

# EUCC Coastal News

## No 2 February – March 2005

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## – Climate Change & Wind Energy –

### 1. Breaking News - State of the UK Seas Report predicts - CLIMATE CHANGE ALREADY CONTRIBUTES TO DECLINE OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Britain's seas are seriously ailing and the species that depend on them suffering as never before. The most comprehensive "health check" ever made of the waters around the shores has revealed that fish stocks are on the brink of collapse. Species are changing sex because of pollution. Dolphins and porpoises are being killed at unprecedented rates. Water temperatures are rising, and the seabed is being destroyed.

In a disturbing insight into the state of UK seas, a report, compiled by the Department for Food, Environment and the Regions (Defra), found clear proof that the seas around the British Isles are already suffering the effects of global warming - threatening the survival of fish such as cod and raising the risk of a sudden, catastrophic change in weather patterns. The study was compiled by Defra after 18 months of reviewing all current marine research. It found that water temperatures and sea levels are now rising around Britain, while salt levels are dropping because of melting Arctic ice caps. Meanwhile native plankton species - vital to the survival of many fish stocks - are slowly disappearing.

This deeply worrying picture has emerged from 900-page report, which is being published by ministers today, March 1st 2005, into the true state of the seas around the British Isles - historically one of the world's richest marine environments. The audit, which has been peer reviewed, reveals how:

sea temperatures have risen by 0.6C a decade, and by up to 1.5C in winter;

sea levels are rising by up to 2mm a year because of melting ice caps and increased rainfall;

sea water is becoming more acidic because of increasing carbon dioxide levels in the air;

fish, such as cod, haddock, herring, blue whiting and sole, are being fished outside safe limits, with cod "in danger of collapse";

common skate and angel shark have disappeared from the Irish Sea and the Channel;

cold-water plankton - the most basic food stuff for young cod and other native species - is moving northwards and being replaced by warm-water plankton;

deep-sea trawlers are harming fish such as orange roughie and anglerfish, and devastating ancient and fragile coral beds off western Scotland;

winter storms are growing more intense and wave heights increasing by 30cm a decade, risking flooding and cliff erosion in regions such as East Anglia, north Wales and southern England;

estuaries such as the Mersey, Clyde and Tees are showing "undesirably high" toxic contamination from heavy metals and chemicals, which has led to flounder and dab showing signs of cancer and suffering sex changes;

a "significant" number of shellfish farms are unsafe and beaches are being closed due to sewage contamination;

massive new offshore windfarms off Wales, north-west England and the South-east pose a "major challenge" to marine life.

The report forms a crucial part of a new UK Government campaign to combat climate change and introduce tough new controls on over-fishing, campaigns that will be stepped up this week. An interesting question, not addressed in the report due to its UK focus, is the extent to which these results are likely to be common throughout northern Europe, and reflect common environmental and climatic concerns.

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/environment/story.jsp?story=615223>

UK Department for Food, Environment and the Regions (Defra), <http://www.defra.gov.uk/>

The full article can also be read at our website: <http://www.coastalguide.org>

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### 2. Implementation and next steps for the Kyoto Protocol

February 16, 2005 was the historic date when the Kyoto Protocol finally entered into force. With entry into force, Kyoto's emission targets become binding legal commitments for industrialized countries that have ratified it to reduce greenhouse gases an average of 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels.

The U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed in 1992, and had a long-term objective of stabilizing greenhouse concentrations in the atmosphere "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." It also set a voluntary goal of reducing emissions from developed countries to 1990 levels by 2000 – a goal that most did not meet. Recognizing that stronger action was needed, countries negotiated the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which sets binding targets to reduce emissions to an average of 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012.

More than 100 other nations have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, and many of the developed countries have begun efforts to meet their emissions targets. COP 10<sup>1</sup> also wrapped up some loose ends relating to

<sup>1</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP): The supreme decision-making body comprised of the parties that have ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. It meets on an annual basis. As of February 2003, it is comprised of 188 countries.

implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including use of sinks in the Clean Development Mechanism, sink activities in Annex 1 countries<sup>2</sup>, and national accounting and reporting.

The European Union has been a principal advocate of exploring possible next steps within the formal process. EU governments want to show they are engaging other countries in discussions to broaden and extend commitments post-2012. A challenge now is to forge a future agreement to significantly reduce long term global emissions that includes all the major emitting countries, whether developed and developing countries and including the US, China and India.

For example, China is now the world's second-largest source of greenhouse gases but has no obligation to cut emissions. China has approved the Kyoto Protocol, but along with India has no obligation to cut carbon dioxide emissions during the pact's first phase to 2012. The United States says that this is unfair and that this is one of the reasons it walked away from the agreement in 2001.

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### **3. Dramatic change in West Antarctic ice could produce 5 metre rise in sea levels**

British scientists have discovered a new threat to the world which may be a result of global warming. Researchers from the Cambridge-based British Antarctic Survey (BAS) have discovered that a massive Antarctic ice sheet previously assumed to be stable may be starting to disintegrate. Its collapse would raise sea levels around the earth by almost 5 metres. BAS staff are carrying out urgent measurements of the remote points in the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) where they have found ice to be flowing into the sea at the enormous rate of 250 cubic kilometres a year, a discharge alone that is raising global sea levels by a fifth of a millimetre a year.

Source: The Independent, 02/02/05

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/environment/story.jsp?story=606845>

### **4. International expedition Pole Track**

Pole Track is an international North Pole expedition setting out to support climate change research and to call attention to the changing Arctic and world climate. This expedition brings together a unique mix of experienced explorers and passionate professionals in the fields of science, nature conservation and sustainable development. The expedition will cross 1000 kilometres of Arctic Ocean to the North Pole. During this ski-track the expedition will deploy a new generation of meteorological instrumentation and make daily readings of the snow cover. Pole Track will play an integral part in the running of scientific programs conducted by scientists and institutes around the world. The radical changes in the North Pole region are part of the global trend of climactic change and could have consequences far beyond the vulnerable ecosystem. If the Arctic sea ice actually becomes thinner over the next few decades, it could change the circulation pattern of the North Atlantic, changing the supply of heat to lower latitudes. Although the Arctic has been studied and observed over decades, scientists are far from accurate predictions on climate change scenarios for the region. This expedition is part of an ongoing effort to explore and better understand the Arctic and the changes that are taking place.

<http://www.poletrack.com/>

### **5. Clear Evidence of Human-Produced Warming in World's Oceans**

Scientists at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and their colleagues have produced the first clear evidence of human-produced warming in the world's oceans, a finding they say removes much of the uncertainty associated with debates about global warming. In a study conducted with colleagues at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI), researchers of Scripps Institution and of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory used a combination of computer models and real-world "observed" data to capture signals of the penetration of greenhouse gas-influenced warming in the oceans. These result indicate that the warming is produced anthropogenically, or by human activities.

The climate mechanisms behind the ocean study will produce broad-scale changes across the atmosphere and land. In the decades immediately ahead, the changes will be felt in regional water supplies, including areas impacted by accelerated glacier melting in the South American Andes and in western China, putting millions of people at risk without adequate summertime water. Separate from the impacts of climate change, one third of the world's population lives in water stressed countries. By 2025, this is expected to rise to two thirds.

<http://sio.ucsd.edu/>

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<sup>2</sup> Annex I Parties: The 40 countries plus the European Economic Community listed in Annex I of the UNFCCC that agreed to try to limit their GHG emissions: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

## 6. Global warming: scientists reveal timetable

A detailed timetable of the destruction and distress that global warming is likely to cause the world was unveiled recently at the international conference on climate change being held at the UK Met Office headquarters in Exeter, UK by the author Bill Hare, of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany's leading global warming research institute. It pulls together for the first time the projected impacts on ecosystems and wildlife, food production, water resources and economies across the earth, for given rises in global temperature expected during the next hundred years. The resultant picture gives the most wide-ranging impression yet of the bewildering array of destructive effects that climate change is expected to exert on different regions, from the mountains of Europe and the rainforests of the Amazon to the coral reefs of the tropics.

The conference outcomes can be read at:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/2005/pr20050201.html>

Source:

[http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2005/020305G.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2005/020305G.shtml)

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## 7. Spain Could Lose Beaches to Global Warming

Global warming may cost Spain many of its famous beaches and could push summer temperatures over 50 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, according to research recently released. The country is particularly vulnerable to hotter weather because of its economy and geography. Spain already includes Europe's only desert, and tourism - much of it beach-based - accounts for more than 11 percent of the national economy. Over the last hundred years, Spain has warmed up 1.5 degrees Celsius, while the global average has been 0.6 degrees and the European one 0.95 degrees. Summer, when temperatures have already soared to over 45 degrees Celsius, could get up to 7 degrees hotter by 2070-2100 under the worst case scenario. The skiing and heating industries may worry about winters up to 4 degrees warmer. Many of the country's beaches may be swamped by sea waters seen edging up 10 to 68 cm over the same period.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/29539/story.htm>

## 8. Use of wind energy gains popularity in Europe

The Governments of Europe are increasing their support for the technology as they realize that wind power is a simple and cost effective way for them to meet their obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Germany announced that its wind power capacity has passed the 10,000 MW threshold, putting it well ahead of any other country. Neither the United States nor Spain, the most active wind energy markets after Germany, are yet close to even 5000 MW. That situation is likely to change.

In Spain a new near shore wind farm is projected to be built 4 km off the coast on the shoals opposite the small town of Vinaros in the province of Castellon. A second and a third one will be built near the cape Trafalgar in the province of Andalusia.

In the Netherlands a new park will be located 8 km from the Dutch coast near Egmond aan Zee, 36 mills will be placed with a maximum power of 100MW. This near shore Wind park will be the first off shore wind energy park in the Netherlands. Important aim of this wind farm besides the production of green energy is the generation of knowledge and experience for building more wind farms further at sea in the future. After an exploitation period of 20 years the park will be removed. Wind is a significant energy resource in Europe and European companies control the manufacture of over 90% of wind turbines.

<http://www.windpower-monthly.com>

<http://www.eurorex.com>

<http://www.ecn.nl/main.html>

## - EU News and Initiatives -

## 9. Climate change: Commission outlines core elements for post-2012 strategy

The European Commission adopted a communication setting out future policies of climate change. It also includes a set of proposals designed to structure the future negotiations of the EU with its global partners over climate change policies after 2012 when the first commitment period under the Kyoto protocol ends. These proposals open the door to bring major emitters but also rapidly emerging economies on board. The communication also suggests maritime transport and aviation as sectors that must be included in a post-2012 regime.

The report, a background paper and further information are available at:

[http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/future\\_action.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/future_action.htm)

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### **10. EuropeAid to Launch a tailor made Asia PRO-ECO II Post Tsunami Call for Proposals**

In response to the urgent need to rehabilitate areas affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004, EuropeAid is preparing a specific Asia Pro Eco II- Post Tsunami Programme. The Programme will provide funds for partnerships and capacity building project proposals, which respond to the urgent need for reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in the areas of the Asian countries which have been affected by the catastrophe (Maldives, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India).

Funds will be disbursed through a call for proposals mechanism. The EC contribution to the post-tsunami Programme amounts to € 15 million, adding up to the € 10 million already available for the Asia Pro Eco II Programme. Selected projects could then be implemented from 6 months to 3 years up to 2009.

Detailed information and Guidelines for applicants related to this specific Call will be published in the Asia Pro Eco II website during March 2005.

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-pro-eco2/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/asia-pro-eco2/index_en.htm)

For further queries or for inclusion in one or more project consortia please contact Alan Pickaver at 0031 71 5122900 or [a.pickaver@eucc.net](mailto:a.pickaver@eucc.net)

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### **11. Maritime security in the Atlantic**

The monitoring Committee of the Interreg IIIB 'Atlantic area' programme, in which many regions of Spain, France, Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom participate, commissioned a study on transnational cooperation in the field of maritime security. Experts representing the Union's various maritime basins worked on: the priority themes of the network to be built; the criteria projects which should be met to ensure coherence and complementarity with the missions of international bodies; and partnerships to be built for projects to bring a genuine added value to maritime security policy. This initiative was launched in the context of preparations for the future programming period during which risk prevention and the maritime dimension will be priorities.

For further information please visit: <http://www.interreg-atlantique.org/>

### **12. Heavy EU sanctions for discharge of oil**

Illegal oil pollution will be seen as a criminal offence if committed with intent and in the most serious cases, prison sentences should not be ruled out. This is recently decided by the European Parliament and the EU countries. Also port authorities can be chastised when they refuse access to their harbour or a safe anchorage to a ship in need. These new regulations are the result of the disaster with oil tanker Prestige near the Spanish coast in November 2002. Spanish authorities refused at that time access to their port to the tanker in need whereupon the disaster took place. According to the new regulations criminal prosecution on ground of "serious negligence" will be restricted till the 12 mile zone of the territorial waters. Besides imprisonment there will be a maximum penalty of 1,5 million euro.

[http://www.epp-ed.org/Activities/pday05/day024\\_en.asp](http://www.epp-ed.org/Activities/pday05/day024_en.asp)

## – Ecological Networks –

### **13. British tourists blamed for damage to turtles' haven Zakynthos**

The white sandy beaches and turquoise waters of the Ionian island of Zakynthos are the perfect setting for revelry and holiday romance. Each summer the coastline is transformed into an adult playground for mainly British tourists. Their antics, though, are threatening the survival of the loggerhead turtle, which has, since time immemorial, relied on the once tranquil coastline to complete its rather more sedate breeding pattern.

Now the European Commission is taking the Greek Government to court for failing to protect the unique habitat from the holidaymakers who visit the island each year. EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas has threatened to impose a hefty daily fine on his country for failing to safeguard the environment needed for the turtle, known as the *Caretta caretta*, to thrive. The noise from beach parties and nightclubs is preventing turtles from crawling on to the sands to bury their eggs. Instead, many are releasing their eggs in the sea, where they will not hatch. Those that do venture on to the beach guarantee their offspring only limited odds of survival. Some eggs are smashed as the sand is churned up by beach buggies, dug into by children or pierced by spikes from parasols.

Now the time is to wait for a full written response from Greece about what it will do to save the turtles' breeding grounds.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-1473042,00.html>

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#### **14. Spain violates Habitats Directive**

The European Commission has decided to pursue infringement proceedings against Spain involving EU environment law.

One of the major reasons the Commission has decided to refer Spain to the court is the failure to assess the effects of sand extraction and beach regeneration on important nature sites along the Spanish Mediterranean coast, mainly in the province of Alicante and on the Balearic Islands.

The sites in question host rare or endangered species and habitats such as the sea turtle *Caretta caretta* and *Posidonia* beds (underwater fields of *Posidonia*, an aquatic plant) and are proposed as Natura 2000 sites under the Habitats Directive. This EU law protects a range of rare and endangered animals and plants, as well as a selection of habitat types, by making them part of the EU's network of protected areas known as Natura 2000.

Among other things, the Directive requires the assessment, before they are carried out, of potentially damaging plans and projects that may affect Natura 2000 sites.

However, the Spanish authorities have failed to assess the effects of the projects concerned on these sites, violating the Habitats Directive as well as the Environment Impact Assessment Directive. The latter EU law also requires the prior assessment of environmentally significant projects.

<http://thisiscostablanca.com/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=420&Itemid=>

#### **15. Spain: birds threatened with extinction**

The organisation SEO/BirdLife fears that a hundred bird species in Spain are facing extinction. In a report that was handed to the minister of the Environment on February 9, it is stated that from the 390 bird species in Spain 15 are seriously threatened with extinction (which means there is a chance of 50% that they will have disappeared in ten years), 39 are in danger and 45 are vulnerable. The report is drafted in cooperation with all seventeen autonomous regions; 160 ornithologists have contributed to it. Attention is especially given to the Canary Islands, where a quarter of the endangered species lives, of which 9% are unique to the islands.

Source: LBA, No 7, year 15, 18/02/2005

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#### **16. Ireland: no buying out of salmon fishers**

Pat the Cope Gallagher, the junior minister for fisheries, will not revert to buying out the commercial salmon fishers during the present government term. That conclusion is reached by Joey Murrin, the chairman of the Irish National Salmon Commission. The buying out of the commercial fishing rights is favoured by the organisations of anglers, because they think commercial salmon fishing, especially through the use of driftnets, is to be the principal cause of the low salmon population in the Irish rivers. Not only do Irish salmon anglers hardly catch salmon anymore, they are also subjected to all kinds of limitations. Also tourist salmon anglers from abroad are staying away. It concerns fishing rights of mostly small fishermen in coastal towns; the tourist anglers are important for the local economies. Furthermore, the competition of cultivated salmon has made the commercial salmon fisheries less profitable. It is estimated that barely 25% of the licence holders are really active in this form of salmon fishery, but they account for 75% of the catches.

According to the chairman of the National Salmon Commission between 75 to 80 million euro is needed to bail out the fishermen. Such amounts according to Murrin will have to be brought up by the sea fishery sector, anglers and by tourism. He expressed the opinion that the commercial salmon fishery with driftnets is an important cause of the decline of the salmon population in the rivers, but that also other factors have to be taken into account, like water pollution and climate-change.

Source: LBA No 7 year 15 , 18/02/2005

#### **17. Ireland: fishery Donegal sounds the alarm**

The fishery in the extreme northwest of Ireland, the county Donegal and especially the fishing port Killybeg, sounds the alarm. Killybeg is one of the more important fishing ports in Ireland, where the big ships that are active in the Northeast Atlantic, have their base. Or rather had, according to the local fishery association. It is not a coincidence that it is also the area where the present junior Fisheries minister, Pat the Cope Gallagher, has his professional fishing and political roots, as does the present minister of Agriculture and Food, Mary Coughlan. Opposition party Fine Gael has called attention to the future of fishery in this part of Ireland in the Irish parliament. Not just the bigger ships are avoiding Killybeg and bring their catches on shore in Scottish Peterhead or even in Norway, with all the social-economic consequences this brings. Also in the fish-processing industry in Killybeg has employment come down from 1500 employees in 2002 to 150 at present. For the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation this problems are just a side-show. They are confronted with a major investigation by police and inspection services on fishing-fraud, in the course of which already many fishermen have been lifted from their beds at night and administration and computers have been confiscated. According to the fishermen the ships are staying away from Killybeg by a combination of over-regulation (EU-rules for the fishing of white fish), a prohibition on the bringing ashore of fish at night and the high harbour duties that are necessary to finance the brand new 55 million euro demanding harbour facilities in Killybeg. A spokesman

of the junior minister drew attention to the fact that it are decisions of the Irish shipowners c.q. their captains to bring their catches ashore elsewhere in Europe. The employment in the fish-processing industry forms a lucrative side-activity for the small farmers from the southern part of county Donegal.

Source: LBA No 7, year 15, 18/02/2005

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### **18. Birds do well along Europe's coastlines**

Recently Birds in the European Union: a status assessment appeared together with Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status (second edition) in which among other things the effect of the European Birds Directive on the bird population in the European Union is worked out. Regarding the seabird population the following is concluded: "Marine and coastal species are increasing in the EU, as well as species living in inland wetlands and Mediterranean Forests". Species that are doing well according to Birds in Europe are: Northern Fulmar, Great Cormorant, Pygmy Cormorant, Great White Pelican, Grey Plover. However, the overall picture is not so favourable: of the 524 species mentioned in Birds in Europe, 43% have an unfavourable conservation status, for the European Union alone the number is 48%.

The reports can be downloaded at: <http://birdsineurope.birdlife.org>

### **19. Greenland: Polar bears**

Price hunters in Canada would be willing to pay 20.000 euro for a polar bear. This has inspired the Greenland authorities to propose the official introduction of pricehunting on the island. Under the right conditions pricehunting could be an advantage for the polar bear population: provided the quota and the control are soundly organised and local communities receive the main part of the earnings, this could promote the protection of polar bears, according to representatives of the Greenland parliament and cabinet. International consultant Birgit Sloth of the CITES-convention states that this kind of hunting can never guarantee sustainability, because it is not even known how many polar bears there are on Greenland.

Source: LBA, No 7, year 15, 18/02/2005

### **20. Will Atlantic cod replace arctic cod?**

A decline in sea ice could mean arctic cod will be replaced by the larger Atlantic cod, according to new research. Scientists aboard the Canadian ship Amundsen, who recently returned from a one-year research mission to the Arctic, carried out the research. According to them, the migration of the larger Atlantic cod northward could have dire consequences for seals, whales and polar bears which rely on arctic cod as a major food source. A decline in sea ice will mean less algae and therefore less arctic cod. Atlantic cod are too large for most seals and birds to eat.

Source: Arctic Bulletin No 4.04. For more information please contact: Nigel Allan, [nallan@wwf.no](mailto:nallan@wwf.no)

## **-ICZM -**

### **21. The ICZM Progress Indicator Set has been published.**

The ICZM Progress Indicator Set, developed at the behest of, and adopted by, the EU ICZM Group of Experts, has been published in Ocean and Coastal Management, Volume 47, Issues 9-10, Pages 429-535 (2004).

The methodology that has been used recognises that the ICZM management cycle can be broken down into a series of discrete, ranked actions. These actions show what is needed, using a straightforward, step-wise methodology, to pass from a situation where no ICZM is being used to one where it is being fully implemented, by being grouped into a series of five, discrete, ordered and continuous phases. The actions, 26 in total, are not completely exhaustive but are comprehensive enough to allow progress in ICZM to be measured.

The actions have been tested by ICZM practitioners at all administrative levels in Spain, France, UK and Germany.

The Indicator Set will allow the trend in implementation within any one country to be compared at regional and local levels. Set alongside indicators of sustainable development or state of the coast, this indicator set will also be a test of the hypothesis underpinning the EU ICZM Recommendation - that ICZM is a prerequisite for a more sustainable coast.

A copy of the Indicator Set is available from the EUCC Helpdesk ([m.kooijman@eucc.net](mailto:m.kooijman@eucc.net)).

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– **International news in brief** –

**22. Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code**

Scotland is going to have a code to help behave well around the marine wildlife so that it stays wild, and stays there. The Code will apply to whales, dolphins, sharks, seals, otters, turtles, seabirds and shore birds, and will apply wherever they are, what means beaches, cliffs estuaries and the sea. The Code will apply to commercial wildlife operators, recreational boat owners, divers, dog walkers, anyone whose commercial or leisure activities involve the watching of marine wildlife.

In an effort to promote sustainable whale watching EUCC listed an assessment of different European Whale Watching Operators. These guidelines are published on [www.coastalguide.to](http://www.coastalguide.to)  
[www.marinecode.org](http://www.marinecode.org)

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**23. Flame retardants turn out to be natural**

The fat layer of a stranded beaked whale contains substances which resemble chemical connections in flame retardants (PDBEs). But they have natural origins, originating from alga, sponges and worms as results from American research shows. This discovery throws a different light on the worries concerning the polybroom deiphenylconnections in flame retardants that are located in computers and clothes. The substances have also been located in mother's milk. That seems to indicate that they entered the food chain and reached humans via fish.

Source: Science, 11 February 2005, Vol. 307 no. 5711

**24. Arctic Becoming Chemical Waste Sump**

The Arctic, already a dump for Russian nuclear waste from the Cold War, is also rapidly becoming a chemical sump for the globe. New research had found even higher concentrations of banned pesticides like DDT in the Arctic environment than in the countries that produced them. The chemicals -found not only in the fat of Arctic species including fish, seals and whales but also in the ice itself- were affecting immune, hormone and reproductive systems. The chemicals, including flame retardants and those used in the manufacture of non-stick cookware, drifted north on sea currents, became trapped in ice and were slowly released back into the environment years later. Not only was it turning the Arctic into a chemical timebomb, but its wildlife were suffering too as the pollutants entered the bloodstream and went into vital fatty tissues where they remained for years, becoming steadily more concentrated. The United Nations is already backing an international clean-up operation to rid the Russian Arctic of a cocktail of toxic chemicals left behind after the Cold War.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/29577/story.htm>

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– **Publications** –

**Journal of Coastal Conservation**

Official scientific organ of EUCC – The Coastal Union, published by Opulus Press AB, Uppsala. Volume 10: 1-2. December 2004. 188 pp.

The Journal of Coastal Conservation has been terminated. The Journal has served as a scientific journal for integrated research and management of the coastal zone during the period 1995-2004.

The journal covers both natural and human sciences as required for a thorough understanding of the patterns and processes in coastal systems, particularly geomorphology, physical geography, hydrology, soil science, plan ecology, animal ecology, vegetation science, landscape ecology, recreation studies, urban ecology, coastal engineering and planning.

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– **Newsletters and new websites** –

**French Observatory of Littoral**

French Observatory of Littoral has a new website: <http://www.ifen.fr/littoral/>

**Launch of Helcom Commission website**

The Helsinki Commission announced the launch of an all-new, innovative website. Its main goal is to provide more and up-to-date data on the latest trends in the Baltic Sea marine environment as well as information on the joint measures taken by the coastal countries within the framework of the Commission to protect the sea from all sources of pollution and improve safety of navigation.

For further details please visit:

[http://www.helcom.fi/press\\_office/news\\_helcom/en\\_GB/NewWebSite1108551011712/](http://www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_helcom/en_GB/NewWebSite1108551011712/)

### EcoPorts

The EcoPorts network aims to encourage environmental management of ports and to facilitate the implementation of Community directives on port areas. EcoPorts includes a specific Interreg IIIC project, 'EcoNet 2006', to stimulate exchanges, cooperation, the dissemination of results and the building of common tools.

<http://www.ecoport.com/>

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## - Events and training, 1<sup>st</sup> Announcements -

**This list only includes the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

March 9, 2005 - The Hague, the Netherlands

### **Masterclass Recovery of Ecosystems in the area of South East Asia that was hit by the Tsunami**

For participation please contact Pieter van der Gaag at: [pieter.vandergaag@iucn.nl](mailto:pieter.vandergaag@iucn.nl)

March 10-12, 2005 - Zandvoort, the Netherlands

### **Sustainable Beach Management**

**During this CoPraNet workshop delegates will experience the various ways in which local, regional, national government(s), governmental and non-governmental organisations work together on various fields concerning sustainable beach management and sustainable tourism.**

<http://www.coastalpractice.net/> , contact: Ms. Simone Bezuijen [s.bezuijen@zandvoort.nl](mailto:s.bezuijen@zandvoort.nl)

April 17-20, 2005 - Tavira, Algarve, Portugal

### **International CoPraNet Conference: Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (ICCCM)**

Info : ICCCM2005 Secretariat, Tel: 351 966055637, E-mail: [icccm2005\\_as@aeiou.pt](mailto:icccm2005_as@aeiou.pt)

Internet: <http://www.fe.up.pt/ihrh/icccm>

April, 19-21, 2005 - New York, US

### **16th Global Warming International Conference**

<http://www.globalwarming.net/gw16-announcement.asp>

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May 4-7, 2005 - Turkey

### **Second Mediterranean Conference on Marine Turtles**

<http://www.medturtleconf.net/>

May 9-13, 2005 - Isle of Vilm, Germany

### **Workshop Ecological networks and coherence according to article 10 of the Habitats Directive**

For further information please contact Dr. Axel Ssymank ([SsymankA@BfN.de](mailto:SsymankA@BfN.de)) or Dr. Karin Ullrich ([UllrichK@BfN.de](mailto:UllrichK@BfN.de))

May 10, 2005 - Blankenberge, Belgium

### **Workshop Selling Regeneration: an evaluation of the role of branding in delivering regeneration programmes**

<http://www.sailcoast.org/> , contact: [clive.gilbert@sailcoast.org](mailto:clive.gilbert@sailcoast.org)

September 5-9, 2005 - Porto, Portugal

### **International Training Course On Coastal Erosion Management**

<http://www.fe.up.pt/~fpinto/Erosion>

September 5-17, 2005 - Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany

### **"International Summer School on Coastal and Marine Management: Baltic Sea and North Sea"**

Please find some pre-information under: <http://www.eucc-d.de/summerschool2005/>

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September 12-18, 2005 – Zaragoza, Spain

**2005 World Conference on Ecological Restoration**

<http://www.conferencealerts.com/seeconf.mv?q=ca1hii8s>

September 21-25, 2005 – Apeldoorn, the Netherlands

**European Nature Conference 2005**

<http://www.natureconference.org/>

October 5-8, 2005 - Maputo, Mozambique

**III Congress of Planning and Management of Coastal Zones in Portuguese speaking countries - Sustainable management perspectives in the coastal zone**

1st Bulletin in Portuguese at: [www.fe.up.pt/~fpinto/IIICongress](http://www.fe.up.pt/~fpinto/IIICongress)

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October 6-9, 2005 – Oder Delta, Poland

**Opening EECONET Nature Park Oder Delta**

For more information please contact Daniela van Elburg: [d.vanelburg@eucc.net](mailto:d.vanelburg@eucc.net)

October 23-27, 2005 – Geelong, Australia

**First International Marine Protected Areas Congress**

<http://www.divenews.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=3380>

## – Colophon –

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Established in 1989, EUCC - the Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2500 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel.: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>



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