



EUCC Coastal News

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

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– EUCC NEWS –

1. Journal of Coastal Conservation: Planning and Management (JCCPM)

The first issue of the Journal of Coastal Conservation: Planning and Management (JCCPM) (Springer) - is about to be finalised. Details about the new journal can now be found at:

www.springer.com/uk/home/generic/search/results?SGWID=3-40109-70-173676406-0

A considerable investment in time and money has now been made by Springer to revive this journal. There will be four issues per year. Anyone wishing to submit a paper for the new journal should contact David R. Green (d.r.green@abdn.ac.uk) in the first instance, who will provide you with details about the new electronic submission and review process provided by Springer to bring the journal submission and review process into line with other major international journals. Anyone wishing to be considered for the review of future submissions should also contact David R. Green in the first instance. All subscribing EUCC members will have free access to the electronic version of the Journal online (which includes all of the past issues of the JCC (Opulus Press)). Please note that Springer has sent an invoice to all JCC-subscribers 2004. This invoice is for EUCC members who wish to subscribe to a hardcopy issue of the new Journal. Please note that the cost of subscription represents very good value for 4 issues of the journal per year. It also demonstrates Springer's continued commitment to the future of the journal as today the launch of a new journal is by no means a trivial or low cost exercise to take on in the current economic climate.

2. Comments Magdalena Muir on climate issue

These are general comments from Magdalena A K Muir on areas of climate concern, particularly for coasts and oceans, and southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. This comments draw on work as Advisory Board Member, Climate, EUCC- The Coastal Union, as well as other conservation and climate work.

1. Impacts of climate change on Europe, and the relevance of the EU Green Paper on Adapting to Climate Change in Europe

Global warming and the regional forecasts describe significant impacts of climate change for Europe, and in particular warming and drying in the Mediterranean and south Atlantic regions of Europe. Within Europe and globally, the Mediterranean and south Atlantic region can be viewed as a developing "climate change hotspot", similar to the Arctic and Antarctic though the changes are not as longstanding or advanced as those observed in the Arctic and Antarctica.

The south Atlantic region of Europe and the greater Mediterranean region, including the Middle East and northern Africa, are quite vulnerable to social, cultural and economic impacts of climate change. For example, the region is largely dependent on agriculture, fisheries and tourism, and at varying stages of economic and political development. The region may also require adaptive measures to support appropriate governance, the formation of necessary institutions, and for full communication to and participation of all members of the public and society. Throughout this region, there is already the need for adaptive measures to address heat extremes and heat stress, seasonal shifts and overall declines in precipitation, and changes in the coastal zone in the present, near and longer term, even if mitigation efforts are eventually successful.

For example, researchers on heat stress in the Mediterranean region found warming and reduced precipitation contribute to preferential warming of the hottest days of the year. The hottest days of the year warm more, due in large part to a surface moisture feedback. The surface gets dryer as it gets hotter and the dry soil leads to less moisture in the area and less evaporative cooling. The locations of intensified warming on hottest days of the year matched the locations where surface drying occurred. With the projected shift to more severe temperatures, the daily temperatures currently found in the hottest two weeks of the summer could instead be found in the coldest two weeks of the summer under future climate scenarios.

The areas most likely to face substantial increases in the dangerous heat index are concentrated in the coasts, which are more affected than inland regions. Coastal regions are also particularly vulnerable because they are affected by other climate change related stresses, such as a rising sea level, declining water resources and pollution of these waters and the coastal zone. The larger cities in the Mediterranean and south Atlantic, and increasingly in the developing world, are located on coasts. On June 29, 2007, the EU Green Paper on Adapting to Climate Change in Europe-Options for EU Action was issued. This green paper is the culmination of extensive scientific research, expert review and consultation, and agreement across all EU governmental departments. It is an integrated document and approach that confirms the significant impacts of climate change, and that recommends integrated adaptive and mitigative measures. These integrated adaptive and mitigative measures need to be considered for Europe, and also for global and other regional climate negotiations and approaches.

It is also important to note that though the scientific research in the green paper is limited to the political boundaries of Europe, the same observations can in many instances be readily extended to adjacent areas in the Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas. For example, the greater impacts noted for the south Atlantic and Mediterranean regions of Europe are also applicable to the Middle East and northern Africa (i.e., countries like Morocco which is adjacent to Spain and Portugal, and bounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea).

2. Impacts on biodiversity, coasts and oceans, and vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.

There has been a high degree of observed changes in coastal ecosystems, which are the interface between the land and the ocean. The coasts are a zone of significant observed changes, particularly in the Arctic, along the Baltic and North Sea, and southern Europe (the south Atlantic, and the Mediterranean Sea).

Similarly, there are recognized impacts on biodiversity, coasts and oceans, and vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems, particularly bays, estuaries, deltas, Laguna's, seagrass meadows and wetlands. Some of these regions are located within Europe, such as the lagoons of Venice, Italy, and Aveiro, Portugal. Coasts, small islands and vulnerable coastal ecosystems are most affected by drought, increased precipitation and flooding, and erosion, particularly the Mediterranean and Caribbean regions. Sensitivities of coast and marine ecosystems may be heightened by interactions between human activity and climate change, such as over fishing (such as documented interactions between overfishing of tuna and turtles, increased jellyfish populations, algal blooms, and warmer sea temperatures), contaminants and climate change, and the loss of coastal wetlands and seagrass meadows resulting in increased vulnerability to erosion and extreme weather events. Invasive coastal and marine species may also need to be considered for their impact on human health, as well as ecosystem health.

It is possible to begin to measure impacts from climate change in coastal regions and water catchments, particularly sea level rise, extreme storm events, and temperature and precipitation changes. Other human interactions combine with climate change to potentially increase the impact of these events. However, they do not mask these climate changes. A big future challenge will be to monitor how existing human uses - such as coastal development, overfishing, land-based nutrient pollution, other forms of pollution and contamination and water uses- that will combine with and increase the negative impacts of climate change

There needs to be an explicit emphasis on vulnerable ecosystems in the Mediterranean region and the south Atlantic region of Europe. This is a highly vulnerable region and sea, due to increases in land and sea temperature, drought and desertification, and declining overall and seasonal precipitation in some regions (particularly in the eastern Aegean and for the countries of north Africa). Conversely, there is flooding during the winter in other regions (southern France, and Adriatic Sea particularly Venice Laguna).

Overall, there is sea level rise and higher temperature throughout the region, particularly in the summer. In some regions, there is a shift from a "Mediterranean ecosystem" characterized by wet mild winters and hot dry summers to more "tropical" ecosystem that is hot and dry year round.. As well as these changes, there are the factors of extensive coastal development, in-migration, the presence of local and transboundary contaminants, and ecosystem shifts. These changes are referred to in the EU Green Paper on Adapting to Climate Change in Europe.

3 Contaminants and climate change

Recognition is beginning of the increasing interactions between contaminants and climate change. There is the specific issue of nutrients and eutrophication, where nutrients originate from land-based sources. There is the broader issue of contaminants, whether heavy metals or hydrocarbons, which is already pertinent in the Arctic. The pathways of transport may change and increase with flooding, changes in sea ice and snow, and other changes of precipitation. Increased sea temperatures can result in greater uptake of contaminants in shellfish, fish, and marine mammals, with correlated impacts on human health. This situation with contaminants may be exacerbated when historically contaminated terrestrial and coastal lands have not been cleaned, or where contamination is ongoing. For example, there are existing and high levels of contaminants in and around the Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas (including the Middle East and northern Africa). The same concerns apply to the Gulf of Mexico, the Arabian and Caribbean Seas, and the Indian Ocean.

There are also increased risks to human health from contaminants as a result of climate change. For examples, pathways by which contaminants enter the ecosystems and the food web may shift. Higher temperatures can also result in increased rates in the uptake of contaminants into fish and shellfish, thus affecting ecosystem and human health. This relationship between contaminants and climate change may be especially true for enclosed warming seas such as the Mediterranean Sea. that already have natural concentrations of heavy metals, deposits of contaminants from prior or ongoing human activity, and which receive airbourne transboundary contaminants from other regions.

4 Ocean acidification and carbon sequestration

The issue of ocean acidification is gradually being understood, given the developing scientific understanding of acidification and the attendant risk to marine food webs and coral ecosystems, including difficulties in forming carbonate structures (certain species of plankton and larger marine ecosystems like coral reefs), and the consequential impacts throughout the coastal and marine foodwebs. There remains the need to know more about the role of the oceans and seas in carbon sequestration, and whether some of these limits are close to being met, which may be occurring in the southern oceans.

Once ocean acidification has occurred at a detrimental level, mitigation is not possible. There will also come a point when CO₂ can no longer be absorbed in the oceans. It is an interesting illustration that some impacts of climate change will be high, irrespective of population, income and level of technological development, and largely resistant to adaptive measures, so that only mitigative measures implemented early will be sufficient. For example, oceans acidification, as well as impacts on biodiversity of coastal and oceans ecosystems, will be difficult to mitigate once they occurred. Increased temperatures and declining precipitation in the Mediterranean region will continue to cause ecosystem, social and culture impacts, irrespective of adaptation measures.

5. Social, economic and cultural impacts of climate change

There will be extensive social, economic and cultural impacts on climate change. Migration is one of the key issues and concerns. There will be migration within and into the Europe. Depending on the numbers seeking illegal entry, political destabilization is foreseeable within southern Europe or adjacent "buffer" countries. There will also be changes to key economic sectors like fisheries, tourism, and marine transport, and impacts on human health and well-being.

The international workshop, "The Governance of an Integrated, Holistic Maritime Policy for Europe" held in Lisbon, Portugal on 19-20 July, 2007, was organised jointly by the European Commission and the incoming EU Presidency held by Portugal. It highlighted changes to traditional sectoral and geographically limited approaches for oceans and seas, and climate change will further necessitate an integrated approach. The European Commission Green Paper "Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: a European Vision for the Oceans and Seas" (<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs>), recognizes climatic implications and needs to consider climate policy.

Magdalena A K Muir
July 28, 2007

– COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE – TRENDS & IMPACTS –

3. Thunder? It's the sound of Greenland melting

Atop Greenland's Suicide Cliff, from where old Inuit women used to hurl themselves when they felt they had become a burden to their community, a crack and a thud like thunder pierce the air. It's the ice cracking inside the icebergs. It's too early in the year to see icebergs crumple regularly but the sound is a reminder. As politicians squabble over how to act on climate change, Greenland's ice cap is melting, and faster than scientists had thought possible. A new island in East Greenland is a clear sign of how the place is changing. It was dubbed Warming Island by American explorer Dennis Schmitt when he discovered in 2005 that it had emerged from under the retreating ice. If the ice cap melted entirely, oceans would rise by 7 metres (23 feet), flooding New York and London, and drowning island nations like the Maldives. A total meltdown would take centuries but global warming, which climate experts blame mainly on human use of fossil fuels, is heating the Arctic faster than anywhere else on Earth. Over the last 30 years, its melt zone has expanded by 30 percent, and now the cap loses 100 to 150 cubic km of ice every year - more than all the ice in the Alps.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42460/newsDate/7-Jun-2007/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42462/newsDate/7-Jun-2007/story.htm

Some sense of perspective however might well be in place here, see

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42974/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6276576.stm>

4. Mediterranean to get more deadly hot days

Deadly heat waves around the Mediterranean, like those that killed some 18,000 people in 2003, could become the norm this century if current trends in greenhouse emissions continue, researchers reported on June 15. The number of dangerously hot days in the Mediterranean region that includes parts of Europe, Africa and the Middle East could increase by 200 percent to 500 percent, according to a study in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. France would have the biggest rise in extreme high

temperature days, the study said. Today's hottest summer days will be the same temperature as the coolest days of future summers, the analysis by Diffenbaugh and colleagues in California, Italy and China found. One factor that drives this phenomenon is the fact that extremely hot days warm things up disproportionately more than just moderately hot ones, because the real scorchers dry things out too. Beyond the threat to human life, these forecast soaring temperatures could hurt the Mediterranean region's economy

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42651/newsDate/18-Jun-2007/story.htm
www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2007/2007GL030000.shtml (abstract, article not freely available)

5. Warming may bring hurricanes to Mediterranean

Global warming could trigger hurricanes, or tropical cyclones, over the Mediterranean Sea, threatening one of the worlds most densely populated coastal regions, according to European scientists. Hurricanes currently form out in the tropical Atlantic and rarely reach Europe, but a new study shows a 3 degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) rise in average temperatures could set them off in the enclosed Mediterranean in future. Factors influencing hurricanes include warm sea surface temperatures and atmospheric instability. In the past, they have been confined to a limited number of regions, such as the north Atlantic and north Pacific, where they are known as typhoons.

Recently, however, they have been forming in unusual places, which Miguel Angel Gaertner of the University of Castilla-La Mancha in Toledo, Spain, sees as a clear danger signal. In 2004, Hurricane Catarina formed in the south Atlantic and hit land in southern Brazil. A year later, Hurricane Vince formed next to the Madeira Islands and became the first to make landfall in Spain. In a paper published in the American Geophysical Union Journal, Gaertner and colleagues from the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg, Germany, used a range of regional climate models to assess the chance of similar events in the Mediterranean. The researchers found rising temperatures pointed to increasing storm intensity and, in the case of the most sensitive computer model, a likelihood of strong hurricanes.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43125/story.htm
www.agu.org/pubs/

6. Melting Antarctic ice sheets locally effective against warming

The proliferation of icebergs from Antarctica over the past decade has raised questions about their potential impact on the surrounding pelagic ecosystem. Two free-drifting icebergs, 0.1 and 30.8 km² in aerial surface area, and the surrounding water were sampled in the NW Weddell Sea during austral spring 2005. There was substantial enrichment of terrigenous material, chlorophyll, krill and seabirds surrounding each iceberg extending out to a radial distance of ~3.7 km. Extrapolating these results to all icebergs in the same size range, using iceberg population estimates from satellite surveys, indicates that they similarly affect 39% of the surface ocean in this region. These results suggest that free-drifting icebergs can substantially impact the pelagic ecosystem of the Southern Ocean and can serve as areas of enhanced production and sequestration of organic carbon to the deep sea. However, the researchers indicate that this is only a local effect; it has no global effect on the CO₂ level.

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/1142834

7. Northeast US faces flood risks from global warming

New York's Wall Street, Boston's historic areas and Atlantic City's casinos may all suffer frequent devastating flooding by the end of the century unless the world sharply cuts greenhouse emissions, a new report said on July 11. It found that New York City could be hit once a decade with the type of extreme flooding that now occurs once every century as a result of rising seas and more frequent storms brought about by increased heat-trapping emissions from tailpipes, industry, and forest burning. Boston and Atlantic City could be hit by such floods every two years, said the report, which used projections from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 assessments. While it's hard to predict how much death and damage could be caused by the floods, they could carry risks as dangerous as the 1938 Northeast hurricane that killed hundreds and swept away thousands of buildings. But the flooding risks could be lowered if global greenhouse gas emissions are cut 80 percent by 2050.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43076/story.htm

8. Solar variations not behind global warming - study

The sun's changing energy levels are not to blame for recent global warming and, if anything, solar variations over the past 20 years should have had a cooling effect, scientists said on July 12. Their findings add to a growing body of evidence that human activity, not natural causes, lies behind rising average world temperatures, which are expected to reach their second highest level this year since records began in the 1860s. There is little doubt that solar variability has influenced the Earth's climate in the past and may well have been a factor in the first half of the last century, but British and Swiss researchers said it could not explain recent warming. "Over the past 20 years, all the trends in the sun

that could have had an influence on Earth's climate have been in the opposite direction to that required to explain the observed rise in global mean temperatures," they wrote in the Proceedings of the Royal Society. Mike Lockwood of Britain's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and Claus Froehlich of the World Radiation Centre in Davos, Switzerland, studied factors that could have forced climate change in recent decades, including variations in total solar irradiance and cosmic rays. The data was smoothed to take account of the 11-year sunspot cycle, which affects the amount of heat the sun emits but does not impact the Earth's surface air temperature, due to the way the oceans absorb and retain heat. They concluded that the rapid rise in global mean temperatures seen since the late 1980s could not be ascribed to solar variability, whatever mechanism was invoked. Britain's Royal Society - one of the world's oldest scientific academies, founded in 1660 - said the new research was an important rebuff to climate change sceptics. Dr Lockwood initiated the study partially in response to the TV documentary *The Great Global Warming Swindle*, broadcast on Britain's Channel Four earlier this year, which featured the cosmic ray hypothesis.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43042/newsDate/11-Jul-2007/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6290228.stm>

www.journals.royalsoc.ac.uk/content/h844264320314105/ (Abstract, article not free)

9. London's small but relentless dip

Scientists have made a new assessment of land and sea level changes in London and the Thames estuary. Their study - based on tide gauge, GPS, gravity, and satellite measurements - shows a general pattern of subsidence of 1-2 mm a year. With waters rising in the region by about 1 mm a year, the combined effect is a 2-3 mm a year rise in sea level with respect to the land. The study has been conducted for the Environment Agency. The information is critical to the planning of London's sea defences in the face of climate-driven ocean rise. The region is home to 1.3 million people and has a property value put at more than £80bn. These numbers are set to increase substantially as the capital, together with the estuary counties of Kent and Essex, look to expand development ahead of, and beyond, the 2012 Olympics. The 300km of tidal defences including embankments, walls, gates and barriers will, at some stage, have to be adapted or moved, or new types of defences created that make better use of the natural floodplain. The satellite analysis adds to a fine-scale view of movement London's key defensive installation, the Thames Barrier at Woolwich, also faces upgrading.

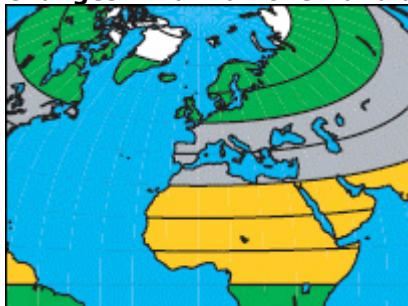
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6231334.stm>

10. Humans to blame for global changes in rain – study

Human activities that spur global warming are largely to blame for changes in rainfall patterns over the last century, climate researchers reported on July 23. The report was released as record rains caused deadly flooding in Britain and China. Human-caused climate change has been responsible for higher air temperatures and hotter seas and is widely expected to lead to more droughts, wildfires and floods, but the authors say this is the first study to specifically link it to precipitation changes. The scientists, writing in the journal *Nature*, found humans contributed significantly to these changes, which include more rain and snow in northern regions that include Canada, Russia and Europe, drier conditions in the northern tropics and more rainfall in the southern tropics. So-called anthropogenic climate change has had a "detectable influence" on changes in average precipitation in these areas, and it cannot be explained by normal climate variations, they wrote. The observed changes were larger than the models up to now predicted, suggesting that projections of future human impact might be underestimates. Weather experts in Britain raised the possibility that the current rains there may be related to climate change.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43232/story.htm

Changes in rainfall over land areas (1925-1999)



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6912527.stm>

www.nature.com/news/2007/070723/full/070723-4.html

11. Beware melting glaciers this century

Don't worry too much, for now, about rising seas caused by melting ice in Greenland and Antarctica. The big threat this century could come from small thawing glaciers, researchers reported on July 19. Even though these glaciers contain only 1 percent of the water tied up in the great ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland, they could account for 60 percent of an anticipated rise in the world's sea level by the year 2100. Sea-level rise is seen a key consequence of global warming, and much of the concern has focused on the big ice sheets that contain the vast majority of the world's ice. Researchers writing in the online journal Science Express estimate melting glaciers, which are located all over the globe including in the tropics, could add between 4 and 10 inches (0.1 to 0.25 metres) to world sea level this century. While this may not sound like much, consider that some 100 million people live within 3.3 vertical feet (1 metre) of sea level. Even a tiny amount of sea-level rise can make a vast inland incursion of water in flat coastal areas, as much or more than 100 times the distance inland as the height of the rise. There are hundreds of thousands of small glaciers all over the world, including in tropical New Guinea, but the important ones in terms of global sea-level change are in Alaska, Canada, Russia and Scandinavia.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43189/story.htm

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/1143906 (abstract, article not free)

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- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE - RESPONSES -

12. EU warns citizens: adapt to climate change now

European Union nations must adapt to climate change by using water more efficiently, adjusting crops and farming methods, and caring for elderly people vulnerable to heat, the EU executive said on June 29. In addition to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to halt global warming, Europeans should change the way they live and work to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures, the European Commission said in a document. The paper raised the possibility that entire cities may eventually have to be moved. It said melting glaciers are threatening the closure of low-lying ski resorts. The 27-nation EU aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020, compared with 1990 levels, and is pushing for a worldwide agreement that would seek even deeper cuts. But at least some degree of climate change is inevitable, even with efforts to halt or slow the process. The Commission paper lays out strategies to deal with the problem. Low-cost "soft" options include changing crop rotations and sowing dates, using drought-tolerant plants and adopting water conservation measures. It also lists costlier, more dramatic options that could involve "increasing the height of dykes, relocating ports, industry and entire cities and villages from low-lying coastal areas and flood plains, and building new power plants because of failing hydropower stations." The Commission said climate change adaptation would have to be integrated into a wide range of EU policies, including the bloc's farm subsidies programme - the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42895/newsDate/2-Jul-2007/story.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/979&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

13. US House passes bill affirming global warming exists

The US House of Representatives on June 27, aiming to put an end to the debate over whether global warming is actually occurring, passed legislation recognizing the "reality" of climate change and providing money to work on the problem. By a vote of 272-155, the House approved an environmental funding bill for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 that would increase federal investments in basic research on climate change and establish a new commission to review scientific questions that need to be addressed. The White House has threatened a veto of the US\$27.6 billion bill because its overall spending would exceed President George W. Bush's request by about US\$2 billion. The Senate has not yet debated the bill. By inserting a declaration in the bill that climate change is a "reality," the Democratic-controlled House was trying to move US policy-makers beyond a debate, long stimulated by the Bush administration, over whether there was scientific proof that global warming really is occurring. A leading promoter of that debate has been Oklahoma Republican Sen. James Inhofe, who has referred to global warming as a "hoax." He chaired the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee until Republicans lost control of Congress this year.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42867/newsDate/29-Jun-2007/story.htm

14. EUCC suggests offshore wind parks should be floating

EUCC - The Coastal Union has asked the Dutch government to study the possibilities of floating wind parks further off the coast, as an alternative for a series of near shore parks. After the government had given permission to build two wind parks off the Dutch coast over the last two years, plans for another

three parks have been published. With the series of five wind parks the free horizon of the mainland coast between Egmond and Hoek of Holland will be at stake. The programma poses risks to all interests in the coastal zone: landscape, the leisure and tourism sector, shipping, yachting and sailing, coastal safety, fisheries and obviously nature conservation (especially sea birds and underwater life).

In June, Norsk Hydro and Siemens signed an agreement to develop floating wind turbines that can be applied at high sea. And also Arcadis Germany is developing a system of floating turbines for deeper waters (up to a depth of ca. 40 m). According to Norsk Hydro and Siemens, floating wind turbines can be applied at the most exposed and windy locations, without compromising the free horizon from sea resorts. By directly linking them to oil and gas platforms the CO₂-emission of oil and gas producing companies can be reduced with 25%.

The vision of Norsk Hydro is presented on the Dutch website

www.new-energy.tv/ , video item of 26 July 'Noorwegen ontwikkelt drijvende windmolens'

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– NATURE AND CONSERVATION –

15. Most European beaches clean, EU report shows

Europe's holiday beaches won generally high ratings on May 31 from the European Commission, which reported nearly nine out of 10 in good condition on the coasts, but only six out of 10 inland. Among the top beach holiday countries, Greece rated highly with nearly all of its 2,047 coastal sites meeting mandatory standards and 97 percent meeting higher standards. Spain's 2,034 coastal beaches rated nearly as high for minimum standards, with 93 percent meeting higher standards. Italy's 5,705 bathing areas rated 93 percent at the minimum standard and 91 percent at the higher standard. France's 1,893 coastal bathing areas were at 97 percent, but only 70 percent met the more stringent guidelines. France also has 1,319 inland beaches on freshwater sources such as lakes and reservoirs. Nine of 10 met mandatory standards, but only three out of five met higher standards. The worst performer was Luxembourg, which has no coastal beaches and only 20 freshwater or inland beaches.

But the ratings do not tell the whole story in every case. Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said he had "great concern" that some member states had de-listed beaches. Holiday goers also have the alternative of getting a beach-by-beach report on swimming beach cleanliness. Colour-coded maps for the thousands of beaches EU beaches, both at the sea and inland, can be found on the Web at http://ec.europa.eu/water/water-bathing/report_2007.html.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42312/story.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/734&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

www.euractiv.com/en/environment/member-states-accused-cheating-bathing-water-quality/article-164196

16. EU reaches deal on eel conservation plan

European Union governments have reached a deal imposing strict limits on catching eels to stop the depleted species from becoming extinct in European waters, diplomats and officials said on June 4. EU governments have struggled to agree with the bloc's executive Commission as to how this should be done. The solution is for countries that fish transparent juveniles called glass eels -- France, Spain, Britain and Portugal - to reserve a percentage to restock Europe's rivers. The restocking percentage was the main obstacle to a deal, since it prevents those countries from exporting much of their juvenile eel catch to Asian markets where prices reach 1,000 euros (US\$1,300) per kg. Another part of the compromise deal was for the Commission to be able to intervene if prices for eels used for restocking were to fall sharply compared with eels used for other purposes. Diplomats said a 20 percent price fall would be enough for the Commission to propose a temporary reduction in restocking percentages, satisfying countries like France and Spain.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42372/story.htm

17. Eels, sawfish get trade protection from UN

A UN wildlife forum imposed trade restrictions on European eels on June 11 and outlawed trade in shark-like sawfish, famed for a long toothed snout, to prevent a slip towards extinction. The UN Conference on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted 93-9 at the June 3-15 meeting for a system of permits to regulate international trade in European eels, worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Eels spawn in the Atlantic and grow to maturity in rivers and lakes across Europe and North Africa before swimming back to sea, making them vulnerable to threats including pollution, dams, a warming of the oceans and excessive catches. Delegates also voted 67-30 to ban trade in sawfish, a type of ray related to sharks which brandish a toothed snout, of up to almost two metres, to attack and slice up smaller fish. Sawfish stocks are down 90 percent after decades of overfishing. CITES, one arm

in a fight to slow a decline in species worldwide because of threats such as destruction of habitats and climate change, made an exemption to let Australia export one of seven species of the fish to aquariums abroad. Australia exports up to 10 live sawfish every year. Australia won an exemption by arguing that its exports of live sawfish to aquariums would raise awareness of the fish abroad and contribute overall to conservation. Australia is the only country to export live sawfish.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42543/story.htm

18. Shark protection defeated at UN wildlife trade talks

The CITES-forum on endangered species however rejected bids on June 8 to put in place controls on the multi-million dollar trade in two types of sharks, highly prized for their meat and fins. The spiny dogfish, also known as rock salmon, and the porbeagle shark failed to get protection from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Conservationists slammed the decision, saying today's rejection and Thursday's failure to limit lucrative trade in cedar and rosewood timber highlighted the strength of commercial interests over wildlife protection. The shark proposals received over half of the votes at the June 3-15 CITES meeting in The Hague but fell short of winning the two-thirds majority needed for a listing.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42520/story.htm

19. Gas plant sparks concern for rare Hong Kong dolphins

Conservationists have made a last-ditch effort to block a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Hong Kong, slamming the government for approving an environmental study and saying the project could threaten rare pink dolphins. A final decision is expected soon, following the government's approval of an environmental impact assessment for the proposed terminal, to be built by Hong Kong's largest power supplier, CLP Holdings Ltd. But WWF says the LNG storage facility, to be built on the uninhabited Soko islands in Hong Kong's southern waters, would severely threaten the rich surrounding marine habitat, home to the highly endangered Chinese white dolphin and finless porpoise. Only 80-140 of the endangered Chinese white dolphins remain in Hong Kong waters, and fewer than one thousand of the pink hued creatures survive in the whole of the Pearl River Delta. In order to heat up the super-cold liquid LNG gas piped in by supertankers, the terminal would suck up huge volumes of sea-water, bearing small organisms like shrimp and fish larvae, resulting in the loss of 400,000 fish a year, WWF said. But CLP rejected WWF's arguments. The Hon Kong government said in April that with a raft of mitigation measures in place as outlined in the EIA, it was "satisfied that the residual environmental impacts are acceptable and the relevant environmental requirements and standards can be met."

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42525/story.htm

20. Shipping lanes into Boston moved to protect whales

Ships steaming into Boston harbor will soon shift course to avoid whales in the first change of US shipping lanes to protect an endangered species. Starting on July 1, large vessels will travel roughly 4 miles (6.5 km) north of their old path in new lanes, rerouted to avoid parts of the only whale feeding sanctuary in the United States, the Coast Guard and scientists said. Coast Guard cutters are patrolling the area to mark the new lanes with buoys in time for Sunday's shift, which adds 10 to 20 minutes of sailing. Currently, ships cross the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary where humpback, minke, finback and North Atlantic right whales live from March to November. Every year, commercial ships kill as many as three whales in the 842 square mile (2,180 sq km) sanctuary that stretches from Cape Cod to Cape Ann, turning so-called vessel strikes into the top killer for whales, according to the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, part of the US government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Two whales have been hit in the last six weeks. Alarmed by the deaths, biologist David Wiley asked the federal government and the International Maritime Organization, a UN agency, to consider moving the shipping lanes out of the busiest section of an area that also attracts about a million whale watchers a year. The new lanes reduce the chance of whales being hit by vessels by up to 80 percent, he said.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42886/newsDate/2-Jul-2007/story.htm

21. A cleaner North Sea? ship fuel suppliers hedge bets

European ship fuel suppliers are hedging their bets ahead of tighter fuel quality rules from November amid uncertainty about demand for the cleaner grade and expectations that some ship operators will ignore the new rules. European Commission regulations banning ships from burning dirtier fuel in the North Sea and the English Channel are aimed at reducing sulphur dioxide emissions that are 700 times higher than sulphur levels in diesel fuel for vehicles. Sulphur dioxide is a major cause of acid rain and blamed for health problems such as lung disease. But some say the August transition to the cleaner fuel, which will slash the maximum sulphur content by more than half to 1.5 percent, will not happen overnight, even though the industry has had years to prepare for the switchover. The only example so

far of a region that has adopted the tighter ship fuel rules has added to the sense of uncertainty. Ship fuel emission limits were introduced in the Baltic Sea region in May last year, but industry watchers say the rule has been lightly enforced and often ignored. A similar scenario is likely in the North Sea. www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42835/newsDate/28-Jun-2007/story.htm

22. Sea turtles combat jellyfishes

Authorities in the Spanish region Andalusia have brought two sea turtles into the Mediterranean. They must help to combat jellyfish plagues. The animals were raised in captivity. They are from a turtle species that has a taste for jellyfish and other invertebrates.

Source: El Pais 15 June 2007

23. Planned Scottish Wind farm 'is threat to eagles'

Golden eagles are gravely threatened by a £200m wind farm scheme proposed for the Hebridean island of Lewis, campaigners have warned. Three of the predatory birds a year could be killed in collisions with turbine blades - the highest mortality from any wind power project in the UK. The figures come from the developer's own environmental statement. The planned 205 megawatt Pairc wind farm in south-eastern Lewis would comprise 57 turbines. Campaigners are also alarmed at the possibility of peat slides in some areas where the 145 metre (475ft) structures are to stand. Developer Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) found 10 infrastructure sites on the Pairc peninsula were at a high risk of peat slides, a further 16 were considered to be at moderate risk.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/highlands_and_islands/6259516.stm

24. Galapagos Islands added to the World Heritage Danger List

The Galapagos Islands have been added to the list of World Heritage sites in danger in late June following the recommendation of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The World Heritage Committee, meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand, made the decision after considering the results of a joint monitoring mission by IUCN and UNESCO to the islands in April 2007. The mission found that annual visitor numbers have increased from 40,000 in 1996 to 120,000 today, bringing with them invasive species by plane and boat. Introduced plant species now outnumber native ones, and 180 of the 500 native plant species on the islands are on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The mission also found that immigration, which increases the local population by 4% every year, is driving development and destroying the integrity of the islands.

www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/06/28_pr_galapagos.htm

25. Rare giant squid washed up in Australia

One of the largest giant squid ever found has washed up on a remote Australian beach, sparking a race against time by scientists to examine the rarely seen deep-ocean creature. The squid, the mantle or main body of which measured two-metres (6.5 feet) long, was found by a walker late on July 10 on Ocean Beach, near Strahan, on the western coast of island state Tasmania. The main mantle is about one metre across and its total length is about eight metres. Scientists would take samples from the creature, identified by state parks officials as an *Architeuthis*, which can grow to more than 10 metres (33 feet) in length and weigh more than 275 kilograms (606 pounds). The Tasmanian animal was 250 kg. The tentacles had been badly damaged, so the overall length of the animal could not be determined, a Tasmania Parks and Wildlife spokeswoman said. Park rangers had moved the remains from the water. Giant squid, once believed to be mythical despite occasional sightings by mariners, feed on fish and other squid. Last year, fishermen off the Falkland Islands caught a complete animal measuring 8.62 metres. Scientists believe giant squid usually live at ocean depths of between 200-700 metres (660-2,300 ft), relying in part on volleyball-sized eyes, the largest in the animal kingdom.



www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43054/newsDate/12-Jul-2007/story.htm

26. Coral "Shuffle" helps reefs survive warmer world

Australia's Great Barrier Reef might be able to survive warming sea temperatures, as a result of global warming, better than first thought because some coral algae are more heat tolerant, Australian scientists said. Coral geneticists from the Australian Institute of Marine Science have found that many corals store several types of algae, which can improve their capacity to cope with warmer water. The Australian scientists said their study had found that coral has the ability to "shuffle" the algae, maximising nutrients depending on water temperature. They discovered heat-resistant algae by examining the DNA of different types of coral. But many marine scientists have argued that "back-up" algae were infrequent because of the small number of corals that were shown to host several types of algae. The Australian scientists said this "shuffle" ability might explain why coral reefs have been able to survive for thousands of years during various climate changes.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43093/newsDate/16-Jul-2007/story.htm

www.aims.gov.au/

27. Millions of car tyres to be fished up again

The dumping of tyres in sea to create artificial reefs seemed such a good idea, forty years ago. A litter problem was being solved and it was useful for fishes too. Hence millions of tyres were sunk off the American, Australian, New Zealand and Malayan coasts, among other places. The tyres were usually placed in bundles on the sea bottom, connected by cables. But these are now rusty and worn out. The tyres now come loose and spread out over large areas. After a hurricane the beaches on the American West Coast are now filled with tyres. At the Florida coast a team of the US Navy together with the Coast Guard having been busy in July with removing part of the tyres. This is necessary because the loose tyres are taken with the currents to a natural reef, where they cause great damage. Divers have already brought ashore 10,373 tyres, filled with sand and a slimy substance. Eventually all tyres will have to be removed to save the coral reef. When all tyres are removed it will still take decades for the reef to recover. According to Jack Sobel, researcher at The Ocean Conservancy in Washington DC the idea of artificial reefs has to be thought over again. All kinds of stuff is being dumped at the ocean bottom to 'help' nature, varying from concrete sewer pipes and old planes to a complete 270 metres long aircraft carrier. According to him the best way to help the ocean is probably to leave it alone as much as possible.

http://vroegevogels.vara.nl/portal?scr=news_newsitem1&id=311213 (in Dutch)

www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=issues_artificialreefs

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– AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES –

28. Constant EU overfishing threatens 80 percent of stocks

Europe's fishermen are consistently exceeding their annual catch quotas despite advice from scientists to curb trawling, putting 80 percent of EU fish species under threat, the EU executive said on June 7. For years now, scientists have warned that unless fishing activities are reduced -- or in some cases, stopped altogether - many species in European waters risk extinction. Cod is a prime example, particularly in the North Sea. Outlining the broad principles of its quota proposals for 2008, for the most threatened stocks like west Scotland cod, the Commission said it might go beyond its usual policy of not varying TACs by more than 15 percent - and cut them by more.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42483/story.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/809&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/235&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

29. EU clamps down on fishing for bluefin tuna

EU governments agreed on June 11 to clamp down on fishing for bluefin tuna, a fish prized by sushi lovers, by cutting quotas and tightening inspection controls to stop the vulnerable species heading for extinction. National fleets will now receive lower catch allowances for bluefin tuna in Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic waters, the first stage of a global deal that aims to conserve the species over the next 15 years, officials said. The countries that will be hardest hit are Spain, Italy and France. Portugal and Malta will get smaller catch allowances for the rest of 2007, as do Cyprus and Greece. Demand for bluefin tuna is high since it is especially popular in sushi and sashimi dishes. Unlike most tunas, bluefin grow slowly and mature late, making them more vulnerable to intensive trawling.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42546/story.htm

30. Romania plans fishing ban in Danube Delta

Romania plans to ban commercial fishing in the Danube delta to protect the natural environment in one of Europe's most biodiverse regions, Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said on June 15. A vast expanse of marshland on the shores of the Black Sea, dotted with tranquil lakes and reed islands, the Danube delta is home to many endangered species and a major resting stop for migratory birds. Its biodiversity is threatened by pollution, poaching and overfishing, particularly of sturgeon, due to Romania's widespread corruption which leads to abuse of fishing licences. The Danube delta is one of Romania's poorest regions, with many local communities made up of reed houses that lack basic services such as electricity and running water. Most villagers depend for their livelihoods on fishing and subsistence agriculture. Tourism has been slow to take hold but several hotels have sprung up on lake shores and foreigners are attracted by bird-watching and fishing trips on hotel boats. A Somova boat guide said hotels helped diminish poverty but villagers would struggle to give up fishing. Romania, which joined the European Union in January, has a poor environmental record, largely due to communist-era heavy industries, weak administration and graft. Industrial fishing in the Danube delta, Europe's largest wetlands, accounts for only 2 percent of domestic consumption.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42637/newsDate/18-Jun-2007/story.htm

31. 'Ghost fishing' killing seabirds

Seabirds on the remote islands of St. Kilda are being killed by discarded fishing gear, the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has warned. Great skua, gannet and fulmar have been found dead after becoming entangled in, or choking, on fishing line. NTS said abandoned line and hooks continued to "ghost fish" for many years, snaring wild birds instead of fish. The isles provide a breeding ground for more than 500,000 seabirds, including the largest northern gannet colony of over 60,000 pairs. NTS said birds were getting accidentally entangled and killed by swallowing hooks and line from derelict fishing gear - either industrial or recreational - which is lost or deliberately discarded at sea.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/highlands_and_islands/6248366.stm

32. EU orders Poland to stop Eastern Baltic cod fishing

Poland's fishermen were ordered on July 9 to stop trawling for cod in the eastern Baltic Sea after the country misreported its catch and exceeded its EU quota for the threatened species, the European Commission said. Large discrepancies between catch figures that Polish authorities had reported to Brussels and those provided by EU inspectors revealed that Poland had now exhausted its entire 2007 cod quota for this particular fishing zone, it said. Commission officials said Poland had received several warnings to slow down its cod fishing in the region, as had Germany - but Berlin had complied, whereas Warsaw had not. Sweden and Lithuania have received similar warnings. Polish fishermen would now be banned from trawling for cod in eastern Baltic waters, where the country was allocated a 2007 quota of 10,794 tonnes. There could also be no transshipment or landing of cod by any vessel flying the Polish

flag, it said. Scientists have long advised that eastern Baltic cod has been overfished to the point where it might vanish from the area, so they had recommended an outright fishing ban. Stocks in the western Baltic are in a slightly better state but still massively over-exploited with low yields, they say.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43022/newsDate/10-Jul-2007/story.htm
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43295/story.htm

33. Sharks face increased threat due to fin soup

Sharks could face extinction within a generation from overfishing for their fins, a conservation group said on July 18. calling on the Chinese government to lead the way in their protection. More than 90 percent of shark fin is consumed in China and demand is growing rapidly as the economy develops leading to more sharks being caught, many illegally in areas that are supposed to be protected, according to the group WildAid. Shark fin, once offered as a gift to emperors, is traditionally served in soup at Chinese wedding banquets and occasions when the host wants to impress guests with expensive dishes. Some also believe it is good for the health. The group said shark fin is becoming cheaper and eaten by a growing number of people in China - perhaps by around 100 million people a year.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43159/newsDate/19-Jul-2007/story.htm
www.wildaid.org/index.asp?CID=8&PID=331&SUBID=&TERID=308

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- PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

34. Waterbirds of Bourgas Wetlands

This book reflects the results from six years of monthly monitoring of the waterbirds in the most important wetlands of Bulgaria - the Bourgas Lakes. The first part of the book consists of a comprehensive review of the literature data, the status, the numbers, the breeding and the seasonal dynamics of 149 water bird species. The abundant information for each species is presented in text, tables, graphs and maps. In the second part a thorough look at the four Bourgas Lakes with their specific characteristics has been made. The changes in species composition and numbers dynamic are traced for different months, seasons, years and the last century. The book is illustrated with black and white drawings of the Bulgarian animalist Assen Ignatov.

By M. Dimitrov et al. (2005, 160 pp.). Pensoft Publishers, Geo Milev Str., No. 13a, 1111 Sofia, Bulgaria. Fax +359 2 8704282. E-mail: info@pensoft.net, ISBN 954 642 236 3. Price £ 28.95.

35. Soft values of seaports, strategy for restoration of public support

In present day society, seaports have a very negative image, which is mainly due to the environmental pressures and pollution risks they cause, the monomaniac capitalist mentality of their operators, the dubious reputation of the shipping industry, the uninspired, strictly utilitarian design of port facilities and the dehumanisation of port areas. Currently, the erosion of public support for seaports is a major issue in port management and policy. This publication makes an inventory of the numerous non-socio-economic assets of seaports, their soft values if you will. These range from port history, port heritage and port-inspired art over dockland redevelopment to port tourism and recreation and many other, often totally ignored aspects. The book puts forward a vision for the design and implementation of comprehensive strategies for the management of these soft values. Finally, it argues that the EU has a responsibility of its own to support such initiatives. The book is richly illustrated with an original selection of over 400 photo's, artworks, maps and other images.

By Eric van Hooydonk, Professor of Law, University of Antwerp (2007, 192 pp.) Garant Publishers, Antwerpen/Apeldoorn, Somersstraat 13-15 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium, uitgevrij@garant.be, www.garant-uitgevers.be en Konningelaan 96, 7315 EB Apeldoorn, info@garant-uitgevers.nl, www.garant-uitgevers.nl, ISBN 978-90-441-2148-3

Forewords written by

Jacques Barrot, *Vice-president of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Transport*
Giuliano Gallanti, *Chairman of the European Sea Ports Organization*

36. Coastline Reports #7 – Restorations of Coastal Ecosystems

Results of the 5th European Conference on Ecological Restoration. Land use changes in Europe as a challenge for restoration; ecological, economical and ethical dimensions. Held at Greifswald, Germany, 21-25 August 2006

By M. Isermann & K. Kiehl (editors) (2007, 67 pp.) Eucc-The Coastal Union, ISSN 0928-2734

For earlier editions of Coastline Reports watch www.eucc.net/en/comm/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.

3-5 October 2007, Santander, Spain

ICCD2007: International Conference on Coastal Dunes

www.iccd07.com/iccd07en.pdf

7-11 April 2008, Hanoi, Vietnam

4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands

Organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands and hosted by the Government of Vietnam

www.globaloceans.org/

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– COLOPHON –

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

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