further support from the government. At present there are four offshore farms, with a combined total capacity of 213MW.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4873434.stm>

12. Denmark fighting oil pollution

Cooperating with the Danish EPA, Admiral Danish Fleet is launching a campaign 'STOP THE OIL!' to fight pollution in Danish marine waters. The aim of the campaign is to make the public look for signs of oil pollution, so that pollution incidents can be detected very quickly and the oil prevented from being washed ashore. The campaign addresses everyone using the sea for commercial purposes. Later, the next phase of the campaign, to be launched in May, will be targeted towards leisure boats. Admiral Danish Fleet is preparing an environment kit, which, in addition to guidelines on how to report observations of oil pollution, includes a special environment pennant signalling that you are an active "marine environmentalist".

<http://www.mim.dk/Nyheder/Engelsk+nyhedsbrev/Arkiv/2006/Danish+Environment+Newsletter+no.+3+2006/Fighting+oil+pollution.htm>

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13. Restoration of wetlands key to reducing future threats of avian flu

Restoring tens of thousands of lost and degraded wetlands could go a long way towards reducing the threat of avian flu pandemics a new report published on April 11th says. The loss of wetlands around the globe is forcing many wild birds onto alternative sites like farm ponds and paddy fields, bringing them into direct contact with chickens, ducks, geese, and other domesticated fowl. Close contact of wild birds and poultry species is believed to be a major cause behind the spread of avian influenza. The report has been commissioned by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from a team led by leading Canadian academic Dr David Rapport.

www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=475&ArticleID=5255&l=en

– Aquaculture and Fisheries –

14. Shallow water seagrass beds are vanishing

Seagrass beds are in decline around the world, scientist Frederick Short says. With these underwater meadows also commercially valuable shellfish and fish, waterfowl and other wildlife are disappearing, while water quality declines and erosion prevention decreases.

Seagrass beds serve as protective nurseries for juvenile fish and shellfish, a habitat for many marine species, and a feeding ground for predatory fish, waterfowl and large sea creatures like manatees and sea turtles. According to Short the disappearance of seagrass beds will have a major impact. Fishing communities are threatened in their existence.

www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2006/2006-03-28-03.asp

www.seagrassnet.org

15. Sustainable seafood casts a bigger net

The Pacific halibut fishery in Alaska, Washington and Oregon has become the first halibut fishery in the world to receive Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. Pacific halibut joins 16 other fisheries worldwide that are currently certified to the rigorous MSC environmental standard for well-managed and sustainable fisheries. The certificate has been awarded to a non profit corporation sponsored by Fishing Vessel Owners Association (FVOA) and the Deep Sea Fishermen Union, both of which represent longline crews and vessel owners.

On May 9th the Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association (PFA) North Sea herring fishery has also been awarded the MSC certificate for well-managed and sustainable fisheries at the European Seafood Exposition in Brussels. PFA North Sea herring is the largest fishery in Europe to gain MSC certification. PFA's members catch over 180,000 tonnes of fish per year and its vessels operate under the French, German, Netherlands and UK flags. The PFA herring fleet usually comprises some 18 vessels per season. The fleet uses pelagic trawl nets to fish the North Sea and Eastern English Channel herring stock. All the herring is frozen and boxed on board and is mainly exported to China, West Africa and Eastern Europe.

Fish products resulting from these certified fisheries can now carry the MSC's blue eco-label on retail packaging. The eco-label can be found on more than 300 seafood products sold in retail chains in 26 countries. In total, 40 fisheries worldwide are engaged in the MSC environmental programme, representing over three million tons of seafood. A comprehensive assessment led by independent certification body Scientific Certification Systems, Inc. (SCS) has ensured that all aspects of the fisheries meet the MSC environmental standard. SCS and an independent expert team examined the status of the fish stock; the impact fishing has on the marine environment and the effectiveness of the fishery management system.

More information is available on www.msc.org

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– Coastal & Climate Change –

16. Climate change puts pressure on London defences

London is mustering its flood defences more often as global warming raises sea levels, the UK government's Chief Scientific Adviser Sir David King told a Reuters conference on climate change and investment. In the period after it was built in 1980, it was used once every two or three years, as was foreseen then. It is now used six times a year. The direct cost of a breach in the flood defences would exceed 30 billion GBP (43.35 billion Euro) directly, not including the "indirect" damage to people's lives.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/35749/story.htm>

17. EUCC Participation in EU consultations on European Climate Change Program II for fresh, coastal and marine waters, and biodiversity

The second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) was launched in October 2005. Five working groups were formed composed of national experts, representatives of business sectors, NGO representatives, academic experts and Commission staff. Two sectoral groups within the Impacts and Adaptation Working Group *viz.* impacts on the water cycle, water resources management and the prediction of extreme events; and marine resources and coastal zones and tourism met on April 11/12. EUCC was invited to attend and Magdalena Muir (advisory Board member) represented the organisation. Some of EUCC's comments, as well as a general discussion, are summarized below.

At the meetings, there was discussion on the integration of fresh water, coastal and marine water issues; and the importance of good governance and having the appropriate regulatory instruments, information, tools and approaches to allow adaptation to climate change at the EU, national, regional and local level. It was suggested that the draft ECCP II report, due for September 6, include a summary of requirements for climate change in existing EU directives, policies, programmes, and strategies. It was also suggested that EU directives, policies, programmes and strategies be explicitly revised to include climate change. As the freshwater sector is more advanced than the coastal and marine sector in understanding and responding to climate change, it was suggested that it might be useful to consider the applicability of developments and tools for climate change in the water sector to the coastal and marine sector. For example, the Water Framework Directive has a broad inclusive approach to fresh and coastal waters that includes climate issues. Another example, eutrophication and stratification were raised as issues for fresh waters, but are also relevant for coastal and marine waters.

Parties noted that European coasts and marine waters are experiencing greater human uses and development, as well as climate change. There is also overlap between the development of adaptive climate change measures, the marine policy and the maritime strategy. During the consultation for coastal and marine waters, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) was discussed as a tool to address climate change, with other tools being flood and erosion management, Strategic Environmental

Assessment, the Water Framework Directive, the proposed marine policy, maritime strategy and flooding directive. It was stressed that ICZM is essentially a governance approach, which can be modified to address climate change, particularly in combination with other tools and directives, and with EU funding initiatives focused in this regard.

There was a discussion on the need to include impacts of climate change on the biodiversity and related ecosystem services for coastal and marine ecosystems. Therefore, it would be useful to consider and include marine biodiversity in the discussion on impacts of climate change on biodiversity, and as part of the EU Green Week on "Biodiversity is Life" (May 30 to June 2, 2006). Last, it was noted that it is important to recognize the impacts of tourism and climate change as significant issues and drivers for coastal and marine ecosystems throughout Europe, and to include a ranges of measures to address the tourism and climatic impacts on all directives, policies, programmes, and strategies affecting coastal and marine waters.

A third workshop on biodiversity (May 29), preceding the EU Green Week, has been organised and to which EUCC has also been invited.

Further information on ECCP II is found at: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/eccp.htm>

Further information on EU Green Week "Biodiversity is Life" is found at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/home.html>

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18. Climate change and world heritage expert meeting

Climate change is affecting many natural and cultural World Heritage properties, and is likely to affect many more in the coming years. Among the Natural Sites under stress are the Great Barrier Reef (Australia), the Kilimanjaro National Park (Tanzania) and many biosphere reserves such as the Cape Floral Region (South Africa). Cultural sites are also threatened by rising sea levels (Venice and its lagoon, Italy), increased storminess and subsequent structural collapse (The Megalithic Temples of Malta), and desertification (Timbuktu, Mali). At its 29th session in Durban, South Africa in 2005, the World Heritage Committee launched an initiative to assess the impact of global climate change on World Heritage sites.

A meeting of experts was organized at the UNESCO's headquarters in Paris on March 16th and 17th, 2006, which brought together over 50 representatives from nations, various international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee, and academic and scientific experts to discuss current and future impacts of climate change on World Heritage sites. The actions and strategies will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its annual meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania from July 8 to 16, 2006. Topics reviewed during the meeting include the implications of climate change for World Heritage sites and conservation strategies. Case studies of the impact of climate change on certain World Heritage sites, and measures that are proposed or already underway were also discussed. For more information see:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/240> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/301>

19. National Trust's climate change strategy for UK Heritage and coastal properties

In February 2006, the National Trust called upon the UK government to deliver a robust and targeted climate change adaptation strategy to help people and businesses reduce the risks from climate change. The Trust highlighted the ways in which climate change was posing new challenges to the National Trust's historic buildings and extensive countryside properties, mirroring impacts that will be felt right across society and the economy. The National Trust has a climate change campaign, and several reports have been issued by the Trust (see titles and links below). The Trust owns 10% of the coastline of England, Wales and Northern Ireland - around 700 miles in all.

One report, *Shifting Shore and Change Climate*, states 126 National Trust coastal sites are already at risk of flooding, with another 33 facing inundation by tidal and river water in the next 100 years. One of the most dire predictions suggests 169 sites along nearly 380 miles of coast will be hit by erosion. The Trust also predicts a difficult future for its historic properties, not built to cope with the havoc caused by drier summers, warmer winters and increasing storms as well as pests, some new to Britain, but others now active throughout the year. A number of other climate impacts are incremental but none the less significant for the Trust's work. For example, increasingly mild winters and hotter summers mean that the Trust's historic gardens need to be maintained in different ways and the elongation of the growing season places new demands on the Trust's gardening.

The Trust also plans to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions by cutting its electricity bills by 10% by next year, and using green technologies even in old properties. It is also looking at whether it should offer its land for small-scale hydro, wind and wood fuel power schemes.

For more information see:

http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-chl/w-countryside_environment/w-climate_change.htm

Reports:

Forecast? - Changeable! Examples of climate change impacts around the National Trust (PDF/1.28MB)

http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-climate_change-forecast_changeable.pdf

'Shifting Shores - living with a changing coastline' Our experience as Britain's largest coastal landowner, (PDF/930KB) http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-shifting_shores.pdf
 'Gardening in the Global Greenhouse' (summary) The impacts of climate change on domestic gardens, nationally important heritage gardens, the landscape industry and the retail horticultural industry (PDF/4.4MB) http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-gardening_global_greenhouse_summary.pdf
 Environmental practices
http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-chl/w-countryside_environment/w-environmental_practices.htm

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– EU News and Initiatives –

20. EU Commission warns 11 countries over beaches

Eleven European countries that delisted some public bathing sites instead of cleaning them up may have broken EU law, the European Commission said. Last year, the EU overhauled a bathing water directive, telling member states they had to be more careful monitoring the quality of waters and keeping them free of pollution. But in a statement, it said it was concerned that some member states had opted to close sites instead of cleaning them up, adding that Germany and the Netherlands were the worst offenders.

The European Court of Justice, Europe's top court, said countries must justify the delisting of bathing sites. The Commission has sent a first written warning to the 11 member states asking them to justify the cancellations, a first step towards possible legal action.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/35942/newsDate/10-Apr-2006/story.htm>

EU press release:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/470&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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- Publications and Websites -

A Flood of Space. Towards a spatial structure plan for sustainable management of the North Sea

Van den Abeele, Peter & Vanhulle, An (2005, 204 pag.), Belgian Science Policy, Universiteit Gent, D/2005/1191/20

In the GAUFRE project (2003-2005) four partners worked together (three research teams of the University Gent and Ecolas nv) to gather scientific knowledge about the use of the Belgian part of the North Sea and its possible effects. This book reflects the spatial-analytical and the design aspects of the GAUFRE project. Major emphasis is on the development of a specific methodology for spatial planning at sea.

The Benefits of Flood and Coastal Risk Management (manual and handbook of assessment techniques + CD)

By Edmund Penning-Rowsell et al. (2005, 238 & 81 pp.). Middlesex University Press, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1QS, U.K. Fax +8411 5736. E-mail: mupress@mdx.ac.uk . Web: www.mdx.ac.uk . ISBN 1 904750 51 4 (manual) and 1 904750 51 6 (handbook). Price manual £120, handbook £19.75 (until 30 Sept.2006: manual £120 + handbook free).

This publication aims to improve efficiency and consistency in benefit assessment within flood and coastal erosion risk management appraisal. To this aim the manual provides readers with access to the rationale and background on the appraisal techniques, a single appraisal compendium of research and approaches that support sustainable development. The handbook offers easier access to the techniques and information needed to undertake evaluation of the benefits for most straightforward risk management projects, a greater understanding of the principle that for most cases appraisal effort should be proportional to the scale and scope of the decision required en techniques that fully support sustainable development principles.

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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.

June 14-18, 2006 – Samothraki, Greece

CoPraNet - The role of Local Authorities and NGOs in planning sustainable coastal tourism development

<http://www.coastalpractice.net/en/workshops/samothraki.pdf>

June 20-23, 2006 – Nyborg, Denmark

Research and Management of Eutrophication in Coastal Ecosystems

<http://eutro2006.dhi.dk>

July 18, 2006 – London, United Kingdom

Water Framework Directive - Progress with Catchment Management Integration and Delivery

http://www.ciwem.org/events/Catchment_Programme_180706.doc

September 18-20, 2006 – Gdansk, Poland

Littoral 2006 Conference "Coastal Innovation and Initiatives"

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

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– Colophon –

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

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Special Editor: Magdalena Ariadne Kim Muir (EUCC Advisory Board Member): Climate Change.

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 2006/05 : 24 May 2006.

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, POBox 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands
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The European
Commission

This publication has received funding from the European Community. Sole responsibility of this publication lies with the authors; the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information herein.