



Eucc Coastal News

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Contributions to the next issue: Eucc-members are invited to send their contributions until: 19 March 2008 to: [news at eucc.net](mailto:news@eucc.net) (click, with apologies for anti-spam code).

- CONTENTS -

- CONTENTS -

- EUCC NEWS -

1. Benefits of Inter-Linking Coastal and River Management - A new report
2. Public involvement in the project CAP Nador, a key issue for success
3. So far "Coastal Wiki" biggest ENCORA achievement

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: TRENDS & IMPACTS -

4. Dutch debate building 'tulip' island in North Sea
5. Flood risk faces 150 million in cities by 2070 - OECD
6. 2007 among top 7 warmest years, Arctic melts - WMO
7. Greenland thaw biggest in 50 years - report
8. Seas could rise twice as high as predicted - study
9. Conditions North Pole could be reminiscent of 55 million years ago -study
10. Warning on rising Med Sea levels

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSES -

11. Wind 'could power all UK homes'
12. US U-Turn brings Bali climate deal
13. Launch of the first ever floating wind turbine

- NATURE AND CONSERVATION -

14. 1,000th rare whale shark identified in Mozambique
15. Norway oil spill contained, stirs fears for Arctic
16. Acid seas huge threat to coral reefs - study
17. Development threatens Morocco's wild shoreline
18. Shell seeks to make diesel fuel from algae
19. Japan halting humpback whale hunt
20. EU seeks unified stance on protecting whales
21. Songbird killings in Cyprus rise - conservation group
22. Commission: €30 million for research metrology and Baltic ecosystem
23. Porpoises in Baltic Sea threatened with acute extinction
24. Ferry study of jellyfish 'threat'

- AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES -

25. Sea lice threaten Canada's salmon
26. EU has no idea how much fish it catches - watchdog
27. EU countries strike deal on 2008 fishing quotas
28. France calls for rethink of EU fishing quotas
29. Build up fish stocks now for big money later - study
30. Don't enforce fisheries zone, EU warns Croatia
31. Greece must act to replenish fish stocks - Greenpeace

- PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

32. Globalisation: effects on fisheries resources
33. Coastline Reports 2007-10

- EVENTS & TRAINING: 1ST ANNOUNCEMENTS -

- COLOPHON -

- EUCC NEWS -

1. Benefits of Inter-Linking Coastal and River Management - A new report

The latest in a long line of illustrious publications from EUCC-Germany, the 10th in the series, is a study of the inter-linked management of twenty rivers from around the world. The publication had its origins in UNEP's Global Plan of Action which sought to determine whether trying to manage river systems from source to mouth has led to significant and tangible results. In a study lasting two years, information has been meticulously gathered from river basin experts, in the main working voluntarily, to build up a case book which was put together by EUCC-IS with a grant from, and under the direction of, UNEP-GPA. Following a short introduction, each river system is described with particular attention paid to the problems facing the river. The main section then details what has been done (or otherwise) to manage the twenty rivers as a single system. Problems associated with the integrated coastal area and river basin management (ICARM, as it is called) are then discussed with a section dealing with what is further needed. A final chapter pulls all the material together and the authors make a valiant attempt to group the river systems according to the degree of inter-linked (as opposed to integrated) management. The case studies were originally to be presented to UNEP's Annual Meeting in Beijing in December 2006 but, for reasons unknown, never published. Now, thanks to EUCC-Germany, the information gathered by leading experts around the world is available for all those with an interest in river basin management. There are lessons to be learned and pitfalls to be avoided, particularly relevant in Europe as the Framework Directive comes increasingly into force. The report can be downloaded from http://eucc-d.de/plugins/coastline_reports/coastline_reports.php or a hard copy ordered from EUCC-IS. See also under Publications and Websites, item 46.

2. Public involvement in the project CAP Nador, a key issue for success

The EU funded project Coastal Action Plan Nador (CAP Nador), led by EUCC - The Coastal Union, is presently dealing with a very interesting component for ICZM: public participation. Several activities are being developed in the project area, the coastal zone of the Province of Nador in Morocco. So far, the team have completed 13 interviews with key local stakeholders identified in the stakeholder analysis. These interviews were semi-structured and have allowed identification of the main coastal concerns of different types of stakeholders. It was also the opportunity to involve them in the project, since all of them have shown great interest and willingness to have a role in the ICZM Plan of Action, which is being drafted at the moment. Some interviews in Rabat are still pending. Also, the first focus group meeting was held with the target group of local associations and rural communes, and the second one with teachers and journalists. Due to the complexity of the task, the project team had decided to organize some meetings according to issues instead of target groups. Therefore, a focus group meeting on solid waste will be conducted beginning of February 2008, where administration, services, associations and citizens will discuss ways of solving or mitigating this important problem in the region. Other meetings will address the issue of traditional fisheries in the Lagoon of Nador and other maritime commercial activities e.g. nautical sports, in order to find strategies of reducing conflicts. Agreed at a local hearing in Nador, three different forums are being organized, according to pilot sites. The first meeting of the Boudinar forum took place on 29th December 2007, where 35 local stakeholders participated. It was an opportunity to discuss the current situation in the rural commune, to identify which are the priorities for a sustainable development of the region, and to propose some actions to achieve these goals. This meeting is very important to feed the draft process of the Plan of Action. A second meeting will be in spring where a preliminary Plan of Action will be debated. The first meetings of the other two forums are foreseen for beginning February. A wider update of the project can be found on the project website, together with the project documents that resulted from the previous phase: www.eucc.net/en/capnador/index.htm

3. So far "Coastal Wiki" biggest ENCORA achievement

The project ENCORA, funded under the European 6th Framework programme for research and development, is about to celebrate its second birthday and has one more year to go. ENCORA aims to improve sharing of knowledge and experience within Europe in order to better exploit scientific knowledge in practice and counteract the fragmentation of the coastal community in Europe. It does this by setting up and maintaining national and thematic networks of coastal professionals and running communication services. Mission and methodology obviously resemble those of EUCC - The Coastal Union and therefore cooperation has been increasing. So far, the Coastal Wiki - short for "Coastal and Marine Wikipedia" - seems to be the most popular output of the project. It is an Internet encyclopaedia for coastal professionals providing up-to-date high quality information, which is continuously improved, complemented and updated by expert users registered as ENCORA Participants. This quality control procedure with the help of registered coastal professionals distinguishes it from the Wikipedia. New users are more than welcome to check out the service and if you are interested in becoming an editor of Wiki content, the application procedure is very

easy. For details, visit http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/Main_Page (image below). However, other parts of the ENCORA Coastal Portal (www.encora.eu) might also be of interest to you: there is a database with information on persons, institutes, and projects related to ICZM in Europe, which will soon be linked to the EUCS database of similar contents. An electronic platform, the Forum, for discussions within and between the different ENCORA networks is at your disposal. A search functionality leads you to coastal information contained in linked websites. And a search mechanism facilitates the identification of coastal professionals in ENCORA partner countries who can help you to solve problems or answer questions related to coastal management, policy, or science. The Young Professionals Exchange Programme (YPEP) provides financial support (travel grants) to young professionals for participation in expert events tailored to their needs. And last but not least, the ENCORA electronic monthly newsletter informs about new developments within the ENCORA networks. Presently, ENCORA is focussing efforts on the development of a Coastal and Marine Action Plan, addressing major shortcomings in knowledge and technology that are hampering the implementation of sustainable coastal and marine management.

The screenshot shows the ENCORA Coastal Portal website. The header includes the ENCORA logo and the title 'Coastal portal'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Coastal Wiki, Contact database, Forum, Websearch, Young Professional EP, CoastWeb. A search bar is located on the left side. The main content area features a 'Main Page' section with a welcome message and a 'This weeks featured article' section titled 'Biogeomorphology of aquatic systems'. The article text discusses the interactions between ecology and geomorphology of a system. A diagram (Fig. 6) illustrates how biota act as ecosystem engineers and influence sediment stability and morphology in the intertidal zone. The diagram shows a cross-section of an intertidal sediment shore with various species and their effects on sediment stability and morphology. The diagram is divided into 'Biostabilizers' and 'Biodestabilizers' sections. Biostabilizers include 'Mussel beds' and 'Sea grass beds'. Biodestabilizers include 'Morphoheterothalps' and 'Macrobiofilms - Enterozooids'. The diagram also shows the relationship between 'Waves for: cephalopods, nudibranchs, echinoderms' and 'Mysid?' and 'Myxobol?' and 'Mysid?'. The diagram is labeled with 'Subtidal', 'MLWS', 'MLWN', 'Intertidal sediment shore', 'MHNW', and 'MHWs'.

For more information, contact Florence Bloemkolk, e-mail: florence.bloemkolk@rws.nl.

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: TRENDS & IMPACTS –

4. Dutch debate building 'tulip' island in North Sea

The Netherlands wants to redraw the map of Europe - literally. Dubai has built Palm Island. Now the world leaders in land reclamation are considering an island in the shape of a tulip to fight overcrowding and shield the coastline from the rising sea. Supporters of the scheme say it will give Dutch companies a chance to showcase water management skills that are increasingly in demand due to global warming, but critics say the plan will be prohibitively expensive and harm delicate ecosystems. The Dutch parliament has asked a commission on coastal development to look into the idea of building islands in the North Sea that could be used for housing, farming or a nature reserve, while at the same time helping to protect the coast. A government body set up to promote innovation has drawn up proposals for an island about 50 km long, sparking fierce debate which inspired one *blogger* to joke that a cannabis leaf may be a more suitable shape than the tulip on the formal plans.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45895/story.htm

5. Flood risk faces 150 million in cities by 2070 – OECD

As many as 150 million people in the world's big coastal cities are likely to be at risk from flooding by the 2070s, more than three times as many as now, according to a report released on December 4.

Climate change, population growth and urban development will mean the number at risk will rise from the current 40 million while total property and infrastructure exposure is forecast to rise to \$35 trillion - 9 percent of projected global GDP. The report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, put together by disaster modelling firm Risk Management Solutions and leading scientists, is the first part of the largest ever study on urban coastal flood exposure. The report analysed the vulnerability now and in the future of 130 port cities to a major flood, on a scale likely to occur once in 100 years. Miami in Florida will remain the city with the highest value of property and infrastructure assets exposed to coastal flooding caused by storm surge and damage from high winds, the report said. The city has exposed assets of \$400 billion today. Those are projected to rise in value to over \$3.5 trillion by 2070. But with rapid economic development in Asia, Guangzhou in China will be the second most exposed city in terms of assets in 2070, followed by New York, Kolkata (Calcutta), Shanghai, Mumbai, Tianjin, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Bangkok, the report said.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45767/newsDate/5-Dec-2007/story.htm

www.oecd.org/document/34/0,3343,en_2649_201185_39727650_1_1_1_1,00.html

www.oecd.org/dataoecd/16/58/39720578.pdf (the report)

6. 2007 among top 7 warmest years, Arctic melts – WMO

The year 2007 is among the seven warmest on record, with extreme events including a precipitous thaw of Arctic sea ice, UN data showed on December 13 on the sidelines of the UN climate conference on Bali. The study also revealed that 1998-2007 was the hottest decade since reliable records began around 1850, in further evidence of what the UN Climate Panel calls "unequivocal" warming in recent decades, though researchers said that it was not yet possible to rank 2007 exactly. Among extremes, it is noted that the Arctic ice shrank at the end of the northern summer to the smallest since satellite records began in the 1970s. Signs of extreme weather this year include a cyclone in Bangladesh that killed 3,000 people in November, droughts in Australia and China, and floods in Bolivia. England had its wettest summer since records began in 1766. That surface temperatures in the northern hemisphere were likely to be the second warmest on record in 2007 while temperatures in the southern hemisphere ranked ninth on record.

World temperatures are about 0.74 Celsius (1.2 F) higher than a century ago. "The difference between an Ice Age and an interglacial period like now is 6 Celsius (11 F)" it was noted.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46014/story.htm

www.wmo.ch/pages/index_en.html

The UK Met Office has stated all 11 hottest years were in last 13, see

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46011/story.htm

Oceanographers at the University of Washington also note accelerated climate change in recent years, see www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46024/story.htm

7. Greenland thaw biggest in 50 years - report

Climate change has caused the greatest thaw of Greenland's ice in half a century, perhaps heralding a wider meltdown that would quicken a rise in world sea levels, scientists said on January 15. Melt water from Greenland - excluding ice losses from glaciers slipping into the sea - totalled 453 cubic kms (110 cubic miles) in 1998, the most ahead of 2003, 2006, 1995 and 2002 in detailed records stretching back to the 1950s. Preliminary data showed that 2007 would rank second or third highest and confirm the last decade as the biggest melt, said Edward Hanna of England's University of Sheffield who led the study with colleagues in Belgium, the United States and Denmark. So far, the water runoff has been largely offset by rising snowfalls in Greenland that may also be a side effect of climate change. Even freezing air can hold more moisture, and so deliver more snow, if it gets slightly less chilly. But continued warming could threaten an irreversible meltdown. The report noted that typical climate models pointed to a warming for Greenland of 4-5 degrees Celsius (7.2 to 9 Fahrenheit) by 2100. The ice probably wouldn't grow back under current conditions, Hanna said. "If you have an extra 3-5 degrees Celsius warming ... then you can reach a point of no return ... bringing the eventual demise of the ice sheet. That could take probably 1,000 or 2,000 years," he said. Hanna said that there was also a warm period around 1940 in Greenland - but that warming was triggered by natural variations in the Arctic climate, perhaps shifts in ocean currents. This time, the Greenland warming fits a far broader trend across the planet.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46441/newsDate/16-Jan-2008/story.htm

8. Seas could rise twice as high as predicted – study

The world's sea levels could rise twice as high this century as UN climate scientists have predicted, according to researchers who looked at what happened more than 100,000 years ago, the last time Earth got this hot. Experts working on the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have suggested a maximum 21st century sea level rise - a key effect of global climate change - of about 32 inches (0.8 metres). But researchers said in a study appearing on December 16 in the journal *Nature Geoscience* that the maximum could be twice that, or 64 inches (1.6 metres). They made the estimate by looking at the so-called interglacial period, some 124,000 to 119,000 years ago, when Earth's climate was warmer than it is now due to a different configuration of the planet's orbit around the sun. That was

the last time sea levels reached up to 20 feet (6 metres) above where they are now, fuelled by the melting of the ice sheets that cover Greenland and Antarctica.

The researchers say their study is the first robust documentation of how quickly sea levels rose to that level. Rohling and his colleagues found an average sea level rise of 64 inches (1.6 metres) each century during the interglacial period. Back then, Greenland was 5.4 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit (3 to 5 degrees Centigrade) warmer than now - which is similar to the warming period expected in the next 50 to 100 years, Rohling said. Current models of ice sheet activity do not predict rates of change this large, but they do not include many of the dynamic processes already being observed by glaciologists, the statement said.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46052/newsDate/17-Dec-2007/story.htm

www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/ngeo.2007.28.html (abstract)

9. Conditions North Pole could be reminiscent of 55 million years ago –study

Researchers from the Dutch NIOZ institute have published their findings regarding increased CO₂ and methane emissions in Nature on December 20. A natural chain reaction was the cause of the rapid increase in the CO₂ concentration in the Earth's atmosphere 55 million years ago. It is the first time this chain reaction has been shown in a fossil greenhouse disaster. This climate change can be regarded as a model for the current warming. From new research develop to fossils found in New Jersey it emerges that 55 million years ago a large part of CO₂ was thrown into the atmosphere through a chain reaction. Intense volcanic activity increased CO₂-concentration and led to warming. As a result methane-hydrates at the sea bottom melted, a kind of ice with large amounts of methane. This strengthens the warming further, resulting in a 6° C increase globally. The current burning of fossil fuels will in *the future probably* also lead to the melting of methane-hydrates by the same chain reaction. According to the researchers this will mean that all current models for global warming are dated with the knowledge of this mechanism of CO₂-methane chain reaction. The researchers paint a picture of a 'greenhouse world' with crocodiles and palm trees on the North Pole – as it was 55 million years ago.

www.nature.com/nature/journal/v450/n7173/full/nature06400.html (abstract, article not free)

www.nioz.nl/nioz_nl/b4f542429bd9a206cb576cecc03d9f50.php#b191207nl (only in Dutch)

10. Warning on rising Med Sea levels

The level of the Mediterranean Sea is rising rapidly and could increase by up to half a metre in the next 50 years, scientists in Spain have warned. A study by the Spanish Oceanographic Institute says levels have been rising since the 1970s with the rate of increase growing in recent years. It says even a small rise could have serious consequences in coastal areas. The study noted that the findings were consistent with other investigations into the effects of climate change. The study, entitled Climate Change in the Spanish Mediterranean, said the sea had risen "between 2.5mm and 10mm (0.1 and 0.4in) per year since the 1990s". If the trend continued it would have "very serious consequences" in low-lying coastal areas even in the case of a small rise, and "catastrophic consequences" if a half-metre increase occurred, the study warned.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7197379.stm>

www.ieo.es/inicial.htm (Oceanographic Institute, Spanish only)

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSES -

11. Wind 'could power all UK homes'

The aim is for 20% of EU energy to come from renewables by 2020.

Offshore wind farms could power all UK homes by 2020 as part of the fight against climate change, under plans unveiled by John Hutton. Up to 7,000 turbines could be installed to boost wind produced energy 60-fold by 2020. The business secretary admitted it would change Britain's coastline, and mean higher electricity bills. Mr Hutton said there would have to be a switch to low-carbon energy production to combat the threat of climate change. Currently just 2% of Britain's power comes from renewable sources, and wind is the source for around 2.2 gigawatts. The government hopes that it could provide around 33 gigawatts by 2020, which would mean introducing some 7,000 turbines.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/7135930.stm

The highly ambitious plan has already drawn wide scepticism, see for example

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45949/newsDate/12-Dec-2007/story.htm

12. US U-Turn brings Bali climate deal

Nearly 200 nations agreed at UN-led talks in Bali on 15 December to launch negotiations on a new pact to fight global warming after a last-minute reversal by the United States allowed a breakthrough. Washington said the agreement marked a new chapter in climate diplomacy after six years of disputes with major allies since President George W. Bush pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol, the main existing plan for combating warming. But despite its dramatic turnaround in the meeting, which approved a "roadmap" for two years of negotiations to adopt a new treaty to succeed Kyoto beyond 2012, the White House said it still had "serious concerns" about the way forward. The roadmap widens Kyoto to the United States and developing nations such as China and India. Under the deal, a successor pact will be agreed at a meeting in Copenhagen in late 2009. The deal after two weeks of talks came when the United States dramatically dropped opposition to a proposal by the main developing-nation bloc, the G77, for rich nations to do more to help the developing world fight rising greenhouse emissions. But the White House voiced reservations about future talks. The European Union, which dropped earlier objections to the draft text, was pleased with the deal. Environmentalists and climatologists have however pointed out that it is still The European Union, which dropped earlier objections to the draft text, was pleased with the deal.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46056/newsDate/17-Dec-2007/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46038/newsDate/17-Dec-2007/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46057/newsDate/17-Dec-2007/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46061/newsDate/17-Dec-2007/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7145776.stm>

13. Launch of the first ever floating wind turbine

Dutch wind energy company Blue H Technologies BV launched the first ever large scale prototype Submerged Deepwater Platform (SDP) which will be soon anchored in 108 meters waters at a distance of 10.6 nautical miles from the coast in Southern Italy. The company calls it 'a revolutionary world premiere in the offshore wind energy sector.' Blue H Technologies has used technology developed in the offshore oil industry.

www.bluehgroup.com/company-newsandpress-0712062.php

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- NATURE AND CONSERVATION -

14. 1,000th rare whale shark identified in Mozambique

The 1,000th whale shark, a rare and threatened species, has been discovered by researchers using a global programme in which eco-tourists and scientists identify new sharks and lodge photographs on an online library. The whale shark is the world's largest fish, a slow-moving filter feeder that can grow to around 12 metres (40 feet) and weigh up to 21 tonnes. But it is difficult to study, remaining in deep ocean for months and only rarely rising towards the surface. ECOCEAN tracks individual whale sharks around the world's oceans using a Web-based photo-ID library (www.whaleshark.org), which catalogues each whale's unique spots. Researchers and eco-tourists submit images, which are logged to reveal a picture of whale shark movements and behaviour.

The 1,000th whale shark, a 6.5-metre (19-foot) male, was recently reported by marine biologist Simon Piercea in Mozambique. Piercea has contributed more than 100 sharks from his three-year study in Mozambique. Participation in the ECOCEAN library has increased dramatically in recent years. It took three years to identify the 500th shark but only one additional year to reach 1,000.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45627/story.htm

15. Norway oil spill contained, stirs fears for Arctic

Favourable winds were set to keep an oil slick 10 km long and 5 km wide from reaching the Norwegian shore although rough seas hampered a clean-up operation, energy group StatoilHydro said on December 13. The accident has stirred debate about the risks of opening up new areas of Norwegian waters for oil and gas exploration, especially in the Arctic, where spills would have bigger impact. Norway's second biggest ever spill of some 25,000 barrels of oil occurred on December 12 during loading onto a tanker at StatoilHydro's Statfjord field. The spillage is about a tenth of the 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker disaster off Alaska. StatoilHydro said observations from aircraft showed that the oil slick was "thin". The energy company said its calculations suggested the slick would dissolve at sea. Environmentalists said the spill was a warning against exploration in the far north Norwegian and Barents Seas, where frigid waters and harsh Arctic conditions would make any spill harder to naturally dissolve or to clean up. Norway is considering opening up wide swathes of its Arctic waters for oil activity after 2009. Exploration in such

places is key for Norway to sustain its oil production boom as output from mature North Sea fields declines, according to the oil industry lobby, which has pushed for more acreage.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46027/story.htm
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7140645.stm>

16. Acid seas huge threat to coral reefs – study

In less than 50 years, oceans may be too acidic for coral reefs to grow because of carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels by humans, according to research released on December 13. The study is published in the December 14 issue of the journal *Science*. Coral reefs are important nurseries and shelters for fish and other sea life. They are also considered valuable protection for coastlines from high seas. Reefs are a critical source of food for millions of people and are important for tourism from Australia to the islands of the Caribbean and the Florida Keys.

They produce US\$375 billion a year in economic value worldwide, according to The Nature Conservancy environmental group, and are considered a storehouse of potential 21st century medicines for cancer and other diseases.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46002/story.htm
www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/318/5857/1737 (abstract, article not free)

17. Development threatens Morocco's wild shoreline

Ecologists say a tragedy is unfolding in north Africa where construction firms are moving in on some of the last unspoilt stretches of Mediterranean coastline in the search for profits. With Spain trying to preserve what remains undeveloped on its built-up shoreline, Morocco has stepped forward as a willing host for large-scale tourism development as it seeks to narrow the north-south wealth divide and lift millions out of poverty. The cost, say environment campaigners, will be irreparable damage to the Mediterranean's wilder southern shores where urban and industrial expansion, rampant pollution and illegal sand extraction are already taking their toll. Morocco wants to attract millions of extra tourists to a chain of seaside resorts being built by Spanish, Belgian and Dutch consortia and US groups Kerzner and Colony Capital. The first is under way in Saidia on Morocco's eastern edge, where Spain's Fadesa is turning a low-lying area of forests and dunes into 7 million square metres of shops, golf courses, hotels with 17,000 beds and 3,100 villas and flats. At the development last month, machines lumbered over a landscape of earthworks, workers' shacks and the tattered remains of what campaigners say were Morocco's only juniper forest. Seven out of 47 of Morocco's Mediterranean beaches have disappeared in recent years, the European Environment Agency (EEA) said in a report last year. In Algeria, of between 250 and 300 km (160 and 190 miles) of sandy beaches, 85 percent were retreating and losing sand. In valleys throughout the Maghreb, new dams for irrigation are trapping sediment that once washed down to coastal areas to bolster important wildlife habitats. Wildlife groups said Fadesa was given carte blanche to destroy the dunes that protected Saidia's hinterland from the sea and flatten all but a small patch of forest. Some observers say Morocco made a mistake in allowing Fadesa to build close to the Moulouya wetland, the country's most important reserve for more than 200 species of birds, and fear the worst, given plans for up to a million visitors every year. Saidia's unique habitat drew life from water seeping through the sand and collecting in marshy areas. Fadesa has built channels and barriers to drain water away from the buildings. Without the wetland, a vital stepping-stone for hundreds of millions of migrating birds would be removed.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45972/newsDate/13-Dec-2007/story.htm
http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2006_4/en/medsea_4_2006.pdf (2006 EEA Report)

18. Shell seeks to make diesel fuel from algae

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is to fund a project that aims to produce transport fuel from algae, as bio fuel production from palm oil and crops are increasingly criticised for causing deforestation and higher food prices. Oil major Shell said on December 12 it would build a pilot facility in Hawaii to grow marine algae from which it would extract vegetable oil that would be converted into a form of diesel for use in trucks and cars. The Anglo-Dutch company said the research plant, which is being built with Hawaii-headquartered HR Biopetroleum Inc, would only use non-genetically modified algae. Scientists are excited about algae as a feedstock because they overcome the key shortcomings associated with the current generation of bio fuels such as ethanol. Palm oil or sugar cane plantations, cornfields and other feedstocks require land that would otherwise be used for food crops or left as forest. However, algae grow rapidly, at any time of year, are rich in vegetable oil and can be cultivated in waste or seawater.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45937/newsDate/12-Dec-2007/story.htm

19. Japan halting humpback whale hunt

However, Japan has apparently agreed not to kill humpback whales during its current Antarctic hunt, the US ambassador to Tokyo said on December 19, a move that could help ease criticism of its controversial whaling programme. Japan's whaling fleet set sail last month with plans to catch more than 1,000 whales, including 50 humpbacks, which are popular among whale-watchers for their distinctive silhouettes and acrobatic leaps, before returning to port later this year.

Humpbacks were hunted to near extinction until the International Whaling Commission ordered their protection in 1966 and the planned hunt had sparked a loud outcry from activists. "I think we had an agreement ... between the United States and Japan that humpback whales would not be harvested, I think, until maybe the International Whaling Conference in June," US ambassador to Japan Thomas Schieffer told a small group of reporters. Because of migration patterns, the delay would mean it would be "a while before they are at risk again", Schieffer added. Australia announced that it would send a fisheries patrol ship to shadow Japan's whaling fleet near Antarctica and gather evidence for a possible international court challenge to halt the yearly hunt (see above). Separately, Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd Conservation Society both sent a ship on to try to stop the Japanese fleet hunting whales.

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46124/newsDate/20-Dec-2007/story.htm

Update: And it was official; the mission to hunt humpback whales in the Antarctic has been temporarily abandoned. Nobutaka Machimura, a government official, said the humpback hunt would not go ahead - although the fleet will still hunt about 1,000 other whales in the area. This year's Antarctic expedition was particularly controversial because, in addition to 935 minke whales and 50 fin whales, the fleet intended to kill up to 50 humpbacks. It was the first time Japan had targeted the humpbacks since a moratorium was introduced in the mid-1960s - when the species had been hunted almost to extinction. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7155255.stm>

20. EU seeks unified stance on protecting whales

The European Union's executive adopted proposals on December 20 to help the 27-nation bloc speak with one voice when it comes to protecting whales. The species is already safeguarded in European waters but not in all international waters. "One cause of this situation is the absence of a unified European Union position at the International Whaling Commission, which weakens the EU action and deprives it of possible leverage," the European Commission said in a statement.

It said the proposals would enable the bloc's 27 member states to agree a common stance ahead of IWC meetings - the next one is in June 2008. A common position would be based on support for the current moratorium on commercial whaling, the setting up of whale sanctuaries and encouraging the use of non-lethal methods to collect scientific data. EU neighbours Norway and Iceland are the only nations to allow "commercial" whale hunts despite a two-decade moratorium on whaling by the International Whaling Commission. By the end of August Norwegian whalers caught just over half their annual quota of 1,052 minke whales. Japan catches hundreds of minke whales but says this is for scientific purposes.

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46148/story.htm

21. Songbird killings in Cyprus rise - conservation group

Up to half a million migrating songbirds, mainly warblers and robins, were killed in Cyprus this year to end up pickled or fried as an illegal restaurant delicacy, a conservation group said on December 20. Wildlife groups have long campaigned against trapping of the tiny birds on the east Mediterranean island. The practice is banned but conservation group BirdLife Cyprus estimates some 500,000 birds were trapped this year. Warblers and robins are the main targets, and the birds end up as a dish called "ampelopoulia." They are served pickled or fried in restaurants usually for three Cyprus pounds (US\$7.3) each, the group said. Trappers use fine mist nets in thickets of vegetation along the island's southeast coast to snare birds.

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46147/story.htm

www.birdlifecyprus.org/

22. Commission: €30 million for research metrology and Baltic ecosystem

The European Commission announced on January 4 2008 that it will contribute 30 € million to two new and important joint programming activities involving a substantial number of Member States (MS). These activities will ultimately result in a considerable number of MS organising joint calls in the areas of metrology and the Baltic Sea. These actions, known as ERA-NET Plus and developed under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), will help to structure the European Research Area and enhance the scale of Europe's common research efforts. iMERA-Plus, bringing together 32 national metrology institutions, will receive €21m from FP7, with Member States contributing a further €42 to carry out research into precise and reliable measurements. The European Commission will also allocate €9 million to BONUS+, a research programme to develop an ecosystem-based approach to management of the Baltic Sea, which will involve 8 Member States that border the Baltic, and Russia. The countries concerned will contribute a further €18.7 million.

[www.euramis.net/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/9&format=HTML&aged=0&language=E](http://www.euramis.net/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/9&format=HTML&aged=0&language=E&N&guiLanguage=en)
[N&guiLanguage=en](http://www.euramis.net/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/9&format=HTML&aged=0&language=E)

23. Porpoises in Baltic Sea threatened with acute extinction

The German Society for the Protection of Sea Mammals in Kiel reported this on January 7, 2008. Despite the many prescriptions for protecting the animals more than hundred dead porpoises drifted ashore in 2007, twice as many as in 2006. The Society, Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäuger in German, blames this on the porpoises becoming trapped and drowning in fishnets.

[http://vroegevogels.vara.nl/nieuws-item.167.0.html?&tx_ttnews\[pS\]=1199798747&tx_ttnews\[pointer\]=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=344538&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=123&cHash=d7bf237616](http://vroegevogels.vara.nl/nieuws-item.167.0.html?&tx_ttnews[pS]=1199798747&tx_ttnews[pointer]=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=344538&tx_ttnews[backPid]=123&cHash=d7bf237616) (Dutch)
www.refdag.nl/artikel/1328403/Bruinvis+acuu+met+uitsterven+bedreigdquot.html (Dutch)
www.cetacea.de/orgs/gsm.htm (The Gesellschaft)
www.cetacea.de/news/2008/01/07/sos-fur-schweinswale/ (The message – German only)

24. Ferry study of jellyfish 'threat'

Scientists have posted jellyfish spotters on Irish Sea ferries to study a breed with a painful sting, which could swarm along the Welsh coastline. The small purple jellyfish recently wiped out £1m worth of salmon at fish farms in Northern Ireland. Known as pelagic noctiluca, they have a wasp-like sting and glow in the dark. Jellyfish were until recently thought to be relatively harmless, save the itching after being struck, but they are now seen as a much bigger possible ecological threat.



http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7195823.stm

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES -

25. Sea lice threaten Canada's salmon

Lice harboured by farmed fish are killing wild salmon on Canada's west coast, new work has confirmed. The study shows serious declines in fish populations, which could lead to the total collapse of runs in those rivers in less than a decade. Salmon lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*) are natural parasites of fish in Canadian waters. They usually infect adult salmon, which can tolerate mild infestations well. The trouble begins when naturally infected spawn young juveniles swim up the sea, swimming past nets full of heavily infected farmed salmon on their way which dramatically increase their chance of picking up more lice. The infection can have disastrous consequences on the young fish. Fisheries ecologist Martin Krkošek at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and his colleagues looked at estimates of the number of salmon returning to each of 71 rivers along the central coast of British Columbia from 1970 to 2006, and found that before the louse infestations began in 2001 the populations were stable. Fish from seven of those rivers had to swim by at least one fish farm. Once the infestation took hold, those populations began to decline, even though they had been closed to commercial fishing. In 2002, most of the young pink salmon that had swum past farm pens on their seaward journey failed to return: fisheries managers expected 3.6 million fish, but counted only 147,000. Runs of pink salmon in the rest of British Columbia were healthy that year. In 2003, fisheries managers had emptied their farm nets before the smolts left their natal streams, to prevent lice transmission. This seemed to work. Fewer juveniles picked up lice and Krkošek calculated that deaths from lice fell to 1/3 the rate seen the year before. But the farm fish are back in their pens now; there are at present no plans to remove the fish again. At the current rate of decline, the runs in these rivers will drop to less than 1% of their natural levels in four generations, or eight years, the team reports in Science.

www.nature.com/news/2007/071213/full/news.2007.377.html

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/318/5857/1772 (abstract, article not free)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7142053.stm>

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46045/newsDate/17-Dec-2007/story.htm

26. EU has no idea how much fish it catches – watchdog

The European Union has no real idea of how many fish its national fleets catch each year and is failing to clamp down hard on vessels that exceed national quotas, the EU financial watchdog said on December 4. The Court of Auditors said unreliable data on catches, weak inspections with no proper deterrent, as well as general fleet overcapacity were threatening fish stocks. For many species including cod, stocks had been hard hit by years of heavy exploitation. Catch data are neither complete nor reliable and the real level of catches is thus unknown," an ECA report said.

It criticised EU governments and the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, for not doing enough to enforce the rules and stop the overfishing - a phenomenon that international scientists have warned the EU about for years.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45743/newsDate/5-Dec-2007/story.htm

27. EU countries strike deal on 2008 fishing quotas

EU countries struck a deal for 2008 catch quotas on December 19, watering down the European fisheries chief's proposals for the preservation of species whose stocks are floundering at precariously low levels. After hours of haggling through the night, the bloc's 27 fisheries ministers accepted a series of concessions offered by the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. As ever cod occupied top place on the ministerial agenda and quotas will be set 18 percent lower than 2007 in most trawling areas, apart from the North Sea where scientists had indicated a slight improvement in fish numbers. The Commission had wanted a cut of 25 percent in most cod quotas for 2008. The cod quota for the North Sea was raised by 11 percent, to the dismay of conservation groups that had attacked the idea of an increase while the species' recovery still seemed precarious. The Commission has justified the rise by saying recovery is still possible if there are fewer cod fished as a by-catch with other species, less young cod scooped up but then thrown back into the sea, called discards, and fewer fishing days at sea. Scientists have said for years cod was so seriously overfished in European Union waters that there was a risk of extinction due to stock collapse. In October, they called for the EU to set the 2008 catch at less than half of 2006 levels.

For anchovy, also of prime interest for Spain and Portugal, no fishing will be allowed in the key Bay of Biscay waters until the end of spring 2008 when scientists will make an assessment.

www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46125/newsDate/20-Dec-2007/story.htm

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/7151243.stm

The European Commission earlier recommended cod cuts up to 25%, see

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45597/newsDate/29-Nov-2007/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45574/newsDate/28-Nov-2007/story.htm

28. France calls for rethink of EU fishing quotas

France will use its presidency of the European Union later this year to call for a rethink of the trade bloc's system of fishing quotas, President Nicolas Sarkozy said on January 19. The annual quotas are designed to prevent stocks of species like cod collapsing due to overfishing, but trawlermen complain the controls and high fuel costs lead to increasing hardship. "France will hold the presidency of the European Union from July 1 to December 31 and this is an opportunity to put quotas behind us," Sarkozy told 200-300 fishermen in northern France. "We need a much more flexible solution than quotas, regardless of the species and location involved," he said. "It is not scientists versus fishermen. Fishing is global and fishermen are the first to defend their resource."

In November, Sarkozy clashed with fishermen in a heated dockside exchange at a fishing port in western France, but turned jeers to applause with an offer of emergency aid. France last week finalised a package of 310 million euros in aid to help the industry deal with high fuel prices. Fishermen however blocked the cross-Channel ferry ports of Calais and Boulogne-sur-Mer for several hours on Tuesday. Sarkozy said he wanted "a very detailed and strong discussion with the Commission on the question of quotas," starting as early as the end of January.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46508/newsDate/21-Jan-2008/story.htm

29. Build up fish stocks now for big money later – study

Commercial fishers should cut back on their catch and allow fish stocks to grow above the levels most governments currently advise if they want to boost long-term profits, economists reported on December 6. Such a strategy would sustain fish populations and save fuel while opening the way to big profits in the future, the researchers reported in the journal *Science*. And the more depleted a fishery has become, the better the results when stocks are built up to what the researchers call the biomass maximum economic yield. That might be 10 to 20 percent over what fisheries managers now aim for, which is the level at which fish populations can be sustained. Co-author Quentin Grafton of the Australian National University condensed the results to five words: bigger stocks mean bigger bucks. To illustrate how this could work, an extreme example: Imagine there is only one tuna left in the entire Pacific Ocean, a body of water that covers about one-third of the Earth's surface. The cost of catching that tuna would be hundreds of millions of dollars, because finding it would be nearly impossible. But if there were hundreds of millions of tuna in the Pacific, the cost of catching them would be much lower, because fishers wouldn't have to travel as far or look as hard. With this lower cost, profits would rise. This system would counter a persistent cause of over-fishing: industry's opposition to lower catches. To build up the fish populations to the higher level, governments would have to persuade fishers to limit but not eliminate their catch. This could be done by subsidizing fishers during the lean period and taxing them after fish stocks are rebuilt.

To keep fish stocks profitably high, enforceable catch limits would be essential.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45821/newsDate/7-Dec-2007/story.htm

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/318/5856/1601?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=Quentin+Grafton&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT (abstract, article not free)

A similar plea for catch restraint and against increased quota's, see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7144337.stm>

30. Don't enforce fisheries zone, EU warns Croatia

The European Commission warned Croatia, early December, that enforcing a protected fishing zone in the Adriatic in breach of an accord with European Union members Slovenia and Italy could harm its chances of joining the bloc. Croatia hopes to join the EU in 2010. It is due to apply the zone from early 2008 to preserve fish stocks and limit pollution. Unless parliament decides to scrap or delay the fishing zone, Prime Minister Ivo Sanader, set to form a new coalition government after elections last November, may have to resolve the dispute via intense diplomacy with Italy and Slovenia. Experts say the zone's impact would be largely political as Croatia lacks the resources to patrol or enforce it.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/45782/newsDate/6-Dec-2007/story.htm

Croatia let the rules come in to force on January 1, but it was unclear what this would mean

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46215/newsDate/31-Dec-2007/story.htm

EU-President: Croatia Must Solve Fishing Zone Soon

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46269/newsDate/7-Jan-2008/story.htm

31. Greece must act to replenish fish stocks – Greenpeace

Greece should immediately set up marine reserves to replenish depleted fish stocks due to overfishing or face a collapse of the industry, Greenpeace said on December 20. The environmental group's call, which came as the EU announced lower-than-expected cuts for 2008 catch quotas, said stocks in the Aegean and Ionian seas had fallen dramatically in recent years. Greece has among the largest fishing fleets in the EU by numbers with 18,040 registered vessels in 2006, some 2,500 fewer boats than in 1998. Most of the fleet is small, coastal fishing vessels. In 2006 Greeks fished about 90,000 tonnes, about half the amount compared to 1994, mainly due to depleted stocks. The fish were also on average smaller in size. More than a decade of heavy fishing by big trawlers and lack of a national strategy have led to the decline, marked by dips of bluefin tuna, mullet and hake, the National Fishermen's Union (SAE) said. By the end of 2007 Greece's agriculture ministry should have present proposals for areas where some forms of fishing will be banned in line with the EU's Mediterranean fishing regulation, but so far has not revealed its plans.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46149/story.htm

[Back to: - CONTENTS –](#)

- PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES –

32. Globalisation: effects on fisheries resources

Over the last few decades, the push towards globalisation has brought a new dimension in which managers of fisheries and water resources will need to operate, both at the local and global level of governance. In order to effectively address the future sustainability of these resources, it is critical to understand the driving factors of globalisation and their effect on fisheries ecosystems and on the people who depend on these resources for their cultural and societal well-being. This book discusses the social and political changes affecting fisheries, the changes to ecological processes due to direct and indirect impacts of globalisation, the changing nature of the goods and services that fisheries ecosystems are able to provide, and the resultant changes in markets and economic assessment of our fishery resources.

By William W. Taylor, Michael G. Schechter and Lois G. Wilson (2007, 550 pp). Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK. Fax 01223 315052. ISBN 9780521875936 (hardback). Price \$65.00

33. Coastline Reports 2007-10

Theme: Benefits of Inter-Linking Coastal and River Management. Twenty case studies worldwide indicate opportunities and constraints.

By A. Pickaver & D. Sadacharan (ed.) Eucc- The Coastal Union, Leiden, ISSN 0928-2734, ISBN 978-3-9811839-2-4

For more details on the content and to link to the electronic version, see item 1.

[Back to: - CONTENTS –](#)

– EVENTS & 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>

5 February 2008 Leuven, Belgium

A FUTURE FOR FISHERIES? Towards effective strategies for sustainability. You are kindly invited to this symposium on the occasion of the honorary doctorate awarded to Daniel Pauly by the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. On this occasion a group of outstanding ecosystem management and fisheries scientists are gathered for the Symposium.

Registration is free, but compulsory before 25 January 2008 at info@vliz.be

May 19-23, 2008: Gijón, Spain

International symposium on the effects of climate change on the world's oceans

There is as yet no comprehensive vision at the global scale of the consequences of climate change on the functioning of marine ecosystems, and only limited ability to forecast the effects of climate change. To close this gap, the Symposium will focus on the major issues of climate change that affect the oceans: oceanic circulation, climate modelling, cycling of carbon and other elements, acidification, oligotrophy, changes in species distributions and migratory routes, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, etc. The Symposium will bring together results from observations, analyses and model simulations, at a global scale

www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2008_symposia/Climate_change/climate_background_3.aspx

May 26-28, 2008: Porto, Portugal

1st PoCoast Seminar on Coastal Research

Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, Portugal

Call for Papers – Abstracts due by January 31, 2008

In the European context, the PoCoast network is the national network of ENCORA, the European Network on Coastal Research, a Coordination Action funded under the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union. More information on the ENCORA network at www.encora.eu and on the PoCoast network at <http://webpages.fe.up.pt/ihrh/pocoast/>

June 2-4, 2008: Malmö, Sweden

ICCM I 2008 Conference, Impacts of Climate Change on the Maritime Industry

www.wmu.se/Conferences/Templates/PageTemplate3.asp?ConferenceId=1102&SectionId=1102

Oct. 20-24, 2008: Toulon – Marseille, France

BIOMARINE: Towards an international Sea Policy: Inspiration from the European Model. Conference in the framework of the French EU Presidency.

www.biomarine.org

Oct. 27-30, 2008: Shanghai, China

EMECS-8 International Conference, to draw attention for the Second Circular of 'Call for Abstract'. Organizing 9 more sessions covering Climate change, Mega deltas landform change, Regional seas and collaboration, Coastal vulnerability, Integrated catchment-coastal management, Ecological and Social Risk, C Policy Modification, Large River Dialogs, etc. etc.

www.emecs-8.ecnu.edu.cn/

<mailto:emecs8@mail.ecnu.edu.cn> or <mailto:Z.Chen@ecnu.edu.cn>

Nov. 26-28, 2008: Venice, Italy

LITTORAL 2008 - A CHANGING COAST: CHALLENGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

CORILA, EUCC - The Coastal Union and EUROCOAST have the pleasure to invite you to participate in this LITTORAL 2008, 9th International Conference.

IMPORTANT DATES: Abstract submission due: 28th April 2008 Abstract acceptance notification due: 15th June 2008 Camera-ready final papers due: 5th September 2008

For more information visit the official website at: www.littoral2008.corila.it/
and/or contact: littoral2008@corila.it

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

– COLOPHON –

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