



Eucc Coastal News

No 5

Aug.- September 2007

Eucc Coastal News is the international newsletter of the Coastal Union (Eucc) for its members and for the press. We have ca. 4000 readers.

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

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– EUCC NEWS –

1. Re-launch of the Journal of Coastal Conservation

EUCC - The Coastal Union and Springer have agreed on the re-launch of the Journal of Coastal Conservation – Planning and Management, the Official Journal of The Coastal Union.

Editor-in-Chief: D.R. Green

ISSN: 1400-0350 (print version)

ISSN: 1874-7841 (electronic version)

Journal no. 11852

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2. TUI Guidelines for responsible whale and dolphin watching

In close cooperation with EUCC - The Coastal Union, Elise Allart of TUI Netherlands has developed the "TUI Guidelines for responsible whale and dolphin watching, also supported by IFAW and Nova Atlantis (Dolphin Research Center on the Azores), WWF-NL and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture and Nature

Dr. Wolf Michael Iwand (Group Corporate Environmental Management / Sustainable Development of TUI AG) has congratulated his Dutch colleague Elise Allart and the Dutch Green Team for their excellent and dedicated work and the professional result.

The Guidelines are based on the "TUI Kriterien für nachhaltiges Whale Watching" which are currently practised on responsible whale watching trips around the Canary Islands. As the Dutch Guidelines are stricter (even stricter than the CMS Guidelines) and correspond with the newest scientific findings, Dr. Iwand has announced that TUI International "considers them as benchmark and ask you to check if it is reasonable / feasible to use these rules on your whale watching trips - bearing in mind the special local conditions in your destination. From our point of view we would recommend to proceed asap with the TUI Nederland version and make them our common World of TUI standard."

TUI is the main international sponsor of the UN Year of the Dolphin-campaign 2007. www.yod2007.org.

See also "Nachhaltig wirtschaften im TUI Konzern - Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung 2006/2007" , Page 74, on <http://www.tui-group.com/de/nachhaltigkeit/> - the english version is still in the works.

www.tui-environment.com

3. ECO-IMAGINE Workshop - GeoSpatial Technologies and ICZM

23rd-28th July 2007 - AECC, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

A 6-day International Training Workshop, part of the Marie Curie funded ECO-IMAGINE project, organised by David R. Green (Department of Geography and Environment, the University of Aberdeen), was recently held (23rd-28th July 2007) at the AECC in Aberdeen, Scotland, UK.

Assisted by Margaret Carlisle and Guillaume De La Fons, as well as GISIG/ICCOPS Genoa, Italy (Giorgio Saio, Emanuele Roccatagliata, Valeria Granelli Milva Carbonaro, Paola Salmona), and Victoria Withy and Emily Wilson (AECC), this workshop delivered hands-on GIS and ICZM training for 60 early stage career delegates from Egypt, France, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, and the UK.

Combining theory lectures, applications, and practical hands-on GIS (Geographical Information Systems) sessions, a fieldtrip to the Sands of Forvie NNR (David R. Green (UoA), Alistair Dawson (UoA), Stewart Angus and Anabel Drysdale (SNH), and George Ritchie (Positioning Resources Limited)), and a site visit to the Landscape Visualisation Theatre at the Macaulay Institute (courtesy of David Miller, Jonathan Ball and Jane Lund), delegates were introduced to the problem of siting of an offshore windfarm in Aberdeen Bay.

www.abdn.ac.uk/~geo382/ecoimagine/Eco-Imagine%20Info%20Sheet.doc

4. OBITUARY - VYTAUTAS GUDELIS (13.07.1923 – 17.07.2007)

He was a prominent geographer and geologist; an initiator of new investigations and a cherisher of the best traditions of the Baltic coastal science, a member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, a honorary member of EUCC – The Coastal Union, a doctor *Honoris Causa* of Uppsala University (Sweden). Parallel to his pioneering efforts in many research fields, he facilitated the creation of the modern Lithuanian terminology of coastal and marine research.

In 1947, Vytautas Gudelis graduated from Vilnius University with a degree in geography. From the very start of his research activity he focused on geomorphology and Quaternary geology, neotectonics and palaeogeography. Being a mind of wide scope, his particular strength was an inter-disciplinary approach in Earth sciences.

His PhD thesis *Geological development of the Baltic Sea in late-Glacial and post-Glacial times in Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast of Russian Federation* was the first significant work in the field of marine geology and palaeogeography of the South-East Baltic region. Later on, expanding the successfully started trend of scientific research, V. Gudelis created the clinometrical method designed for the analysis of ancient coasts, defined more exactly the late-Glacial Baltic stratigraphy, revealed the regularities of palaeogeographical development of the Baltic Sea coasts. He also compiled maps of morphogenetic types of bottom relief in the Baltic Sea and bottom sediments in the Curonian Lagoon. The most important results of his long-term research were represented in collective monographs *Geology of the Baltic Sea* (1976) and *History of the Baltic Sea Development* (1979).

Parallel to these efforts, he was working on laying theoretical foundations for the research into the swash dynamics influencing the development of sand coasts. Later, V. Gudelis classified the coasts of the Baltic Sea and accomplished their genetic zonation, detailed the dynamical state of the coasts of the South-East Baltic region. He laid the foundations for the Eastern Baltic school of coastal research.

V. Gudelis compiled a scheme of degradation of the last Baltic continental glacier followed by an original classification of marginal glacial formations and map of pre-Quaternary surface of the Eastern Baltic. He also revealed new regularities of relief structure and dynamics in that region. All these investigations were summarized in his thesis for doctor's degree of geographical sciences (Habilitation doctor) in 1968 and a monograph *The Relief and Quaternary Formations of the Eastern Baltic*.

Since 1956, Vytautas Gudelis was leading the multi-disciplinary research into the evolution of the highest European shifting dunes on the Curonian Spit, and the results of this research facilitated establishing of the national parks on both, Lithuanian and Russian parts of the Curonian Spit, and including of the entire Curonian Spit into the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2002.

Neotectonic studies of Lithuania and other Baltic states also belong to such research fields which were initiated and developed by Vytautas Gudelis. He had not only determined the scale and direction of the shifts of the earth crust under the conditions of a geological platform but also created a new hypothesis about the recent shifts of the crust. He also compiled maps of neotectonic activity and seismicity of Lithuania's territory.

He had a remarkable ability to pinpoint the most important and urgent scientific problems without adhering to narrow specialization, but insistently combating superficiality in Earth sciences. Since 1952, V. Gudelis was the leader of as many as 42 scientific themes, and headed a large number of expeditions. We hardly could find another scientist in Lithuania who gained such a universal research experience.

His versatile academic activity and bright personality will serve as a good pattern to follow for new generations of the Baltic geographers, geologists and coastal scientists.

– COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE – TRENDS & IMPACTS –

5. Early 2007 saw record-breaking extreme weather – UN

The world experienced a series of record-breaking weather events in early 2007, from flooding in Asia to heatwaves in Europe and snowfall in South Africa, the United Nations weather agency said on August 7. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said global land surface temperatures in January and April were likely the warmest since records began in 1880, at more than 1 degree Celsius higher than average for those months. There have also been severe monsoon floods across South Asia, abnormally heavy rains in northern Europe, China, Sudan, Mozambique and Uruguay, extreme heat waves in southeastern Europe and Russia, and unusual snowfall in South Africa and South America this year, the WMO said. Most scientists believe extreme weather events will be more frequent as heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions cause global temperatures to rise.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43527/newsDate/8-Aug-2007/story.htm
www.wmo.ch/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_791_e.html

6. Arctic sea ice set to hit new low

Arctic sea ice is expected to retreat to a record low by the end of this summer, scientists have predicted. Measurements made by the US National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) showed the extent of sea ice on 8 August was almost 30% below the long-term average. Because the region's melting season runs until the middle of September, scientists believe this summer will end with the lowest ice cover on record. NSIDC data showed sea ice extent for 8 August as 5.8m sq km (2.2m sq miles), compared to the 1979-

2000 August average of 7.7m sq km (3.0m sq miles). The current record low was recorded in 2005, when Arctic sea ice covered just 5.32m sq km (2.09m sq miles).

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6944401.stm>

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43756/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44467/newsDate/24-Sep-2007/story.htm

7. Islands emerge as Arctic ice shrinks to record low

Previously unknown islands are appearing as Arctic summer sea ice shrinks to record lows, raising questions about whether global warming is outpacing UN projections, experts said. Polar bears and seals have also suffered this year on the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard because the sea ice they rely on for hunts melted far earlier than normal. The thaw of glaciers that stretch out to sea around Svalbard has revealed several islands that are not on any maps. "I know of two islands that appeared in the north of Svalbard this summer. They haven't been claimed yet," said Rune Bergstrom, environmental expert with the Norwegian governor's office on Svalbard. He said he had seen one of the islands, roughly the size of a basketball court. Islands have also appeared in recent years off Greenland and Canada.

"Reductions of snow and ice are happening at an alarming rate," Norwegian Environment Minister Helen Bjoernoy said at a seminar of 40 scientists and politicians that began on August 20 in Ny Alesund, 1,200 km (750 miles) from the North Pole. Still, in a contrast to the warnings about retreating ice and climate change, snow was falling in Ny Alesund on that same Monday, several weeks earlier than normal in a region still bathed by the midnight sun. About 30 to 130 people live in the fjord-side settlement, backed by snow-covered mountains. Bjoernoy said it was a freak storm that did not detract from an overall warming trend.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43813/story.htm

8. Atlantic yields climate secrets

Scientists have painted the first detailed picture of Atlantic Ocean currents crucial to Europe's climate. Using instruments strung out across the Atlantic, a UK-led team shows that its circulation varies significantly over the course of a year. Writing in the journal *Science*, they say it may now be possible to detect changes related to global warming. The Atlantic circulation brings warm water to Europe, keeping the continent 4-6C warmer than it would be otherwise. As the water reaches the cold Arctic, it sinks, returning southwards deeper in the ocean. Some computer models of climate change predict this Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, of which the Gulf Stream is the best-known component, could weaken severely or even stop completely as global temperatures rise, a scenario taken to extremes in the Hollywood movie *The Day After Tomorrow*.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6946735.stm>

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43757/story.htm

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/317/5840/908 (article not free)

9. Australians discover ocean current "Missing Link"

Australian scientists have discovered a giant underwater current that is one of the last missing links of a system that connects the world's oceans and helps govern global climate. New research shows that a current sweeping past Australia's southern island of Tasmania toward the South Atlantic is a previously undetected part of the world climate system's engine-room, said scientist Ken Ridgway. The Southern Ocean, which swirls around Antarctica, has been identified in recent years as the main lung of global climate, absorbing a third of all carbon dioxide taken in by the world's oceans. The newly discovered Tasman Outflow, which sweeps past Tasmania at an average depth of 800-1,000 metres (2,600 to 3,300 feet), is classed as a "supergyre" that links the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic southern hemisphere ocean basins, the government-backed CSIRO said in a statement on August 15. The best known of the global ocean currents is the North Atlantic loop of the Great Ocean Conveyor, which brings warm water from the Equator to waters off northern Europe, ensuring relatively mild weather there. Scientists say if the conveyor collapsed, northern Europe would be plunged into an ice age. Earlier this year, another CSIRO scientist said global warming was already having an impact on the vast Southern Ocean, posing a threat to myriad ocean currents that distribute heat around the world. Melting ice-sheets and glaciers in Antarctica are releasing fresh water, interfering with the formation of dense "bottom water", which sinks 4-5 kilometres to the ocean floor and helps drive the world's ocean circulation system. A slowdown in the system known, as "overturning circulation" would affect the way the ocean, which absorbs 85 percent of atmospheric heat, carries heat around the globe. (See also CN 2007-3, item 10)

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43721/newsDate/16-Aug-2007/story.htm

www.csiro.au/news/OceanSupergyre.html

10. Sea rise seen outpacing forecasts due to Antarctica

A thaw of Antarctic ice is outpacing predictions by the UN climate panel and could in the worst-case drive up world sea levels by 2 metres (6 ft) by 2100, a leading expert said on August 22. Millions of people, from Bangladesh to Florida and some Pacific island states, live less than a metre above sea level. Most of the world's major cities, from Shanghai to Buenos Aires, are by the sea. Chris Rapley, the outgoing head of the British Antarctic Survey, said there were worrying signs of accelerating flows of ice towards the

ocean from both Antarctica and Greenland with little sign of more snow falling inland to compensate. "The ice is moving faster both in Greenland and in the Antarctic than the glaciologists had believed would happen," Rapley told Reuters during a climate seminar in Ny Alesund on a Norwegian Arctic island 1,200 km from the North Pole. "I think the realistic view is that we will be nearer a metre than the 40 cm" in sea level rise by 2100.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43886/newsDate/23-Aug-2007/story.htm

11. Study casts doubt on earlier ice caps research

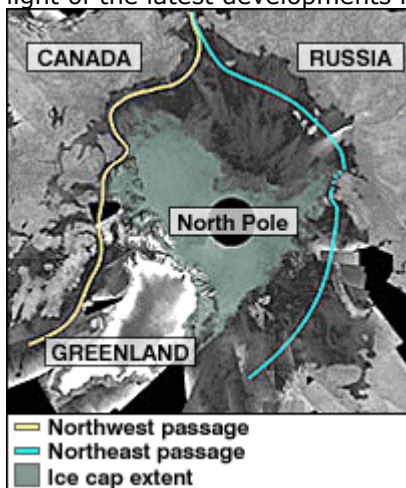
Pinhead-sized fossils buried deep under the ocean show that glaciers did not coat the poles 41 million years ago, a new study shows, disputing earlier research that suggested huge ice sheets covered the Earth's extremities. Any glaciers then - a time when the planet was much warmer - would only have been in small areas in Antarctica's interior and not in the Northern hemisphere, said Paul Wilson, from Britain's National Oceanography Centre, who led the study. Wilson's study contradicts research published in 2005 that suggested ice sheets covered much of both Polar Regions, despite the higher temperatures. He added that the fossils could provide clues to the future of climate change.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43877/newsDate/23-Aug-2007/story.htm

www.noc.soton.ac.uk/nocs/news.php?action=news_archive

12. Space agency –Arctic sea route opens as ice melts - long priced Northwest Passage

The Arctic's Northwest Passage has opened up fully because of melting sea ice, clearing a long-sought but historically impassable route between Europe and Asia, the European Space Agency said. Sea ice has shrunk in the Arctic to its lowest level since satellite measurements began 30 years ago, ESA said, showing images of the now "fully navigable" route between the Atlantic and the Pacific. A shipping route through the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic has been touted as a possible cheaper option to the Panama Canal for many shippers. We have seen the ice-covered area drop to just around 3 million square km," said Leif Toudal Pedersen of the Danish National Space Centre, describing the drop in the Arctic sea ice as "extreme". The figure was about 1 million sq km less than previous lows in 2005 and 2006, Pedersen added. The Northeast Passage through the Russian Arctic remained partially blocked, but in the light of the latest developments it may well open sooner than expected, Pedersen said.



www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44359/newsDate/17-Sep-2007/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6995999.stm>

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44396/newsDate/19-Sep-2007/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6999078.stm>

www.nrc.nl/wetenschap/article770819.ece/Weinig_ijs_Niks_nieuws (Dutch, puts things in some perspective: it has for centuries at times been passable to sail through the northern Canadian islands, at least)

13. Waters to warm: Mediterranean at risk

The depths of the Mediterranean Sea have grown warmer by up to 2 degrees Celsius recently, according to the Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM) of Rome, Italy. In the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Adriatic Sea, especially, temperatures at a depth of 100 m are getting so high that marine life is dwindling and the ocean's not absorbing as much carbon dioxide as it once did. In addition, said researchers, the warming waters are beginning to affect the Adriatic current, one of three in the Mediterranean.

www.sahra.arizona.edu/cgi-bin/newsclips/newsclip_view.pl?mode=newsclip_view&ID=16481

www.icram.org/ (Italian only)

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE – RESPONSES -

14. UN launches climate change Website

The UN has launched the Website Gateway to the UN System's Work on Climate Change. This new Website highlights the wide-ranging work of the various parts of the United Nations system on the issue of climate change, including reports of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and updates on the latest developments in efforts to reach international agreement.

www.un.org/climatechange/

15. APEC leaders to sign climate change pact at summit

Asia-Pacific leaders were expected to sign a landmark statement on climate change, The so-called "Sydney Declaration" at their annual summit on September 8, papering over differences between rich and developing nations over pollution targets. Asia-Pacific officials agreed on the 7th to a draft climate statement that reaffirms the United Nations convention as the primary vehicle for fighting global warming, while setting non-binding, "aspirational targets" for themselves to reduce greenhouse gas reductions. Some analysts saw it as too little, too late. The pact, however, does set the stage for the UN climate convention's annual summit in Bali, Indonesia in December, which is looking for a successor to the existing UN pact, known as the Kyoto Protocol, due to expire in 2012.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44224/newsDate/10-Sep-2007/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44232/newsDate/10-Sep-2007/story.htm

16. Bush aide says warming man-made

The US chief scientist has told the BBC that climate change is now a fact. Professor John Marburger, who advises President Bush, said it is more than 90% certain that greenhouse gas emissions from mankind are to blame. The Earth may become "unliveable" without cuts in CO₂ output, he said, but labelled targets for curbing temperature rise as "arbitrary". His comments come shortly before major meetings on climate change at the UN and the Washington White House. This is an explicit endorsement of the latest major review of climate science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). US backing for the scientific consensus was confirmed by President Bush's top climate advisor, James Connaughton.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6994760.stm>

Overview of statements from President Bush himself on climate change:

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44458/newsDate/24-Sep-2007/story.htm

17. Mineral olivine mentioned against CO₂ emissions

Two Dutch geochemists, Olaf Schuiling en P. Krijgsman, have launched an idea to use a mineral named olivine to combat CO₂ emissions. In an article in the journal *Climatic Change*, no. 74, 2006 they argue: 'Weathering and subsequent precipitation of Ca- and Mg-carbonates are the main processes that control the CO₂-concentration in the atmosphere. It seems logical, therefore, to use enhanced weathering as a tool to reduce rising CO₂-levels. This can be applied as a technology, by reacting captured CO₂ with olivine or calcium-silicates in autoclaves. It can also be applied extensively, by spreading fine-powdered olivine on farmland or forestland. Measures to control the CO₂-levels of the atmosphere will be adopted more readily if they also serve some broader economic goals. An effective strategy for CO₂ control will require many parallel approaches simultaneously.'

www.springerlink.com/content/78528604337v3773/?p=b9760815a5684a60992f45cb0039cd66&pi=15

(Abstract, article not free)

In an interview with the Dutch paper *NRC Handelsblad* from 4-5 August 2007 (with a further editorial letter in the paper on August 18) Olaf Schuiling also explained his views, suggesting that massive use of olivine storage depots on the world's beaches might contribute tot CO₂ reduction on a world scale.

Schuiling himself concedes that this would require massive investments. However, objections have been raised against this idea. The world's coasts are too few to absorb the enormous amount of olivine that would be necessary. The world's beaches would also be saturated with the ugly green stones.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivine>

<http://geology.about.com/library/bl/images/blolivine.htm>

<http://www.mindat.org/min-2983.html>

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- NATURE AND CONSERVATION –

18. Noise in North Sea harmful to porpoises and dolphins

Noise nuisance through shipping in the North Sea is so harmful to sea mammals that the noise level has to be tempered considerably, according to the German branch of the WWF. Porpoises orientate themselves by using sound (sonar) and, like bats, trace its prey with echolocation. Too much noise damages the hearing en drives the animals from their habitat. IN the North Sea live now some 34.000 porpoises according to the WWF estimate. Especially shipping hinders sea mammals in the North Sea, beside oil drills

en military exercises. According to a seas expert of the WWF the noise nuisance under water is comparable to 'standing outside near an airstrip for planes'.

www.wwf.de/presse/details/news/laerm_bedroht_nordseewale/ (in German)

Comparable problems are also faced in other parts of the globe:

19. Endangered whales vanishing from Russian waters because of noise

Noise pollution from a gas and oil project in the Russian Far East is the likely cause behind critically endangered western gray whales abandoning their only known feeding area. The installation of a platform by Sakhalin Energy at Shell's Sakhalin II project site has resulted in constant, high noise levels underwater for over two days.

www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/news/index.cfm?uNewsID=108180

20. Whale fears silence US Navy sonar – but not for long

The US Navy has been ordered not to use mid-frequency sonar equipment during training exercises off the coast of California until the end of 2009. A federal judge ruled in favour in early August of campaigners who argued that the devices harmed marine mammals in the area. They said noise pollution from sonar-disorientated whales, causing them to become stranded on beaches. A navy spokesman said they would appeal because the injunction jeopardised the nation's safety and security. The legal action was brought by a coalition of animal welfare groups, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6934715.stm>

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43515/newsDate/8-Aug-2007/story.htm

However, on August 31 an US appeals court has put on hold the lower court's injunction blocking the US Navy from using a type of sonar that wildlife supporters say harms whales in exercises off the California coast. In its opinion, a split three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals said the lower court had considered only the fate of the whales while ignoring American defence needs. "The district court did not explain why a broad, absolute injunction against the use of the medium frequency active sonar in these complex training exercises for two years was necessary to avoid irreparable harm to the environment," the Court's Judge Kleinfeld wrote.

Judge Milan Smith dissented, asking why the Navy had dropped environmental mitigation measures it had used from mid-2006 to January 2007. "Unlike my colleagues in the majority, I am satisfied that the district court carefully weighed national security and public interest considerations before issuing the preliminary injunction in this case," he wrote.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44068/newsDate/3-Sep-2007/story.htm

21. Spain warns of virus threatening dolphins

Spain has asked authorities around the Mediterranean and adjoining seas for help in monitoring an infection, which threatens a protected species of dolphin, warning it may become an epidemic.

Morbillivirus, a potentially fatal infection that causes measles in its human form, was found in dead striped dolphins - a protected species - washed up on beaches in Spain, it said. The ministry did not say how many dolphins had been affected but a report in newspaper El Mundo on August 29 said dozens had been killed. Spain asked countries along the Mediterranean basin to collect samples from any animals infected to help track the disease more effectively. Spanish regional governments and environmental experts will meet to discuss the issue on Sept. 13.

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44042/story.htm

22. Tags reveal tuna migration routes

The secrets of the bluefin tuna's migration have been unlocked by one of the most comprehensive studies of the giant fish, say scientists. Researchers believe two separate populations of the fish share feeding sites in the Atlantic before heading to opposite sides of the ocean to breed. To help reveal their migratory pattern, an international team has tagged almost a thousand specimens. The findings form part of the global 10-year Census of Marine Life. The team also studied historical records that showed how bluefin numbers, once abundant in the North Atlantic, collapsed after the emergence of industrial fishing.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6927854.stm>

www.coml.org/

23. Coral worse off than believed

The first large-scale analysis of the world's largest reef system indicates that coral destruction is faster and more widespread than researchers previously thought. Over the past 2 decades, coral has disappeared at five times the rate of Earth's rainforests. Long considered a hotbed of biodiversity, the Indian and Pacific oceans are home to 75% of the world's coral reefs. For years, conservationists have been trying to document coral loss in the Indo-Pacific region, which encompasses Hawaii, Australia, and Southeast Asia, but its large size has frustrated efforts. All researchers had to go on were scattered reef studies, which no one has attempted to integrate due to the large number of national, international, and non-profit groups

collecting the data. Undaunted, John Bruno, a marine biologist at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and colleagues spent 3 years compiling over 6000 independent surveys. In all, the data spanned 4 decades and recorded the status of more than 2600 reefs. The team then combed through data collected by the many different parties working in the area, searching for historical and geographic coral loss patterns. The results were not pretty. Over 3000 square kilometres of living coral reef are lost each year, the team found, and the speed of destruction is no lower in protected habitats such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Conservationists had previously believed that accelerated declines started in the 1990s, but the researchers found reports of widespread loss dating back to the 1960s, when pollution, deforestation, and over-fishing trends began. Reefs vanished at an annual rate of 1% during the 1980s, with declines climbing through the 1990s to the current rate of 2%—nearly five times the pace of rainforest elimination, say the authors. Global warming, pollution, and over-fishing remain the likely culprits, the team reports online today in PLoS One. As each square kilometer of coral reef can generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for local economies through tourism and sustainable fishing—and because numerous species depend on coral for survival—the losses will have huge economic and ecologic impacts, the authors conclude.

<http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2007/808/2>

www.unc.edu/~brunoj/Bruno%20lab/Press.html

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6936634.stm>

24. Spain hauls in 8 tonnes of jellyfish from beaches

Spain has launched a campaign to investigate and collect a plague of jellyfish on its coastline, and so far has collected eight tonnes of them, the Environment Ministry said on August 7. The ministry's "Campaign for the Study and Detection of Groupings of Jellyfish" has attracted 200 volunteers who are being specially trained to study the jellyfish and find out what attracts them to the coastline. The increase in jellyfish, a nuisance for holidaymakers in the Mediterranean in particular, is believed by climate experts to be due to warmer sea temperatures and the reduction in predators such as tuna and turtles.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43522/newsDate/8-Aug-2007/story.htm

25. Scotland: bathing water pollution hits six-year high – wet summer blamed

Scotland's beaches have this summer suffered the worst sewage pollution in six years, according to new figures released by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa). Seven officially designated bathing waters have failed the basic safety limits, along with seven other popular beaches. The failure rate is the highest since 2001, as is the average level of faecal contamination. And there is worse to come.

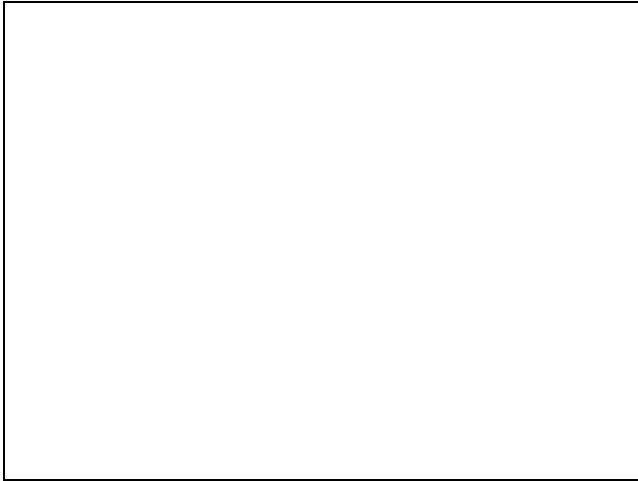
Predictions by Sepa suggest that a further nine bathing areas will breach tough new European standards due to be introduced over the next few years. High levels of sewage can give paddlers, swimmers and surfers stomach and ear infections. In extreme cases, these can be lethal. Successive governments and regulatory agencies have been trying for three decades to curb the pollution, which comes from untreated human sewage and from animal faeces washed off the land. Four of the seven official bathing waters that have failed this year are on the Ayrshire coast, at Irvine, Prestwick, Girvan and Ayr. The other three are Ettrick Bay on the Isle of Bute, Sandyhills on the Solway Firth and Eyemouth on the Borders coast. Three of the seven popular undesignated beaches that failed are in Fife, with others in Angus, Moray, Ayrshire and East Lothian. Four of the nine bathing waters predicted to fail in the future are in Dumfries and Galloway, with three in Aberdeenshire, one in Edinburgh and one in Ayrshire. Sepa accepted the results were "poor" but blamed them on the fact that this summer was the wettest in more than 30 years. Rain washes animal faeces off the land and can cause sewers to overflow.

www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.1691713.0.bathing_water_pollution_hits_sixyear_high.php

www.sepa.org.uk/news/releases/view.asp?id=584&y=2007

26. Huge squids invade California waters after predators disappeared

Jumbo squid that can grow up to 7 feet long and weigh more than 110 pounds are invading central California waters and preying on local anchovy, hake and other commercial fish populations, according to a study published on July 24. An aggressive predator, the Humboldt squid — or *Dosidicus gigas* — can change its eating habits to consume the food supply favored by tuna and sharks, its closest competitors, according to an article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal. The jumbo squid used to be found only in the Pacific Ocean's warmest stretches near the equator. In the last 16 years, it has expanded its territory throughout California waters, and squid have even been found in the icy waters off Alaska. More were observed through 1999, but the squid weren't seen again locally until the fall of 2002. Since their return, scientists have noted a corresponding drop in the population of Pacific hake, a whitefish the squid feeds on that is often used in fish sticks. Before the 1970s, the giant squid were typically found in the Eastern Pacific, and in coastal waters spanning from Peru to Costa Rica. But as the populations of its natural predators — large tuna, sharks and swordfish — declined because of fishing, the squid moved northward and started eating different species that thrive in colder waters. Local marine mammals needn't worry about the squid's arrival since they're higher up on the food chain, but lantern fish, krill, anchovies and rockfish are all fair game.



www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,290667,00.html

www.pnas.org/cgi/content/short/0702043104v1

27. Iceland stops whale-hunting quotas after low demand

Nearly a year after ending its ban on commercial whaling, Iceland will not issue new whale-hunting quotas until market demand increases and it gets an export licence from Japan. Iceland's fisheries minister, Einar K. Guoðinnsson, told Reuters in the last week of August it made no sense to issue new quotas when the present quota period expires on Aug. 31 if the market for whale meat was not strong enough. Iceland announced last year it would allow up to 30 minke whales and 9 fin whales to be hunted, controversially ending a ban in place since 1986. But they have killed just seven minke whales and seven fin whales because of slack demand for whale meat and products. Buyers of whale products demand thorough testing to ensure food safety. In addition, without an export agreement with Japan, a huge source of buyers is taken out of the equation. Stefan Asmundsson, an officer at the ministry of fisheries, said negotiations for market access to Japan were ongoing. Whalers had celebrated the decision to allow them to resume a traditional custom despite protests from some dozen or two anti-whaling countries, including the United States. They are now frustrated with the government's stance and say they should be allowed to keep hunting to develop the market.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43942/newsDate/27-Aug-2007/story.htm

Norwegian whalers were also having difficulties in filling their quotas see

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44070/newsDate/3-Sep-2007/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44327/story.htm

28. Dutch build towering wind turbines out at sea

There is no shortage of wind in the densely populated Netherlands but there is a shortage of space and in a nation which likes its houses small and its gardens cosy, opposition to wind farms is immense. That is why the 2nd Dutch offshore wind farm is being built (off the coast of IJmuiden) further out to sea to make it less visible than the 1st one (built off the coast of Egmond in 2006). Offshore wind farms are likely to appear more and more frequently off European coastlines as governments seek to increase their use of renewable energy without angering their citizens by placing giant turbines on their doorsteps. The 383 million euro (US\$522.3 million) Q7 wind park development, 23 km (14 miles) from the Dutch North Sea coast, is the farthest offshore wind park anywhere in the world, and its developers Econcert and Eneco Energie say a further five to 10 such wind parks will likely follow in the next few years. Blessed with shallow sandy soils around their coastline, Dutch engineers say the foundations for the turbines can be hammered 25 metres (82 feet) into the ground in just a matter of hours, although there are myriad other challenges. The proportions are breathtaking. The turbines extend about 98 metres (320 feet) from the ocean, with three sharp narrow blades, each 40 metres (130 feet) long. The turbines are so massive they can only be transported by sea and there is just one factory in Europe which can weld and construct the 4.5-metre-diameter piles, which must be first driven into the sea to form the base of the turbines.

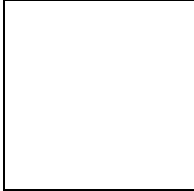
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44116/story.htm

29. Kema studies storage reservoir on North Sea

Consultancy Company KEMA, together with a number of partners, is conducting a feasibility study on a reservoir-like construction on the North Sea. With his construction, the power supply to the Netherlands could be made more efficient and clean. The proposed energy island will consist of a ring dyke with on the inside a forty metres deep basin. When there is a large energy supply, from wind turbines for example, water is to be pumped out of the lake. When there is a large demand, incoming seawater can power electricity through turbines to be transported by cable to the mainland. The island is an initiative of KEMA and Bureau Lievense, which was already developing ideas on storage basins in the 1980's to counter the unstableness of durable energy sources. In a first study, presented on July 5, the island is ascribed a

power supply of 1500 megawatt during twelve hours, comparable with an electricity plant. The reservoir would not only be able to make more wind power available into the Dutch energy supply, but also make conventional power plants more efficient because they would not have to be turned of at night anymore. In the peak hours it will require about one power station less. The island of 10 to 6 kilometres, 25 kilometres from the coast, is estimated to require 2,5 billion euro. About 1,8 billion is for the energy storage itself. It will deliver in forty years a saving of one and half billion euro on new to built power plants. Except for energy storage and power production from wind turbines on its dykes, the island could according to the designers also have a recreational function and one perhaps as LNG-terminal. It might also offer possibilities for fish farming.

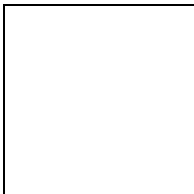
It might look like this:



www.volkskrant.nl/wetenschap/article442137.ece/KEMA_bestudeert_stuwmeer_op_Noordzee (Dutch)
www.kema.com/corporate/company_profile/
<http://lievense.magproductions.nl/ariadne/loader.php/-xnVr-/sites/lievense/news/?nls=en>

30. First platform with bird-friendly illumination.

The Nederlandse Aardolie Maatschappij (NAM) and Philips have developed a new type of lightning. The lamps radiate a limited part of the colour spectre. Thanks to the unique colour birds will be less distracted during their trek along the North Sea by illumination from offshore platforms. A first NAM platform – L15 in the Dutch part of the North Sea - has been equipped with the new lights in a pilot project. The first results are very positive. Sixty million birds make their trek over the North Sea annually. Most of them make it to their destination. It's only through an extraordinary combination of weather situations that a considerable number of trekking birds become disorientated by and attracted to traditional illumination on oil and gas platforms. They continue to fly around or strike themselves on the platforms for a considerable period, after which they are often to weak to reach the coasts. Chances for meeting this weather conditions are about ten percent. For years the NAM has investigated the problem. This showed that an important part of the solution turns on the colour of the lights that are used offshore. Birds are primarily distracted through the red parts in the colour spectre, and less so by green and blue. Blue light however is less safe for the workers on the platform, for example because they can see less sharp. Lightning without red makes fire sprinklers less recognizable, for instance. With these results NAM and Philips have come together. The development of a new type of light that doesn't distract birds and provides for save working conditions at the same time was the goal of this joint initiative. The L15 platform, just off the Dutch coast near Vlieland, is the first platform in the world that is equipped with this type of Philips lights. Practically all outside illumination – 380 lamps in all – is replaced with a mix of new special TL and HID-lamps (36W TLD and 400W HPI-lamps). The result:



http://vroegevogels.vara.nl/portal?_scr=news_newsitem1&id=328756 (Dutch)

31. Whale 'success story' in Pacific questioned

A whale conservation success story, the recovery of the eastern Pacific gray whale, may not be quite what it seems. Since the end of commercial whaling, numbers rose to about 20,000, thought to be the level they had been at before hunting began. But a new study using genetic methods, reported in the journal PNAS, suggests pre-hunting numbers were much higher. The scientists say climate change may be altering the whales' supply of food significantly. Earlier this year, researchers noted signs that grays were showing distinct signs of malnutrition when they arrived at their winter breeding grounds along Mexico's Baja peninsula. They raised the idea that this might be connected with climate change. But the prevalent theory was that numbers had risen beyond the maximum level, which the ecosystem could support. The new research challenges that idea. The western Pacific stock, which lives along the eastern coast of Russia, is now close to extinction once more. Numbers may be as low as 120; development of oil and gas installation and entanglement in fishing nets are the principal threats. The eastern Pacific gray has supposedly seen rude health. It was taken off the US endangered species list in 1994, with numbers each year hovering about 20-25,000, which historical records from the whaling industry and computer models of population indicated was around the historical level. The new genetic analysis, which Liz Alter's group has published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), challenges this view. By looking at variation in the animals' DNA, the team concludes there were once 76,000-118,000 grays in the Pacific. This indicates

that the population of the eastern gray today is well below the historical level. Confirmation could have implications for traditional, or subsistence, whaling.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6988339.stm>

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44268/newsDate/12-Sep-2007/story.htm

The original item of April 30 2007, see also CN 2007-3, item 28.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6599805.stm>

32. Many of Earth's "vital signs" in bad shape – report

More wood was removed from forests in 2005 than ever before, one of many troubling environmental signs highlighted on September 13 in the World watch Institute's annual check of the planet's health. The Washington-based think tank's "Vital Signs 2007-2008" report points to global patterns ranging from rising meat consumption to Asian economic growth it says are linked to the broader problem of climate change.

The key message of the report was that unsustainable consumption patterns were responsible for climate change linked to carbon emissions and other ecological woes. Of the 44 trends tracked by the report, 28 were "pronouncedly bad" and only six were positive. One of the points highlighted in the report include:

- The rise in global seafood consumption comes as many fish species become scarcer. In 2004, people ate 156 million tonnes of seafood, the equivalent of three times as much seafood per person than in 1950.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44326/story.htm

www.worldwatch.org/

33. Yangtze dolphin and Hammerhead sharks at risk - red list

Highlights of a 2007 "Red List" of endangered species of animals and plants issued by the World Conservation Union on September 12. The Union, which comprises governments, conservation groups and scientists, said that 16,306 species are threatened in a mounting global "extinction crisis", up from 16,119 in 2006. Concerning sea creatures and cetaceans:

YANGTZE RIVER DOLPHIN OR BAIJI. Moved to Endangered/Possibly Extinct from Critically Endangered in 2006. The last firm sighting of the baiji, a type of dolphin unique to China's Yangtze River was in 2002.

The baiji have been killed by entanglement in fishing gear, boat propellers, dam construction, silting up of the river and pollution.

GREAT HAMMERHEAD SHARK. Endangered, previously insufficient data. The sharks' fins are prized as a delicacy, hammerheads also suffer from getting entangled in nets and only breed once every two years. Numbers in the eastern Atlantic may have crashed by 80 percent in the last 25 years.

CORALS/SEAWEEDES. Three corals from the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific are entering the Red List for the first time - the first corals on the list and threatened by climate change and the sea warming effect known as El Nino. Also, 74 Galapagos seaweeds have been added in 2007.

BANGGAI CARDINALFISH. Endangered, entering the list for the first time. The Indonesian fish, with zebra-like stripes, are prized by the aquarium industry with 900,000 caught every year.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44292/newsDate/13-Sep-2007/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6990095.stm>

www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/redlist2007/index_redlist2007.htm

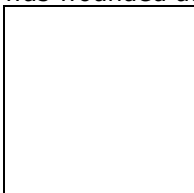
34. Call to protect shark-filled Coral Sea

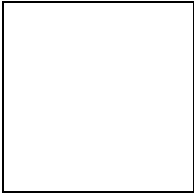
Conservationists are urging the Australian government to protect the Coral Sea, one of its last tropical marine wildernesses. The sea was recently declared a "predator diversity hotspot" because of its abundant shark populations. Campaigners fear the region could be targeted by illegal shark fishermen as well as oil and gas prospectors. The Coral Sea comprises 780,000sq km, and borders the Great Barrier Reef off of Australia's east coast. Environmental groups have described the Coral Sea as a stunning blue water highway full of oceanic predators. The area is a haven for hammerhead (in grave danger, see above) and white-tipped sharks, as well as manta rays.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6998121.stm>

35. Deadly consequences of screws

This heavily wounded whale washed ashore on Assini Maffia Beach in Ivory Coast on August 26 . De whale was wounded at his backside and mouth after being hit by a ship's screw. He died the day after.





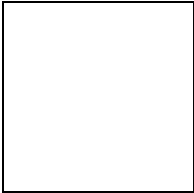
www.zeezoogdieren.org/content.php?start_from=24&ucat=&archive=&subaction=&id=& (Dutch)

36. Real life sea monsters – 24 bizarre creatures of the deep

The sea contains untold numbers of strange and bizarre creatures. It is said that we know more about our own solar system than we know about our oceans. Indeed, some creatures of the sea can seem more alien than anything one can imagine. But even worse, some of them can seem more frightening than our worst nightmare.

Here are collected pictures of 24 Creatures from the Deep!

Take just one:



www.who-sucks.com/animals/real-life-sea-monsters-24-bizarre-creatures-of-the-deep

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– AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES –

37. Indian Ocean sees smallest tuna catch in 11 years

Tuna fishermen in the Indian Ocean have landed their smallest catch for 11 years, a report and industry sources said on August 28, with possible explanations ranging from over-fishing to global warming.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/43972/story.htm

38. EU looks at cutting Baltic cod catch by a third

Cod fishermen in the Baltic Sea will have to cut the amount of fish they catch by up to a third in 2007 if the species is to stand a chance of surviving after years of overfishing, the European Commission said on September 3. 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. In the western Baltic, they wanted to reduce cod catches by 50 percent. However, the Commission opted to continue its longer-term strategy of gradually reducing the amount of fish taken from the sea as a proportion of available stock, more periods of closure, and limits on variations in annual catches. Salmon has also become a concern in Baltic waters due to a very low survival rate of young fish, meaning that adult salmon numbers may fall substantially in the next few years. The Commission proposed to cut 2007 salmon catches by 15 percent. Other species were faring a little better, particularly the central Baltic herring stock where the Commission proposed an overall catch increase of 11 percent for next year. Herring populations form a continuous chain extending from the North Sea to the northernmost parts of the Baltic Sea.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44105/story.htm

Polish fishermen staged a protest in their boats on September 17 to demand the lifting of a European Union ban on fishing for cod in the eastern Baltic Sea, see

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44377/newsDate/18-Sep-2007/story.htm

39. EU bans bluefin tuna fishing, has caught 2007 quota

The European Union's executive on September 19 banned bluefin tuna fishing in the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic for the rest of year as EU fishermen had caught the bloc's full 2007 quota of the endangered fish. The European Commission said the ban affected Greece, Malta, Portugal and Spain as Italy and France had already closed their fisheries. The EU quota this year was 16,779 tonnes, it said. Demand for bluefin tuna is high because it is especially popular in sushi and sashimi dishes. Unlike most types of tuna, bluefin grow slowly and mature late, making them more vulnerable to intensive trawling.

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/44413/newsDate/20-Sep-2007/story.htm

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/1355&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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- PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

40. Coastline, Volume 16. No. 2, 2007– Marine Protected Areas

The theme from this edition of Coastline views the development of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's). These have been established to meet a number of goals, including managing fisheries and other human activities in the marine, conserving biodiversity and habitat, increasing scientific knowledge, providing educational opportunities, enhancing recreational activities and supporting fish populations. MPA's can provide social and economic benefits by facilitating the sustainable recreational and commercial use of marine fisheries. Ecologically connected networks of MPA's could amplify the effectiveness and conservation benefits of each individual area in the network.

Attention is focused on the European Marine Strategy, European Regional Seas, the North Atlantic and the High Seas.

EUCC - The Coastal Union, ISSN 0928-2734

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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

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– COLOPHON –

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

Established in 1989, EUCC - The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2750 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POBox 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands
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This publication is supported by the European Union

