

EUCC Coastal News

Vol. 8, issue nr. 2
March 2007

EUCC Coastal News is the international newsletter of EUCC - The Coastal Union for its members and for the press. We have ca. 4000 readers.

PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE 2007 SOON. Since the EU NGO Support programme has been postponed due to the delayed approval of the Life+ Regulation, this news service is no longer sponsored. Without the support of all readers we can not continue this service. EUCC-members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: please check in www.eucc.net/en/members. Please transfer the appropriate amount to bank account 916 of EUCC, mentioning membership type. Name of bank: Postbank, IBAN-code: NL10 PSTB 0000 0009 16, Swift code: PSTBNL21.

Contributions to the next issue: EUCC-members are invited to send their contributions until 19 April **2007** to: news at eucc.net (click, with apologies for anti-spam code).

- Contents -

-EUCC News -

1. Private Concert by Cristina Branco, Ambassador of Dolphin Fund
2. European Partner Search: Agricultural dune field landscapes
3. The eternal city hosts the launch of SPICOSA

-EU News and Initiatives -

4. INSPIRE Directive moves ahead

-International News -

5. Disappearance cod from North Sea not just due to warmer water
6. Protection urged for UK marine life
7. Icelandic whalers don't sell any whale meat
8. Sperm whales return to Mediterranean...?
9. Orkney to get 'biggest' wave farm

-Aquaculture and Fisheries -

10. USA: Bush signs bill to prevent overfishing
11. Call to halt deep sea 'plunder'
12. Meeting in Japan seeks to save tuna from extinction

-Coastal & Climate Change -

13. EC's response to climate change
14. JRC report on climate change and Europe's coastal and marine waters
15. UN climate panel blames humans for warming
16. New report on the effects of climate change on European seas
17. North Europe rings in new year with ice-free Baltic Sea
18. 2006 warmest on record in United States - NOAA
19. Canada finds killer whales drawn to warmer Arctic
20. Swordfish and jellyfish thrive in warm North Atlantic
21. Global warming endangers harp seal pups Canada
22. Exotic animals seen where Antarctic ice used to be
23. Global warming places some turtles at risk

-Nature and Conservation News -

24. White-tailed eagle to make comeback in Ireland
25. US weighs listing polar bear as threatened species
26. Scientists baffled by US stranding of dolphins
27. By-catch reduction: new fishhook might save thousands of sea turtles
28. Scientists to microchip fish to track movements
29. Scientists add shark species to endangered list
30. River run-off threatens Great Barrier Reef

- Events and training, 1st Announcements -

- Colophon -

– **EUCC News** –

1. Private Concert by Cristina Branco, Ambassador of Dolphin Fund

EUCC is proud to present Cristina Branco as Ambassador of the Dolphin Fund. Cristina Branco (Lisbon, Portugal, 1972) will give a special concert in the Netherlands, 12 May. The benefits of this concert will be for the Dolphin Fund. The 'private concert' is a unique opportunity to meet Cristina, who successfully provides entirely new approaches to the Portuguese fado.

The Dolphin Fund is a mechanism of EUCC, NatureNet Europe, Natuurpunt (Belgium) and MedSOS (Greece) to collect funds to support dolphin conservation projects of affiliated organisations. The Fund has been created at the occasion of the Year of the Dolphin 2007. The special concert of Cristina is organised by Palace Hotel in Noordwijk aan Zee, Saturday evening 12 May. The normal price for a concert ticket is €75 (including aperitif and snacks), but EUCC has a limited number of discounted tickets for members, at €60. Please contact admin at eucc.net as soon as possible.

Cristina Branco's website: <http://www.cristinabranco.com/>

Provisional website of the Dolphin Fund: <http://www.dolphinfund.eu/>

Information about the campaign in Belgium and the Netherlands: <http://jaarvandedolfijn.org/> (in Dutch)

For special hotel arrangements: <http://palacehotel.nl/>

2. European Partner Search: Agricultural dune field landscapes

In some Western European sand dunes typical man-made landscape features occur characterized by (former) agricultural fields, surrounded by sandy dykes of some metres high. They are of high cultural and historical importance. Most of these dune field landscapes came into being in the 1st half of the 20th century, usually within areas where older, more eroded dunes are situated more inland, and behind younger dunes directly along sandy shores. Areas of this type are already known to exist in Northern Germany (Wiesmoor), the Netherlands (Goeree), France (Lessay, Normandy) and at two places in Portugal (North and South of Oporto). It is not unlikely that there are more of such dune field landscapes in European coastal areas like those just mentioned.

Dune field expert Hans Klepper from Goeree is looking for others in Europe who would like to add to our knowledge about these areas, to map and compare them, and to develop a policy promoting their conservation, durable management and perhaps new ways of development. All interested experts and dune managers are invited to contact Hans Klepper by sending an e-mail to: KM.A@filternet.nl.

3. The eternal city hosts the launch of SPICOSA

Between 19th and 23rd February, a large group of researchers and coastal stakeholders gathered at the Italian National Research Council (CNR) in Rome, to officially start SPICOSA – Science and Policy Integration for COastal Systems Assessment, an EU funded Integrated Project (6th Framework Programme). This project will run over the next 4-years and is being lead by IFREMER (France). It assembles 53 partners from 22 countries around Europe. The main goal is to develop a self-evolving, holistic research approach and support tools for the assessment of policy options for sustainable management through a balanced consideration of ecological, social and economic aspects of Coastal Zone Systems (Integrated Coastal Zone Management). The approach of SPICOSA and its results expect to have a substantial contribution to European research and society and to become self-perpetuating. The EUCC - Mediterranean Centre will be actively involved in this project, in particular in what concerns the communication and dissemination of project related information and results. In other words, a dedicated role to bring closer together the research community and the various policy and management stakeholders, as well as, the public.

More information about SPICOSA can be found at <http://www.eucc.net/spicosa/index.htm>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– EU News and Initiatives –

4. INSPIRE Directive moves ahead

The European Parliament and Council have reached agreement on the text of the proposed INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) Directive, which aims to harmonise spatial information across Europe. The Directive was approved on 12th February by the European Parliament and will enter into force 20 days following its publication on the Official Journal of the European Union. It will oblige EU member states to improve the administration of their map services and other spatial data services according to common principles. This will give Europe's citizens better opportunities to find useful information about the environment on the Internet. It will also enable the authorities to benefit more from information compiled by other official organisations. Data search services designed for the public will generally have to be free of charge, although the Directive allows fees to be charged for access to data that has to be updated frequently, such as weather reports.

The Directive has been designed to control various aspects of managing spatial data in the possession of authorities around Europe, such as the creation of metadata, technical developments promoting interoperability, the use of data services, the principles of access to data, and the establishment of national co-ordination mechanisms. The implementation of the Directive will be a considerable challenge for authorities at national, regional and local levels, that maintain electronic maps and spatial data bases on the themes specified in the annexes to the Directive – many of them related to coastal and marine management.

The full text of the Directive can be found at <http://inspire.jrc.it/proposal/EN.pdf>

Eucc-The Coastal Union is both a partner of the project MOTIIVE - one of the pilot projects of INSPIRE - and a Spatial Data Interest Community registered with INSPIRE. If you like to be updated on these issues, please join the moderated list of MOTIIVE by sending an e-mail to sympa@sympa.iode.org with the phrase "subscribe motiive" in the body of the message. More information on the e-mail list can be found in the PDF "MOTIIVE – Why participate?" available at <http://www.eucc.net/en/policy/>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– International News –

5. Disappearance cod from North Sea not just due to warmer water

In an article published in December 2006 in the British scientific magazine "Proceedings of the Royal Society of London – Biology", scientists Francis Neat and David Righton argue that the heating up of the North Sea water in itself does not explain the decline in cod numbers. The North Sea has warmed in recent years and there is an ongoing debate into how this is affecting the distribution of fishes and other marine organisms. Of particular interest is the commercially important Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), which has declined sharply in abundance in the North Sea over the past 20 years. Observations of the temperature experienced by 129 individual cod throughout the North Sea were made during a large-scale electronic tagging programme conducted between 1999 and 2005. The scientists asked whether individual cod fully occupied the thermal habitat available to them. To this end, they compared the temperature experience of cod with independently measured contemporaneous sea-bottom temperature data. The majority of cod experienced a warmer fraction of the sea than was potentially available to them. By summer, most of the individuals in the south experienced temperatures considered super-optimal for growth. Cooler waters were within the reach of the cod and a small number of individuals migrated to areas that allowed them to experience lower temperatures, indicating that the cod had the capacity to find cooler water. Most did not, however, suggesting that the changing thermal regime of the North Sea is not yet causing adult cod to move to cooler waters.

[www.journals.royalsoc.ac.uk/\(zsqiht55s05nyzecef5tmo45\)/app/home/contribution.asp?referrer=parent&backto=searcharticlesresults,2,36;](http://www.journals.royalsoc.ac.uk/(zsqiht55s05nyzecef5tmo45)/app/home/contribution.asp?referrer=parent&backto=searcharticlesresults,2,36;)

6. Protection urged for UK marine life

Protected areas could help to regenerate valuable fish stocks. Conservation scientists have identified eight "biodiversity hotspots" around Britain's coast which they say ought to be

priorities for protection. The Marine Biological Association (MBA) and WWF want these areas to be given protected status under the government's proposed Marine Bill. They include areas of importance for fish, mammals, birds and shellfish. The government says it remains committed to introducing a Marine Bill within this term of Parliament. Its absence from the Queen's Speech surprised and angered conservation groups. Publication of a white paper could come as early as March. The conservationists assessed more than 120 sites around the UK, and detailed eight areas which they feel are especially deserving of protection. These include Plymouth Reefs in the southwest of England, Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland and the Menai Strait in Wales. All are notable for a huge richness of species.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6264993.stm>

7. Icelandic whalers don't sell any whale meat

Some 100 tonnes of whale meat is sitting unsold in Icelandic freezers three months after Reykjavik sparked global ire by resuming commercial hunts, a top whaler said on 10 January. Kristjan Loftsson, manager of whaling firm Hvalur, said the delay was because firms must first test the meat for dangerous chemicals to see if it meets food industry standards. Loftsson and Iceland's Fisheries Minister Einar Gudfinnsson said they were confident that whaling firms would ultimately find buyers - particularly in Japan. Gudfinnsson told Reuters the delay in sales did not change the decision to allow the hunts.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39761/newsDate/11-Jan-2007/story.htm

8. Sperm whales return to Mediterranean...?

Researchers of the university of Pavia, Italy, have announced that sperm whales have returned to the Mediterranean in "remarkable numbers" since they were first spotted two years ago. Then NEMO - the Neutrino Mediterranean Observatory - started picking up strange sounds off Catania, Sicily. The sounds turned out to be the "clicks" of sperm whales talking to each other. The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) said two years ago that large herds of sperm whales had become unheard of in the Mediterranean. Scientists say there may be hundreds of sperm whales off Sicily now. Environmentalists however are sceptical. IFAW has suggested that the researchers have counted the same whales more than once.

www.physorg.com/news90689434.html

9. Orkney to get 'biggest' wave farm

Scottish ministers have announced funding for what has been described as the world's biggest wave energy farm. The Pelamis device has been tested at the European Marine Energy Centre (Emec) on Orkney by Leith-based company Ocean Power Delivery. Scottish Power wants to commission four more at the same site. Deputy First Minister Nicol Stephen announced a £13m funding package that will also allow a number of other marine energy devices to be tested. Ocean Power Delivery has already exported the Pelamis for use in a commercial wave farm. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/6377423.stm

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– Aquaculture and Fisheries –

10. USA: Bush signs bill to prevent overfishing

President George W. Bush signed legislation on January 12 aimed at preventing overfishing in US waters. The new law requires commercial fisheries to set conservation plans within a two-year period beginning in 2010. It sets a 10-year permit system that would still allow limited access in some waters that have been overfished. The US Congress passed the bill in December after Bush urged an overhaul of provisions in existing legislation known as the Magnuson-Stevens Fish Management Act. The Bush administration also has pledged to work with other nations to try to ban destructive fishing practices, such as bottom trawling.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39810/newsDate/15-Jan-2007/story.htm

11. Call to halt deep sea 'plunder'

Slow-growing coral species are at risk from trawling because of fuel subsidies that allow fishing fleets to "plunder" the deep seas. The subsidies should be scrapped, claims a group of leading

international scientists who said more than \$150m (£80m) was paid to trawler fleets, promoting overfishing of unviable resources. In particular danger were slow-growing deep-sea fish and coral species caught by bottom trawling. UN talks in 2006 failed to implement a ban on the method, which uses heavy nets and crushing rollers on the sea floor. "Eliminating global subsidies would render these fleets economically unviable and would relieve tremendous pressure on overfishing and vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems," said Dr Rashid Sumaila, of the University of British Columbia. The scientists, assembled in San Francisco for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting, believe subsidies need to be scrapped.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6374971.stm>

12. Meeting in Japan seeks to save tuna from extinction

Illegal fishing has depleted global stocks of tuna and governments need to take bold action to save some critically endangered species. On January 22 a conference on the topic opened in Japan. Japan's insatiable appetite for tuna has been a key factor behind the threat to stocks, and now increasing demand from other countries is adding to the pressure. The world's five major tuna management groups - regional clusters of governments known as Regional Fisheries Management Organisations - met in Kobe, Japan, to discuss problems facing the industry. Some 300 officials from 77 countries and regions took part. The meeting concluded on January 26 that urgent measures must be taken to restore critically depleted stocks of tuna and save some endangered species. Concrete steps include issuing certificates of origin to prevent illegal fishing and greater transparency in the setting of regional fishing quotas.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39952/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/40022/newsDate/29-Jan-2007/story.htm

Key Facts About Japan and the Global Tuna Industry on

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39951/story.htm

Also

Indian Ocean tuna face illegal fishing threat

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/40233/newsDate/7-Feb-2007/story.htm

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– Coastal & Climate Change –

13. EC's response to climate change

European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas called for an urgent start to international negotiations on a comprehensive new global climate change agreement following today's publication of alarming scientific evidence by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The recent observations and measurements reflected in the report dispel any doubts that the global climate is changing and that human activities have caused most of the changes observed in the past 50 years.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/128&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

More news under "Coastal and Climate Change"

14. JRC report on climate change and Europe's coastal and marine waters

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has drafted a report detailing the effects climate change is having on Europe's coastal waters and regional seas. The report deals with the effects of climate change and the human impact on European coastal and marine habitats. It also identifies gaps in the current scientific and technological knowledge base regarding climate-related impacts, along with policy recommendations to address them. The report stresses that any policies designed to mitigate climate change impacts will have to address human exploitation of the seas and coasts, to ensure sustainable management of marine resources. The report was presented at the "Climate Change and the European Water Dimension" symposium organised by the German EU Presidency in Berlin (12-14 February).

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/179&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

www.climate-water-adaptation-berlin2007.org/

15. UN climate panel blames humans for warming

The Summary for Policymakers for Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been reviewed line-by-line by governments and released in February 2007. In this summary report, the IPCC concluded that major advances in climate modelling and the collection and analysis of data now give scientists very high confidence (at least a 9 out of 10 chance of being correct) in their understanding of how human activities are causing the world to warm, which is a much higher level of confidence than could be achieved in 2001 when the IPCC issued its last major report. The summary report confirms the marked increase in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) since 1750 is the result of human activities. An even greater degree of warming would likely have occurred if emissions of pollution particles and other aerosols had not offset some of the impact of greenhouse gases, mainly by reflecting sunlight back out to space.

Three years in the making, the summary report is a thorough review of the most-up-to-date, peer-reviewed scientific literature. It describes an accelerating transition to a warmer world marked by more extreme temperatures including heat waves, new wind patterns, worsening drought in some regions, heavier precipitation in others, melting glaciers and Arctic ice and rising global average sea levels. For the first time, the report provides evidence that the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland are slowly losing mass and contributing to sea level rise. Several observations were made in relation to coasts and oceans, including:

The best estimates for sea-level rise due to ocean expansion and glacier melt by the end of the century (compared to 1989 – 1999 levels) have narrowed to 28 - 58 cm, versus 9 - 88 cm in the 2001 report, due to improved understanding. However, larger values of up to 1 m by 2100 cannot be ruled out if ice sheets continue to melt as temperature rise. The last time the polar regions were significantly warmer than at present for an extended period (about 125,000 years ago), reductions in polar ice volume caused the sea level to rise by 4 to 6 m.

Sea ice is projected to shrink in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Large areas of the Arctic Ocean could lose year-round ice cover by the end of the 21st century if human emissions reach the higher end of current estimates. The extent of Arctic sea ice has already shrunk by about 2.7% per decade since 1978, with the summer minimum declining by about 7.4% per decade.

Summary by Magdalena Muir

www.ipcc.ch/SPM2feb07.pdf

16. New report on the effects of climate change on European seas

On March 2, Dr. Katja Philippart of the Dutch NIOZ institute published "Impact of climate change on the European Marine and Coastal Environment – Ecosystems approach" under the auspices of the Marine Board of the European Science Foundation (MB-ESF). The report presents the "bill" for global warming regarding the European seas.

Most changes are expected in the Norwegian and Barents seas through melting polar ice. A shift in a northern direction is foreseen of current species in the open seas. The present Atlantic species will take over most of the northern seas and subtropical species will be far more common in the current temperate zones. Of the more closed seas, the Baltic will become more fresh due to increased river run off. In the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, indigenous species will run into trouble even by a slight temperature increase, creating room for exotics.

www.vliz.be/docs/Events/JCD/MB_Climate_Change_VLIZ_05031.pdf (Text report)

17. North Europe rings in new year with ice-free Baltic Sea

Northern Europeans were poised to celebrate the passage to the New Year in a way that is out of the ordinary for them: an ice-free Baltic Sea. Temperatures in Estonian coastal waters are warmer by 1°C than at the end of last year. Winters with little ice in the Baltic Sea are occurring more frequently, and often it is only the Bay of Parnu in Estonia and the Gulf of Bothnia near Finland and Sweden that develop a layer of ice. The warm winters of recent years stem from climatic change, but do not yet indicate an irreversible trend, it is remarked.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061229/sc_afp/newyearweatherbaltics

18. 2006 warmest on record in United States – NOAA

The year 2006 was the warmest in the contiguous United States since record keeping began 112 years ago, due in large part to an unusually warm December, US government weather forecasters said on January 9. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) preliminary forecast released in mid-December forecast 2006 as the third warmest year on record. NOAA said in a written statement that no state was colder than average last month and five states had their warmest December on record - Minnesota, New York, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire. The average temperature in the United States in 2006 was about 55°F, or 2.2°F (1.2°C) above the average temperature recorded from 1901 to the end of 2000. The warm start to the winter was tied partly to the "rarity" of Arctic outbreaks across the country because of El Nino, NOAA said.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39752/newsDate/10-Jan-2007/story.htm

19. Canada finds killer whales drawn to warmer Arctic

Melting Arctic sea ice may be attracting more killer whales to Canada's far northern waters, and that could mean some Inuit hunters will be competing directly with the majestic marine mammals for food, a group of researchers say. Killer whales, or orcas, are often seen in Canadian waters, though they are not as common in the far north. The latest data compiled by Higdon and other researchers, who began researching the whales in September 2005, tracks the number of times they are spotted in the waters of Hudson Bay, against declining levels of sea ice.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39920/newsDate/22-Jan-2007/story.htm

20. Swordfish and jellyfish thrive in warm North Atlantic

Parts of the North Atlantic are setting winter heat records, allowing species ranging from swordfish to jellyfish to thrive beyond their normal ranges in a shift linked by many scientists to global warming. Temperatures in Arctic waters off northern Europe at the tail end of the Gulf Stream, for example, are about 6.7°C, the highest for early January since records began in the 1930s, according to Norway's Institute of Marine Research. A type of Black Sea jellyfish seems to have become established off Scandinavia, perhaps flushed out of the ballast tanks of visiting ships and now able to survive because of less chilly waters in winter. Norway's Institute of Marine Research said 18 tropical swordfish had been seen off Norway since 1967 and sightings were becoming more frequent. Four were spotted in 2006 alone, including a 22 kg (49 lb) specimen caught on Nov. 14. In recent years, salmon have been seen swimming north of the Bering Straits between Russia and Alaska, and jellyfish plagued Mediterranean beaches in 2006. Not all is gloom, however. In a sign of how higher temperatures might help some fish stocks, a period of warmer waters in the 1920s allowed cod to spawn off Greenland and let a new stock break away from Icelandic waters. In the cooler 1960s, cod were unable to reproduce off Greenland and the stock collapsed.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39924/newsDate/22-Jan-2007/story.htm

21. Global warming endangers harp seal pups Canada

Global warming is making it harder for newborn harp seals to survive in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off Newfoundland in Canada, the International Fund for Animal Welfare reported on February 23. Rising temperatures have dramatically reduced the ice covering the water in these two areas, both places where harp seals return annually to mate and give birth, the advocacy group said in a scientific report. In nine of the last 11 years, ice coverage has been well below the average noted over the last 37 years. Solid ice is necessary for the survival of harp seal pups, said Sheryl Fink, a wildlife biologist and co-author of the report.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/40510/newsDate/26-Feb-2007/story.htm

22. Exotic animals seen where Antarctic ice used to be

Spindly orange sea stars, fan-finned ice fish and herds of roving sea cucumbers are among the exotic creatures spied off the Antarctic coast in an area formerly covered by ice, scientists reported on February 25. This is the first time explorers have been able to catalogue wildlife where two mammoth ice shelves used to extend for some 3,900 square miles (10,000 square km) over the Weddell Sea. At least 5,000 years old, the ice shelves collapsed in two stages

over the last dozen years. One crumbled 12 years ago and the other followed in 2002. Global warming is seen as the culprit behind the ice shelves' demise. Melting ice shelves are not expected to directly contribute much to global sea level rise, but glaciologists believe these vast swaths of ice act like dams to slow down glaciers as they move over the Antarctic land mass toward the coast. Without the ice shelves, glaciers may move over the water more quickly, and this would substantially add to rising seas. But the collapse of the ice shelves gave the scientists a unique opportunity to see what had been hidden beneath them; before the collapse, researchers could only peer through holes drilled deep into the ice. The collected specimens will be analysed to determine whether they in fact are newly discovered species.
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/40497/newsDate/26-Feb-2007/story.htm

23. Global warming places some turtles at risk

A British-led study has determined North American marine turtles are at risk if global warming occurs at predicted levels. University of Exeter scientists say an increase in temperature of 1°C could eliminate the birth of male turtles from some beaches. A rise of 3°C would lead to extreme levels of infant mortality and declines in nesting beaches across the United States. The researchers analysed 26 years of loggerhead turtle nesting and climate data and compared the findings with models for future temperatures. The research, conducted in partnership with the Bald Head Island Conservancy and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources, appears in the journal *Global Change Biology*.
www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/20070220-085959-3905r/
www.seaturtle.org/
www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bsc/gcb (Content of *Global Change Biology*)

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– Nature and Conservation News –

24. White-tailed eagle to make comeback in Ireland

A species of eagle that disappeared from Ireland more than 100 years ago could soon be soaring over the country once again if a five-year wildlife project is successful. Experts plan to reintroduce the White-tailed Sea Eagle, one of the world's largest birds of prey, into a national park in the south western county of Kerry as part of the scheme. Eagle chicks from Norway will be released into Killarney National Park this summer. Some 15 chicks will be brought into the region annually over the duration of the project. Kerry's rugged Atlantic coastline is an ideal habitat for the eagle, which likes to feed on the carcasses of dead seals and porpoises, Meskell said. The bird, which died out in Ireland in the early 1900s due to egg collectors and trigger-happy gamekeepers, has a wing span of up to 2.5m and in neighbouring Britain is confined mainly to the north western tip of Scotland. In 2001, conservationists began reintroducing the Golden Eagle to County Donegal in northwest Ireland - nearly a century after hunters wiped out that species on the island - and have released more than 40 birds to date.
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39694/story.htm

25. US weighs listing polar bear as threatened species

Polar bears may be facing extinction and should be on the US endangered species list, the Bush administration said on 27 December 2006 in a decision that raised questions about the president's sceptical stance on global warming. Listing the white bears, one of the two largest species of bears, as threatened would force government agencies to ensure they take no action that jeopardizes the animal's existence. That in turn could pressure the government to consider tougher measures to clean up the air because most scientists believe carbon dioxide emissions cause global warming. The action by the service, which had been sued by environmental groups, starts a period of public comment and scientific review before a final decision in 12 months over whether to list the polar bear as threatened. The only wild polar bears in the United States live in Alaska.
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39636/newsDate/28-Dec-2006/story.htm

26. Scientists baffled by US stranding of dolphins

Scientists are struggling to explain the stranding of 31 dolphins and a Pilot whale off the coast of Massachusetts since the start of the year, including some found with brain deformities or chronic diseases. Eight Atlantic White-sided dolphins were found on 9 January, following 23 dolphins, a pilot whale and a seal discovered since Jan. 1 in the hook-shaped Cape Cod region and its maze of sandbars and marshes that are a magnet for tourists in summer.

The number is unusually high, according to the Cape Cod Stranding Network that oversees rescue efforts. It typically averages 200 rescues a year, compared to 31 rescues performed in the last 10 days alone. At least 14 of the dolphins have died, including two which were euthanised, the network said. The strandings involved Atlantic White-sided dolphins and so-called Common dolphins, neither of which are endangered.

Scientists say it's unclear why so many of the dolphins have been stuck. About 100 dolphins beached themselves in roughly the same area on Cape Cod over six weeks last winter.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/39768/newsDate/11-Jan-2007/story.htm

27. By-catch reduction: new fishhook might save thousands of sea turtles

A new fish-hook might save up to 40,000 turtles a year. All six species of marine turtles in the Western Hemisphere are endangered, three of them critically. The major threat to these species has been globally identified as fisheries by-catch. There is now the Latin America and the Caribbean marine turtle by-catch reduction programme, chosen by the WWF as the most promising conservation programme of 2006. Newly developed, large circle hooks, together with crew training, an international partnership between industry, government agencies and NGOs, committed fishermen, and a common vision are all ingredients of a regional initiative to reduce marine turtle by-catch in the long-lines of the Eastern Pacific.

www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/latin_america_and_caribbean/our_solutions/marine_turtle_programme/publications/index.cfm?uNewsID=71340

28. Scientists to microchip fish to track movements

Scientists will soon start attaching microchips to fish and other marine animals to track their movements around the world's oceans and learn how they are being affected by phenomena such as climate change and overfishing, experts said on February 12. Canada announced it was giving C\$45 million (US\$38 million) to help expand the Ocean Tracking Network, which currently is running two pilot projects on the west coast of the United States and Canada.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/40309/story.htm

29. Scientists add shark species to endangered list

Scientists added several species of deep sea sharks on Thursday to the World Conservation Union's (IUCN) endangered Red List due to overfishing. At a meeting in Oxford, England, the scientists listed all three species of thresher sharks - known for their scythe-like tails - as "vulnerable globally", and moved the shortfin mako to "vulnerable today" from "near threatened". The Red List categories range from "extinct" to "not evaluated".

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/40465/story.htm

30. River run-off threatens Great Barrier Reef

Satellite images of Australia's Great Barrier Reef show that sediment from river run-off is threatening the reef at a greater rate than previously realised, Australia's peak scientific body said on February 21. The images, taken this month by NASA and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellites, show sediment creating a hazy cloud over the reef, blocking sunlight and hindering photosynthesis, the process that keeps coral alive. Global warming is expected to result in more frequent storms, such as cyclones that lash Australia's tropical north and flood rivers flowing into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. The satellite images, of a 100 km stretch of reef off the tropical city of Cairns, show sediment from rivers recently flooded during a cyclone. The water was travelling at one kilometre per hour onto the reef. The satellite images are showing that the plumes of river water would go straight through the reef and into the outer reef, which is something which hasn't been seen before. The sediment run-off also carried pesticides washed off farmlands, which might threaten the reef's ecology.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/40457/newsDate/22-Feb-2007/story.htm

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– 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.

12/05/2007 Palace Hotel, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Private concert by Mrs. Cristina Branco for Dolphin Fund and Year of the Dolphin

<http://www.jaarvandedolfijn.nl/>, <http://www.dolphinfund.eu>, <http://www.palacehotel.nl/>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– Colophon –

Disclaimer: EUCC Coastal News is a news service, articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of EUCC – The Coastal Union.

© Articles may be reproduced free of charge with acknowledgement and citation of EUCC Coastal News and the URL of EUCC – The Coastal Union (www.eucc.net). The articles of this and previous issues of EUCC Coastal News can be found at <http://www.eucc.net/en/news/index.htm>

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

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News 2007 # 3: 19 April 2007.

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
Tel.: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>