

EUCC Coastal News

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Network Members and readers who now pay their fees for 5 years (total of € 20) will be provided membership discounts to EUCC conferences and events also in 2006.

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– **EUCC News** –

1. EUCC – The Coastal Union is Concerned About Windmill Parks Along the Coast

Leiden, 11 July 2005. The Coastal Union is not in favour of a fixed windmill park which can be seen from the coast. Their contribution to our aims for climate improvement is still so small that its impact on horizon pollution is greater than the benefits. Wim Verboom (TNO Underwater Technology) recently pointed out the risk of disturbing fish and marine mammals with noise, not only during but also after the construction of the parks. Especially the driving of piles into the seafloor will produce immense volumes of noise, up to 250 dB.

The Coastal Union feels that it must be thoroughly investigated whether the construction of the windmills lead to ecological damage. Also, the effects of noise under water must be added to Environmental Assessments and monitoring programmes. The warning on effects of noise under water has prompted the Coastal Union to plead in the press for `Floating windmills`, as will be installed in Germany in 2006. To protect the free horizon and the vulnerable coastal waters, the German authorities do not allow windmills within 30 km from the coast. The German windmills will be assembled on land, including a tripod (a `Floating Offshore Foundation` or FOF) with which they will be placed on the seafloor (between 25 and 40 m deep). They can be easily brought back to land in case they need repair, after an accident or at the end of their service life. Driving of piles is not necessary with the floating windmills, thus these windmills can be used at much greater depths than fixed windmills.

Until now, nowhere on earth windmills have been placed further than 15 km from the coast. This means that they all obstruct the free horizon at sea. Therefore, floating windmills are more environment friendly, contain less steel and we can spare the rich and vulnerable coastal waters with them. According to the construction company, they are also cheaper especially due to the lower installation costs.

The Coastal Union is aware that we are too late for the many windmill parks which will be constructed in short term, but hopefully we are on time for many other windmill parks, not only in Europe, but also in other areas in the world. Therefore it is hopeful that the press report of the Coastal Union has not only reached the Dutch media, but also many other places on Earth, even as far away as Australia.

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– **Aquaculture and Fisheries** –

2. ICES Reports on Three Major Fish Stocks: Herring in Good Condition, Cod Has Mixed Fortunes, Eels Slipping Away

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea ICES has published a report on June 10th assessing the condition of three major fish stocks.

Herring: the stocks off the west coast of Scotland and in the North Sea are being harvested sustainably and in good condition. A caveat, however, is that the number of new fish entering the North Sea stock has been low for the past three years and that future reductions in fishing pressure will be needed if the situation does not improve.

Cod: The North East Arctic is in good condition, although scientists will warn that poor enforcement of the management plan for the stock has meant that it is being fished above the level it should be. Icelandic cod is at an acceptable level but ICES advises that fishing pressure should be reduced. The main Faroese cod stock is currently being fished too hard and the spawning stock is no thought to be nearly as low as it was in 1990 – when it collapsed. ICES advises a minimum of 50% reduction in fishing effort. There is less information about the smaller Faroes Bank cod stock, but the latest survey indicates that there has been a decline in biomass since 2002 suggesting that the present fishing rate may not be sustainable. Baltic cod is low levels and harvested unsustainably. Cod in the Kattegat are at very low levels. ICES advises no fishing in 2006. Norwegian cod is also in poor condition and has now fallen to an all time low. Fishing needs to be reduced.

Eels: the European eel stock reached a historical low in 2001 and has since failed to recover – if anything the scientist think it may have declined further. Eels are caught in all life stages present in continental waters, pressure is high both on juvenile (glass eel) and older eel (yellow and silver eel).

In general the ICES advises that long term management for European fish stocks need to be developed. ICES long-term plans have earlier helped rebuild the North Sea herring stocks and Baltic salmon.

Source: ICES Press Release June 6th 2005, see <http://www.ices.dk/indexfla.asp>

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3. Illegal Fishing Hits World's Poorest –UK Studies

Global fish stocks are under serious threat from illegal fishing, which deprives some of the world's poorest people of vital food and kills thousands of seabirds each year, two British reports said.

One report, commissioned by the British government, said over €4 billion of fish is caught illegally each year, around a quarter of it off the coasts of sub-Saharan Africa.

The other study, produced by the independent Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), said illegal fishing killed around 100,000 seabirds each year, many of them endangered albatrosses.

The EU, the presidency of which passes to Britain next month, sets annual fishing quotas in a bid to protect endangered species such as cod but also to ensure the survival of the fishing industry. It has urged member states to increase the size of fines for fishermen caught breaking the law.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31256/story.htm>

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4. Ocean "Bioprospecting" Needs Rules - UN Experts

The scientific exploitation of exotic species living in the depths of the world's oceans should be regulated to avoid a commercial free-for-all, UN scientists said recently. Worldwide sales from products using marine biotechnology - ranging from anti-malaria drugs to suntan creams - totalled about €100 billion in 2000. And pharmaceutical firms are starting to hunt deeper and deeper. "Bioprospecting has begun and is set to increase," Sam Johnston, senior research fellow at the UN University's (UNU) Institute of Advanced Studies, said of a UNU report about the hunt for genetic resources on the ocean floor. In international waters, the ocean floor is an almost lawless zone because existing maritime treaties were agreed when many scientists believed it was devoid of life. But scientists have since found thriving ecosystems around deep sea mounts, cold seeps - where fluids rich in hydrocarbons leak into the ocean - and hydrothermal vents, which spew out superheated water from sub sea volcanoes. Unfettered access could threaten the fragile habitats.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31171/story.htm>

5. Big Fish Important in the Gene Pool –Study

Anglers chasing big fish and leaving the small fry might be doing far more harm than good according to marine scientists in the United States.

Charles Birkeland at the University of Hawaii and Paul Dayton at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California have discovered that big fish are vital to maintaining populations, and taking them does crucial damage.

Not only does the fertility of big females increase dramatically compared with small fish, but the offspring of big fish tend to grow bigger and faster than those of little ones, New Scientist magazine reported.

This means that taking the big fish weakens the gene pool by effectively favouring the fish that grow more slowly and stay small.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31361/story.htm>

6. Norway: FINEfish

An European research project under the name of FINEfish has made available € 5.000.000 for research on the area of fish-welfare. The investigation aims specifically on deformations with salmon, cod, bass and Atlantic pomfret. The coordination is conducted by the European fish farming organisation FEAP, in cooperation with Akvaforsk in Norway. The Norwegian fisheries trade has actively stimulated the process. Research institutes as well as parties concerned with fishery in the whole of Europe will participate (from Denmark, the UK, Belgium, Portugal, Israel, Greece and France). In Norway already a lot of research has been done near deformations by fish farming. From this it has emerged that the temperature of the water and the moment the fish comes out of the egg are of major importance.

Source: LBA no 18, year 15, May 27 2005

7. Sweden: Eel and Cod on Red List

The dramatic decline of the population of eel as well as cod have led to their being placed on the Swedish list of endangered species. The eel has even been given the label seriously threatened.

Source: LBA no 18, year 15, May 27 2005

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8. Japan Loses Commercial Whaling Vote

Japan lashed out at anti-whaling nations after its proposal to resume limited commercial hunting was voted down by an international commission and its "scientific" harvesting heavily criticised. Japan had sought the approval of the 66-member International Whaling Commission for a management scheme it said would promote sustainable commercial whaling, but critics said the plan was riddled with holes and would allow for more whales to be killed. The proposal had little hope of being adopted because it takes a three-fourths majority of IWC states to approve major policy changes. It failed by 29 votes to 23 with five abstentions.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31344/story.htm>

9. UN Asked to Ban Fishing Practice, Save Sea Turtle

More than 1000 scientists from around the world, as well as 281 private organizations from 62 countries have asked the United Nations to ban long-line fishing, a technique used by large fishing vessels in the Pacific Ocean that trail lines studded with hooks that can stretch out as long as 100 km behind them.

Tuna and swordfish are the most common targets, but the lines also snag as many as 4.4 million sea turtles, bullfish, sharks, marine mammals and seabirds every year, according to a study of the practice conducted for Costa Rica by Robert Ovetz of the California-based Sea Turtle Restoration Project.

One of the hardest-hit creatures is the migratory leatherback sea turtle, whose numbers in the Pacific have declined by 95 percent since 1980, according to Ovetz.

Scientists warn the leatherback could disappear in five to 30 years unless fishing techniques are altered.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/mewsid/31106/story.htm

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– Coastal & Climate Change –

10. Continued Freshening of the North Atlantic Could Slow the Conveyor in the 21st Century

Large regions of the North Atlantic Ocean have been growing fresher since the late 1960s as melting glaciers and increased precipitation, both associated with greenhouse warming, have enhanced continental runoff into the Arctic and sub-Arctic seas. Over the same time period, salinity records show that large pulses of extra sea ice and fresh water from the Arctic have flowed into the North Atlantic. But, until now, the actual amounts and rates of fresh water accumulation have not been explicitly known.

In a paper that was published June 17 in *Science*, Ruth Curry of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and Cecilie Mauritzen of the Norwegian Meteorological Institute quantified for the first time how much additional fresh water caused the observed salinity changes in the northern North Atlantic Ocean, how fast it entered the Atlantic circulation, and where that fresh water was stored. They report that patterns of fresh water accumulation over the past four decades suggest that a freshening threshold important to the ocean circulation and its poleward transport of heat could be reached in a century, although future impacts of global warming and glacial melting make prediction imprecise at this time.

http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/environment_sciences/report-45546.html

11. Hurricanes 'to Get Stronger'

Hurricanes are likely to get more extreme as a result of climate change, say scientists.

Computer models of the Earth's water cycle suggest that hurricanes will intensify as warmer temperatures draw more ocean water into the atmosphere.

The research follows a record number of hurricanes affecting Florida and typhoons striking Japan last year. Kevin Trenberth, a researcher at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, who led the research, said warmer seas and increased atmospheric water vapour would add energy to the showers and thunderstorms that fuel hurricanes.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/climatechange/story/0,12374,1508555,00.html>

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12. G8 Results in Complex Strategies for Climate Change

Climate change was a late but much emphasized topic at G8 meeting in Gleneagle from July 6 to 8, 2005. The United Kingdom, who was hosting the G8 meeting, also assumed the rotating presidency of the European Union on July 1 for six months, and has made climate change an issue for in each forum. Decision making and implementation may be difficult in each forum due to conflicting priorities and economic constraints.

In addition to the G8 members, the leaders of seven African nations attended the summit, as did the leaders of the five leading emerging market countries: China, India, Brazil, Mexico, and South Africa. On July 7, the G8 issued the Gleneagles Communique. Given the high expectations for G8, the communique has received mixed response in media and from government and non-governmental organizations. It is characterized by complex but mostly voluntary strategies to address climate change, so the eventual success will be dependent on political and economic measures of the member states and the G8 as a whole.

While there was no universal support of the Kyoto Protocol, there was an agreement on the science behind climate change, and recognition by the US that global warming is occurring and caused by human activity. From a coastal perspective, there is explicit recognition of the areas that will experience the most significant change, and the need to develop adaptive strategies. These regions include the Arctic, the African Sahel and other semi-arid regions, low lying coastal zones, and small island states subject to subsidence. One of the more significant aspects of the agreement, reflecting the broader attendance at the meeting, is the decision to conduct formal talks with rapidly developing countries, such as China and India, about their carbon emissions. There are also agreed upon future steps and meeting, beginning during the UK presidency of the EU.

The communiqué focuses on climate change, sustainable development and clean energy. The work program recognizes existing international institutions and national and international energy and climate initiative, and includes an emphasis on energy efficiency and the development of energy- saving technology. This focus extends to buildings, appliances, cars, aviation and industry. There is also a focus on cleaner use of fossil fuels, renewable energy, and financing a global transition to cleaner energy.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/g8_gleneagles_communique.pdf

<http://www.g8.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1078995902703>

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13. G8, Poverty Alleviation, and Climate Change in Africa- Interrelated Issues

The G8 meeting resulted in concrete outcome and benefits for Africa. Much of the discussion around the G8 meeting, as well as the Live8 concerts immediately prior, focused on poverty alleviation and not on climate change, despite economic links between climate change and the poverty. "Africa-Up in Smoke", a recent report by the UK Working Group on Climate Change and Development suggests that efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa will ultimately fail unless urgent global action is also taken to halt climate change.

Global warming is already affecting Africa. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that, "the effects of climate change are expected to be greatest in developing countries in terms of loss of life and relative effects on investment and economy." It describes Africa, the world's poorest region, as "the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of projected change because widespread poverty limits adaptation capabilities".

Small-scale farming provides most of the food produced in Africa, as well as employment for 70 per cent of working people. As farming is overwhelmingly dependent on direct rainfall, Africa is exceptionally vulnerable to the uncertainties and weather extremes of global warming. The continent is more exposed to the impacts of climate change than many other regions in the world, with this sensitivity to climate increased by poverty, recurrent droughts and floods, disease and numerous conflicts. The international trade regime and the debt burden are also recognized as negative factors.

One of the first studies to examine how climate change might alter the land surface of Africa has been published by a scientific team from Oxford University led by Professor Dave Thomas. Their research, reported in Nature, details how the dunes of the Kalahari could be stirred up by global warming. The Oxford team took data from three different computer models that are used to forecast likely climate change over the course of the next century.

The scientists ran this information through their simulation on the dynamics of the Kalahari dunes. These dunes punctuate 2.5 million sq km of Africa - from the northern end of South Africa, right up through Angola, Botswana and Namibia, to western Zimbabwe and western Zambia. They were built up thousands of years ago, are now reasonably well covered by vegetation, and used for agriculture.

No matter which general climate model data was used, the simulation resulted in dramatic increases in dune "activity" - the dunes will start to erode and move as precipitation falls and wind speeds increase. The southern dunefields of Botswana and Namibia will become active by 2040, while the more northerly and easterly dunes in Angola, Zimbabwe and Zambia will begin to shift significantly by 2070. By the end of the 21st Century, all the dunes from South Africa to Zambia and Angola are likely to be activate, dramatically changing existing agriculture.

"African sands set for upheaval" <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4634595.stm>

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/climate_change/africa_blue_in_smoke.htm

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14. Continuing Politicization of US Climate Science

Recent high level political debate in the US in June and July casts doubt as to whether the US government as whole is prepared to accepted the reality of climate change, despite statements in the Gleneagle Communique.

Three scientists, Michael Mann, Raymond Bradley and Malcolm Hughes, have received letters from Representative Joe Barton (Texas), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee specifically requesting information about their work on the 'hockey stick' papers for climate change, as well as other material not connected to these studies.

The tone and content of these letters have alarmed scientists and their professional organisations. In the words of Alan Leshner, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Barton letters "give the impression of a search for some basis on which to discredit these particular scientists and findings, rather than a search for understanding."

Mr. Barton also wrote to the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which reproduced the hockey stick in its 2001 scientific assessment of global warming, and to the director of the National Science Foundation, which funds much of the climate science done in the United States. The letters were also signed by the Republican chairmen of the Sub-committee on Oversight and Investigations - a body that has previously looked into the Enron and oil-for-food scandals.

Letters from Joe Barton: http://energycommerce.house.gov/108/Letters/06232005_1570.htm

Website for Real Climate: <http://www.realclimate.org/>

BBC news story <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4693855.stm>

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15. Global Warming to Wreck Mediterranean "Paradise"

Global climate change will bring hotter, drier summers to the Mediterranean and hit two of the region's biggest earners, agriculture and tourism. Unless something is done to tackle global warming, the Mediterranean will not be the same place that people have enjoyed in the past. That paradise will no longer be paradise. It will be hotter, it will have significant agricultural problems and will not be a place people will want to come to on holiday. Heatwaves in the region would not just put off tourists from visiting in midsummer, but warmer summers in northern Europe would also reduce the attraction for many holidaymakers of travelling south as they now do.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31504/story.htm>

– Ecological Networks – NatureNet –

16. Britain's Sharks 'Moving North'

Britain's biggest fish appears to be moving to Scottish waters - and experts say it may be down to global warming. Sightings of basking sharks are up 65% off the Scottish coast since 2001, but down 66% in south-west England, the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) says. It has studied the sharks for 17 years, relying on sightings from the public. MCS scientists believe the sharks, which can grow to 12m, are following plankton, their main food, northwards in a search for cooler waters.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4096504.stm>

17. Whales and Economics

There is ongoing discussion about the regulation of whaling, in which many different motives are used, including; economy, culture, science, biodiversity, and humanity. With the annual meeting of the International Whaling Committee (IWC) at the end of June this year, this discussion has become once more very alive.

A student of the Institute of Environmental Services in Leiden has written a paper about the economic importance of whaling, based on a literature study. In his paper the focus has been upon the economic relevance of whaling for the commercially whaling countries. For this purpose he has included both the commercial and scientific hunts of the whales, because in some cases these two factors are very closely related, and they both contribute to the economy of a whaling country.

In order to determine the overall economic relevance, the annual turnovers of the whaling companies have been estimated and compared to the national product of these countries. It turns out that the turnovers of whaling for the different whaling countries accounts for less than 0,004 percent of their gross national product. This means that there is no significant economical importance of whaling.

However, most of the whales (ca 75%) are caught during small-scale traditional hunts of Inuits, Eskimo's, and other traditional tribes and communities, for which whaling forms a very important aspect of their culture. An overall ban on commercial whaling will therefore not solve the whaling problem. Furthermore, the species that are hunted commercially are all quite abundant species that are most probably not endangered by the whaling, while the traditional catches include many species, like the Bowhead whales, that are seriously threatened with extinction. So the real threat to the existence of the whales is more likely to be posed by the traditional hunts than by the commercial or scientific hunts.

The paper is available in full text via: <http://www.leidenuniv.nl/cml/ssp/index.html>

For more information contact Tiko Seip: tikoseip@hotmail.com

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18. Whale Strandings in Europe

Marije Siemensma took part the annual conference of the European Cetacean Society (ECS) in La Rochelle, France. One of the workshops was about whale strandings.

All over Europe stranded marine mammals are collected from the coast. These carcasses provide researchers useful information on these species, which are often difficult to study in their natural environment. Necropsies are carried out in order to determine the main causes of death. This research is important as the acquired knowledge helps to optimise conservation strategies. During the ECS conference, a workshop was organised to study the possibilities for co-operation between the different national stranding networks. When stranding registrations are standardized exchange of data between research institutes would be stimulated. Furthermore, co-operation increases the opportunities for European funding.

During the ECS conference a workshop was held on marine mammal ethics with the goal to establish an Ethical Advisory Committee (EAC). Such a commission will get the task to advise researchers - if they ask

for it - when they have to make difficult ethical decisions. Furthermore, the establishment of an ethics commission will provide discussion about to which extent researchers are allowed to cause pain or disturbance to the animals.

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– EU News and Initiatives –

19. Europeans Value Healthy Environment Very High

Europeans consider a healthy environment just as important as the economical situation. That becomes clear from the special Eurobarometer regarding opinion on the environment for which data was collected in November last year. From the poll it emerges further that water and air pollution causes the inhabitants of the new EU-member states in Central and Eastern Europe the most concern, while the inhabitants in the old Union name climate change as most important theme.

Source: NRC Handelsblad May 4 2005

www.europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/index_en.htm

20. Information Network for EU Enlarged

'Europe next door'. With that slogan European Commissioner Margot Wallström (Communication and Institutional Relations) presented on May 4 the new information network Europe Direct. Europe Direct is in existence since 2000, but now gets capacity over a much more extended network of almost 400 offices in all 25 member states. Thirteen will go to the Netherlands, mostly in public libraries. "The public can get the access it wishes without much trouble", Wallström says. The European Commission is co-financer with almost ten million euros. In the local offices citizens can obtain information on subsidizing for companies and organizations, programmes for research, education, environment, health, agriculture and the working of the EU. In the offices are computers with access to the EU-website. Citizens can through de website also give comments and ask questions on Brussels. In 2004 80.000 citizens used Europe Direct.

Europe Direct has free telephone number for all member states: 00800 6789 1011. An e-mail service is reachable through the site <http://europa.eu.int/europedirect>. Those who sent an e-mail will be answered in a couple of days, according to the European Commission

Source: NRC Handelsblad May 4 2005

21. BALANCE: Application to "Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme"

The Baltic Sea is subject to severe environmental degradation, placing increasing pressures on vulnerable marine habitats and natural resources. Integrated management planning could be a solution to the transnational problems caused by fisheries and coastal development, but the data for such an approach is lacking.

BALANCE aims to provide the Baltic Sea Region with marine spatial planning tools, through the development of a management template. This template is composed of five work packages, which use existing data in a new way to characterise marine landscapes, to create habitat maps that can be used to evaluate the ecological coherence of the Baltic network of Marine Protected Areas, and to develop the "blue corridors" concept. The new information generated from these maps will form the basis of a regional zoning approach, that will assist agencies and key stakeholders in planning and implementing effective management solutions for sustainable use and protection of the Baltic Sea landscapes. Part of the plan is an increase under stakeholders of awareness of the marine natural heritage and the benefits of sustainable resource use.

<http://geus.net/balance>

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22. INTERREG IIIC¹ West Partners Receive Communication Training

A two-day Communication seminar, organised by the WEST JTS, in Lille was held recently. The seminar aimed to give partners the tools and skills needed to communicate simply and effectively their activities.

"We understand the complexity of explaining the INTERREG IIIC programme in a simple way. We hope that the seminar will inspire partners to create clear messages about their work and to explain to the Regions concerned in clear and concrete terms what they are trying to achieve and how it will benefit them." said Michel Lamblin, Programme Manager of INTERREG IIIC West. A professional media and training company specialising in PR and communication provided the training. The participants could select five out of seven possible workshops covering media relations, non-media relations, PR creativity,

¹ INTERREG IIIC is an EU-funded programme that helps Europe's regions form partnerships to work together on common projects. These projects enable regions to share knowledge and experience that will help them develop new solutions to economic, environmental and social challenges. 98 percent of all European Union regions are involved in INTERREG IIIC projects. There are more than 250 INTERREG IIIC projects running involving 2500 local and regional actors from 50 countries; 20 percent of these are from new EU Members.

writing press releases, media training, pan-European PR and event management. For more information please visit http://www.interreg3c.net/web/west_en

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23. EU Executive Shelves Environment Initiatives

The European Commission has shelved planned initiatives on air quality and marine protection in the European Union while members reconsider the executive's overall environment policy. The two strategies were to have been aired this month, but Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso decided his team needed to discuss environmental issues at a general level first - including the potential costs of such policies. The president has said that the Commission had not discussed the environment sufficiently to date. Its debate on July 20 would look at the costs to consumers and companies of implementing environmental strategies. The air pollution strategy was aimed at reducing the number of premature deaths, estimated at 350,000 annually in the EU, caused by particulate matter in the air, among other things. The marine strategy focused on protection and conservation, as well as pollution control and management of marine and inland waters. Environmental groups criticised the delay.
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L04688347.htm>

24. European Parliament Breathes LIFE into Environment

The European Parliament struck a blow for the environment against the European Commission. MEPs voted to overturn the Commission's plans to weaken the EU's Financial Instrument for the Environment, known as 'LIFE+'.

MEPs dismissed the Commission's move to axe the EU's only dedicated nature conservation programme, currently called LIFE Nature, which has been a major success for EU environmental efforts. This is seen as a significant move to help implement the EU's commitment to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010. It would help protect and revive Europe's most valued sites and species such as the Great Bustard and the world's most critically endangered big cat, the Iberian Lynx.

MEPs also made the first major move in getting a significant increase in funding by voting for a budget increase of nearly five times the Commission's figure: 9.5 billion Euro over seven years instead of 2 billion Euro. This was seen as a move to help properly finance the EU's network of 18,000 protected sites that have until now received minimal EU funds.

http://www.eeb.org/press/pr_EP_breathes_LIFE_into_environment_070705.htm

25. The EU Internet Consultation on the European Marine Strategy

The European Commission is currently working on a proposal for a Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment (in short Marine Strategy). This strategy aims at the protection of the European seas by ensuring that human activities are carried out in a sustainable way. In order to reach a sustainable use, an integrated approach is needed, which takes into account all the pressures on the marine environment. The Marine Strategy will likely result in a Communication and a Marine Framework Directive.

The Marine Strategy is being developed with the help of a stakeholder consultation from 2002 onwards. The final step in this consultation process was an internet consultation. The objective of this consultation was to ask for the opinions of different stakeholders on the specific measures which are being considered for inclusion in the Marine Strategy. EUCC participated in this internet consultation.

An evaluation of the consultation by the European Commission shows that a total of 133 respondents replied the consultation. The replies came from 22 countries, although half of the responses came from 3 countries (UK, Belgium and the Netherlands). Half of the replies came from organisations, the other half from individuals. The evaluation of the internet consultation concludes in general that there exists a large support for the approach suggested by the Commission. A majority of the respondents agreed with the objectives identified for the strategy. There was a strong support for the dual EU/regional approach and the set-up of Marine Regions as management units for implementation. There was a large support for the elements on which the implementation plans (Regional Marine Strategies) should be based upon. There was also strong support for using existing structures from international agreements for the implementation of the Regional Marine Strategies. There were some different opinions regarding the timetable for implementation of the strategy.

For more information, see the marine thematic strategy website:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/consult_marine.htm

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– International News in Brief –

26. Mass Whale Stranding at Two Australian Beaches

Up to 160 whales became stranded on two beaches on Australia's southwest coast this month, after two pods beached themselves. All but one of the false killer whales, most between 4 and 5 metres long, could

be pushed, dragged and herded back into the ocean in a rescue mission in which more than 1500 people took part.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31087/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31109/story.htm

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27. Looking Across a Vast Blue Void?

A Dutch North Sea cetacean monitoring program, called "project Rugvin", kicked off in January this year. The project aims to contribute to our knowledge about cetaceans in the North Sea. This information is used, besides its use for scientific research, to inform the Dutch public about the increasing abundance of cetaceans in the North Sea. Stena Line kindly allows observers onboard of their ships.

In the period January-June 2005 twelve surveys have been carried out from the bridge of two ferries operating between Hoek van Holland and Harwich. This method is similar to other ferry monitoring initiatives like the cetacean monitoring program onboard of the ferry between Portsmouth en Bilbao. The regular ferry time schedule and the fixed transect make the ships a very suitable platform for observations. In addition to the surveys, simplified observation forms have been left on the bridge and the crew was asked to note sightings on days when observers were not present. A total of 230 individuals have been reported, this is a surprising high number of sightings. Other researchers already reported that porpoises are numerous again in the Dutch North Sea. The different species sighted include the harbour porpoise (about 153 individuals sighted) and Whitebeaked dolphins (about 77 individuals sighted). Analysis of data showed strong seasonal variations in number of sightings, with a peak in March and April. The best place for sightings of harbour porpoises is along the Dutch coast compared to the English coast, and Whitebeaked dolphins seem to be more common on the British side of the North Sea than on its adversary. The monitoring of cetaceans onboard of Stena Line ferries will be continued for another year. Next to the ferry monitoring, project Rugvin recently started surveys along a transect following the Dutch coastline with the use of a smaller boat. More information will be published in Coastal News later on this year.

These monitoring projects will contribute to the knowledge we have about cetaceans in our waters as it provides information on its distribution, seasonal variations and in the future trends over the years. This knowledge is needed to improve conservation efforts made to protect these species. Marine mammals face threats like pollution and by-catch in fishing nets. Disturbance by ship traffic and noise pollution might pose an additional threat.

For more information contact Frank Zanderink at: rugin@planet.nl

28. Coalition Urges UN Curbs on Harmful Ocean Sounds

An environmental coalition urged the United Nations to take steps to protect whales, dolphins and other marine life from the powerful sound waves used in oil and gas exploration and by the world's navies to navigate and detect submarines.

Anthropogenic, or human-generated ocean noise is posing a threat to marine mammals and other ocean creatures. The level of noise produced by explosives, seismic airguns, military sonar, and ship traffic has increased so much over the past 60 years that it is now disturbing, injuring and even causing the death of many animals.

Ocean noise can cause haemorrhages in the animal's organs, nitrogen bubbles in the bloodstream, (temporary) deafness, change in behaviour, and it can also mask biologically meaningful sounds, such as predator calls.

Marine scientists believe there is a link between the use of high-intensity sound and recent mass strandings of whales and dolphins in waters off Greece, Hawaii, New Zealand and elsewhere around the world since 1985, said the Ocean Noise Coalition. In each of these cases, the strandings took place near high intensity sonar or near the use of high-powered industrial "air guns" used in oil and gas exploration, the coalition grouping over 120 different organizations told a news conference at UN headquarters. Intense sound can also seriously injure or kill fish and drive down the catch rates of commercial fishing operations, according to scientific studies cited by the coalition.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31170/story.htm>

www.oceannoisecoalition.org

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29. Dolphin Mums Teach Daughters How to Use Tools

Dolphin mothers in Western Australia teach their daughters how to use a sponge to forage for food, yet another example of how animals learn to use tools, an international team of researchers said recently. Their finding also seems to show a true animal case of culture - a behavior that is passed along socially and not hard-wired into the genes. The animals that used the sponges all seemed to be related, but the researchers could not find any genes associated with the behavior. Michael Krutzen of the Anthropological Institute and Museum at the University of Zurich in Switzerland and colleagues watched the dolphins at work in Shark Bay in Western Australia. For years researchers have seen the dolphins pick up sponges with their beaks and then use them as they poked along the sea beds, evidently to protect their delicate snouts from spiny fish. Krutzen's team analyzed DNA from 13 "spongers" and 172

dolphins that did not display this behavior. While the sponging animals all seemed related along the female line, there was no genetic link. Only one sponging male was studied. The researchers noted that this is a solitary behavior - not suited to the sociable lives of males. Male dolphins make complex alliances with one another and often move in packs - frequently in pursuit of females.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31151/story.htm>

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30. Newborn Dolphins and Killer Whales Never Sleep – Study

Sleep-deprived mothers of newborn babies should spare a thought for bottlenose dolphins and killer whales.

A study has shown the young of those two species do not sleep at all during the first month of life. They are active 24 hours a day - and their mothers have learned to cope.

Scientists of the University of California, who reported the findings in the journal Nature, believe the newborns' lack of sleep has several advantages. Their constant movement reduces the danger from predators and helps maintain their body temperature until they develop greater mass and blubber.

It also enables them to swim to the surface frequently to breathe and helps their body and brain to develop.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31478/story.htm>

31. DNA Samples Reveal New Dolphin Species

Two north Queensland researchers have identified a new species of dolphin in Australian waters. The Australian snubfin dolphin lives in shallow coastal waters in northern Australia and possibly Papua New Guinea. It initially was thought to have been an irrawaddy dolphin, usually found in Asia and Australia. But researcher Isabel Beasley, a PhD student from Townsville's James Cook University, says DNA samples and skull measurements have proved otherwise. "The Australian snubfin has three colours, whereas the Asian dolphin has just uniform slate grey colour with a white belly," she said. "The other differences are in the dorsal fin height and flipper shapes. Also within the skulls, there's a lot of differences in the skulls". It is the first discovery of a new dolphin species in more than 50 years.

– Publications –

Encyclopedia of Coastal Science

By M.L. Schwartz, 2005. Springer, Heidelberg. Hardcover, 1247 p, 796 illus. ISBN 1-4020-1903-3.

Maurice Schwartz brought together 245 international specialists to provide a world wide overview and the latest scientific insights on a wealth of coastal issues. Many contributors to the volume present a state-of-the-art in their field, covering geology, geomorphology, ecology, engineering, technology, oceanography, and human activities as they relate to the coast. The Encyclopedia of Coastal Science includes many aspects of the coastal sciences that are only to be found scattered among scientific literature, and is abundantly illustrated with line-drawings and pictures, some in colour. This volume also offers an extensive bibliography and some useful appendices.

Now why spending some 416 euros on an encyclopedia in the age of internet? If you are on the web already, you will often access information find quicker with web browsers than by leafing through this encyclopedia or its index, especially if you expect the book to be an encyclopedia of "the coast", mainly providing glossaries and definitions. You will even have a hard time to find information on something like fiards, fjords or tombolos in the book, until you discover the hidden but very useful Glossary of Coastal Geomorphology in Appendix 5. But even so, this is not the added value of the book. The state-of-the-art in the research field is the key thing. But then, the selection of the contributors is vital, especially re: topical and geographical coverage. Although many world wide top experts are there, it seems that Europe is underrepresented re: authors and topics. As examples, some of the EUCC's own role and expertise has not been found by the editors, and people that are aware of Macaronesia will wonder whether Macaronesia is the same range of archipelagos. But our general impression is excellent: this book provides an important reference work for students, professionals as well as informed lay readers.

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Nordsee – Strand. Muscheln und Schnecken

By Ira Richling & Vollrath Wiese, (2004, 2 pp.), Copyright Haus der Natur, Cismar, D-23743 Cismar, Germany, E-mail info@hausdernatur.de. Website: www.hausdernatur.de, Publisher Planet Poster Editions, Humboldtallee 16, 37073 Göttingen, Germany, E-mail info@planetpostereditons.de.

Website: www.planetposter.de, ISBN 3-933922-93-3, Price € 2,50, in German.

Overview in color on plastic A-4 format of mussels and other shells that can be found on the German and Dutch North Sea and Wadden Sea beaches. More than 110 species indigenous to the Wadden Sea and Heligoland coasts are assembled, with excellent pictures. German and scientific names are given. Highly recommended, in particular German tourists with a taste for shells will find it very useful.

Ostsee – Strand. Tiere und Pflanzen im Flachwasser

By Ira Richling & Vollrath Wiese, (2001, 2 pp.), Copyright Haus der Natur, Cismar, D-23743 Cismar, Germany, E-mail info@hausdernatur.de. Website: www.hausdernatur.de, Publisher Planet Poster Editions, Humboldtallee 16, 37073 Göttingen, Germany, E-mail info@planetpostereditons.de. Website: www.planetposter.de, ISBN 3-933922-99-2, Price € 2,50, in German. Colorful overview on plastic A-4 format of plants and animals indigenous to the surface waters in the Baltic Sea. Sixty-four species are assembled with excellent pictures. German and scientific names are given. Highly recommended, in particular for German tourists.

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ICES Guidance on Anchovy Stocks

ICES has produced fast-track guidance on the poor status of anchovy stocks in the Bay of Biscay. Preliminary surveys in 2005 strongly suggest that recruitment of young fish to the anchovy stock has been very poor. Based on this evidence, ICES has advised that the fishery should be closed immediately, until there is reliable evidence that the stock is improving. The reports can be down loaded at: <http://www.ices.dk/indexfla.asp>

Defying Oceans End. An agenda for action

By Linda K. Glover & Sylvia A. Earle (ed.) (2004, xxii, 283), Island Press, Eurospan distributor, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden London WC2E 8LU, United Kingdom, Fax +44 (0) 7379 3313, Web: <http://www.eurospan.co.uk/>, ISBN 1-55963-755-2, Price £ 19,95 Defying Ocean's End was inspired by an urgent need – to address the sharp decline in ocean wildlife, the disturbing increase in ocean pollution and the neglect of policies and resources to solve these problems. In May/June 2003 an invited team of international ocean scientists, economists, lawyers and conservationists – and representatives from governments, corporations and the media – gathered in Los Cabos, Mexico, to build a global action plan for ocean conservation. A business team assisted the experts in identifying near-term priorities and costs. This book is the result. It focuses on the seven key fields of action identified at the meeting: ocean-use planning and marine protected areas, economic incentives and disincentives, land-ocean interface, maintaining and restoring functional marine ecosystems, communications, ocean governance, unknown ocean. Defying Ocean's End is a guide for all who care about the future of the ocean.

The Empty Ocean

By Richard Ellis, (2003, xiv, 367 pp.), Island Press/Shearwater Books, Eurospan distributor 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden London WC2E 8LU, United Kingdom, Fax +44 (0) 7379 3313, Web: <http://www.eurospan.co.uk/>, ISBN 1-55963-637-8, Price £10.95 From codfish to tuna, and sea turtles to seals, entire populations of marine creatures are being driven to the brink of extinction. In this alarming, yet hopeful book, acclaimed author and artist Richard Ellis ventures from the depths of the Chesapeake Bay to the bustling aisles of Tokyo's Tsukiji Fish market and beyond to reveal the way the hunting, fishing, and collecting of aquatic animals is rapidly emptying the ocean of its inhabitants. Likened by critics to Rachel Carson's Silent Spring, The Empty Ocean presents an impassioned, compelling plea for a more prudent approach to the world's sea creatures.

Les Plages vont-elles Disparaître?

By Roland Paskoff (2005, 57 pp.), Le Pommier, 239, rue Saint-Jaques, 75005 Paris, E-mail : le.pommier@editions-lepommier.fr, Web : www.editions-lepommier.fr, ISSN: 1625-1245, in French Are the beaches disappearing? We who care so much about them, do we really now what constitutes a beach? What are the characteristics of their environment? Why are they threatened? What is our responsibility for this? Do we have the means to slow down the processes of their erosion? Prominent coastal scientist Roland Paskoff, chairman of EUCC France, sets out to answer these questions in this short survey. Published in the Les Petites Pommés du Savoir-series, which provides short, clear and serious answers to questions that concern the world around us for a francophone public.

Challenging Coasts, Transdisciplinary Excursions into Integrated Coastal Zone Development

By Leontine E. Visser , (2004, 248 pp.), Amsterdam University Press, ISBN 90 5356 682 1, € 30,40. Following its launch at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) became a key tool for national governments and international organisations alike. This volume argues that transdisciplinarity is a necessary corollary of ICZM yet that work to date has insufficiently crossed disciplinary boundaries. Professor Visser has sought to fill that gap by bringing together a range of authors of wide geographical and disciplinary backgrounds who have consciously tried to challenge disciplinary limitations in their contributions to ICZM in theory and practice.

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Fish for Life, Interactive Governance for Fisheries

By Jan Kooiman, Maarten Bavinck, Svein Jentoft, Roger Pullin (2005, 432 pp.) Amsterdam University Press, ISBN 90 5356 686 4, €39,50.

One billion people around the world rely upon fish as their primary-and in many cases, their only-source of protein. At the same time, increasing demand from wealthier populations in the U.S. and Europe encourages dangerous overfishing practices along coastal waters. Fish for Life addresses the problem of overfishing at local, national, and global levels as part of a comprehensive governance approach-one that acknowledges the critical intersection of food security, environmental protection, and international law in fishing practices throughout the world.

The editors are associated with the Center for Maritime Research (MARE), an interdisciplinary institute for research in the use and management of marine resources, based in Amsterdam.

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Destrucción a Toda Costa 2005

Greenpeace report about the Spanish coast situation.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/espana/reports/destrucci-n-a-toda-costa-summ.pdf>

– Events and training, 1st Announcements –

This list only includes the 1st Announcements of conferences and training courses.
For a complete overview of conferences please visit: <http://www.coastalguide.org/meetings>
EUCC related conferences are added in boxes.

July 13, 2005 – Brussels, Belgium

Conference: "Sea Our Future - the regional approach to an integrated European Maritime Policy "

http://landesregierung.schleswig-holstein.de/coremedia/generator/Aktueller_20Bestand/MJAE/Europa_Ostsee/Termine/PDF/konferenzabl_auf_property=pdf.pdf

August 9-11, 2005 – Rostock, Germany

HELCOM Youthforum 2005

<http://www.baltic-sea-forum.org/en/>

August 28 – September 2, 2005 – Bled, Slovenia

10th International Symposium of the Interactions between Sediments and Water

<http://www.icjt.org/iasws2005/>

September 1-3, 2005, Rhodes Island, Greece

9th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology

<http://www.gnest.org/cest/>

September 6-10, 2005 – Sefton, UK

**CoPraNet workshop: Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of Coastal Defences
 International Seminar and Study Tour: North West England**

<http://www.coastalpractice.net/en/workshops/index.htm>

September 15, 2005 – London, UK

'Offshore Development – New Frontiers of Opportunity'

www.ciria.org

September 12-16, 2005 – Porto, Portugal

Training Course on Coastal Erosion Management

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

September 18-20, 2005 – Gdansk, Poland

Littoral 2006 Conference "Coastal Innovation and Initiatives"

www.littoral2006.gda.pl

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September 27-28, 2005 – Sète, France

Workshop EUCC France: 1) an undeveloped coastal barrier isolating a lagoon for which a scenario of evolution under the sea-level rise predicted for the present century is available ; 2) a plan of managed retreat concerning a road on a retreating coastal barrier

For more information please contact Christine Clus-Auby at: c.clus-auby@noos.fr

September 29-30, 2005 – Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Delta Conference on Ports and Nature, Striking an New Balance

<http://www.newdelta.org/navigatie/frameset.asp>

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October 5-8, 2005 – Stepnica, Odra Delta, Poland

CoPraNet workshop and Opening of the "EECONET Park" of EUCC Poland

October 6:

Workshop: Network of Natura 2000 in Poland with special attention to the coast

Workshop: Policy of the Polish Government in Natura 2000 network implementation

Workshop: Financing of Natura 2000 in Poland

Workshop: Remarks from the Polish practitioners: Maritime Office, Local Communities and Authorities, individual farmers, NGOs working for nature

Workshop: Particular local examples in Europe (fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, coastal defence)

CoPraNet Business Meeting

October 7:

Workshop: European experiences in Natura 2000 implementation (stakeholders involvements, identification of sites, financing, conflicts identification, benefits, threats)

October 7 pm:

Opening Event of the Odra Delta Nature Park: the "EECONET Park"

October 8:

Seminar & Workshop: ODNP example of NATURA 2000 site implementation

CoPraNet Seminar conclusion, closing session and field trip to the EECONET Park (EUCC-Poland).

October 9

Field trip to Podgrodzie wetlands and visitor centre (EUCC-Poland)

October 6-8, 2005 – Brest, France

9es entretiens: Science et Ethique ou le devoir de parole (The Coastal Zone and the Scientific Progress)

<http://www.science-ethique.org>

October 25, 2005 – Brussels, Belgium

First European Water Association (EWA) Brussels Conference - European River Basin Management Policy

<http://www.ewaonline.de/pages/workshops.htm#EWAB>

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– Colophon –

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Please note that back issues will be transferred to <http://www.eucc.net>

EUCC Coastal News Editorial Team: Miranda Wien, Ben Spaans, Albert Salman, Marleen Smallegange, Renée Versteegen. Special Editors:

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

Bart van Engeldorp Gastelaars, Sancia van der Meij and Cora Seip (Centre for Environmental Science, University of Leiden): Marine Conservation and Management.

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 2005/08 : 22 August 2005.

Established in 1989, EUCC - The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2700 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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