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* INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF*

- 1) Scientists prove that over-fishing is a global problem

The cover story of the May 15th issue of the international journal Nature reveals that we have left only 10% of all large fish – both open ocean species including tuna, swordfish, marlin and the large groundfish such as cod, halibut, skates and flounder – in the sea. The authors prove for the first time that the over-fishing is a global problem. They also claim that the depletion of these large predators not only threatens the future of these fish and the fishers that depend on them, it could also bring about a complete re-organization of ocean ecosystems, with unknown global consequences.

More information: <http://ram.biology.dal.ca/~myers/depletion/>

- 2) French ecological protected zone in the Mediterranean Sea

To face the sea traffic, and particularly tankers transit (25% of the world oil traffic occurred in the Mediterranean), the French government has presented a new regulation for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea. The aim of this regulation is to create an "ecological protected zone" (zone de protection

ecologique). By extending their area of action from 12 miles (the Exclusive Economic Zone) to 80 miles, French authorities will have the possibility to exert their influence in a wider zone to prevent and to punish ships discharging. Currently, ships responsible of violation (in the French EEZ) can be fined (600 000 Euros) and the captain can be punished with a 4 years imprisonment. With the implementation of this "ecological protected zone", ships will be immobilized and put under embargo until the fine is paid. New means will be developed for juridical action (e.g. unification of the French legal procedure) and marine authorities (national marine, coastguards,...) will be reorganized in order to be more efficient. This regulation is following the decision taken at the Malaga summit to protect the French and the Spanish coasts. This text will certainly be adopted before summer 2003. More information: http://www.enn.com/news/2003-04-08/s_3737.asp (in English) and <http://www.environnement.gouv.fr/actua/com2003/janvier/21-zpe-qr.htm> (in French).

3) Oceans III Millennium

This 2nd International Congress of Marine Science and Technology (22 to 26 April 2003) was organised by FOMAR (Iberoamerican Foundation for the Promotion of Marine Sciences and Culture) in Alicante, Spain. The congress approached the marine sector from the point of view of scientists, technicians and engineers. Coastal zone management, marine ecosystems and biodiversity, distance vocational training, marine pollution, environmental surveillance and the submerged archaeological heritage were some of the issues brought up to discussion through 55 national and international presentations. Carolina Pérez from the EUCC Barcelona Office presented CoastLearn (the multimedia distance training package on Integrated Coastal Zone Management) in one of the parallel sessions. Further information on the congress and FOMAR: <http://www.fomar.org>, fomar@fomar.org

For further information on CoastLearn: <http://www.coastlearn.org>, EUCC, Daniela van Elburg, daniela@coastalguide.org

4) Navy sounds harm Canary Island whales

Most whale deaths recorded in the Canary Islands since 1985 coincided with military manoeuvres. This is the main conclusion of a Spanish report about the effect of sonic military equipment on marine mammals which has just been presented at the Antarctic Treaty meeting in Madrid. Post-mortems carried out after the last whale stranding in the Canaries found internal bleeding which may have been caused by acoustic trauma, said vets from University of Las Palmas. Source: <http://www.wild-spain.com/wsbriefs.php?op=main&nrows=108>

5) Ebro transfer to affect 3.3 km of protected areas

Construction work for the future water transfer from the river Ebro will affect 3.3 km of protected natural areas in the Sierras de Ricote y Espadán (Murcia). This is one of the conclusions of the environmental impact report on the Ebro transfer - part of the National Water Plan (PHN) - released by the government this week. The report also says that half of the 914 km of canals, tunnels and pipes needed for the transfer will make use of existing infrastructures, like motorways. The report opens a period of public debate and feedback which ends on 2nd August.

Source: <http://www.wild-spain.com/wsbriefs.php?op=main&nrows=108>

6) European ministers decide to halt destruction of nature and landscape by 2010

On 21 May 2003 Ministers and senior officials from 55 countries have endorsed the goal of halting the degradation of Europe's biological and landscape diversity by the year 2010. They have also committed to achieving nine specific measurable targets through national efforts and regional cooperation. According to Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme European (UNEP) the leaders have clearly demonstrated their commitment to achieving an environmental renaissance in this complex and dynamic region. UNEP, together with the Council of Europe, services the Pan-European Biological and

Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) through which governments and civil society organizations developed the proposed goal and targets. The PEBLDS promotes the regional implementation of the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was negotiated under UNEP auspices.

More information: http://www.strategyguide.org/docs/press/4_220503.html

To download Kiev Resolution on biodiversity visit:

http://www.unep.ch/roe/assets/special_events/kiev_conference/documents/biodiv_resolution_e.pdf

7) Concerns raised about Natura 2000

28 march - The difficulties and delays that plagued implementation of the EU's natura 2000 nature conservation network in the current EU states should be avoided in the accession countries, a report released by environmental group WWF says. Additional funding is needed, together with stronger efforts to identify sites for protection, it warns. Produced with five partner organisations, the document provides "a clear and concise snapshot" of the progress made to date by 11 accession countries in implementing the network. A progress update is already planned 2003/2004. All of the countries assessed reported threats to potential Natura 2000 sites, WWF says, including planned major infrastructure projects receiving EU funding. Effective co-ordination will be needed to ensure that EU environmental impact assessment rules are respected, the group warns. Lithuania, The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Malta are praised for their preparatory work in selecting sites. But in other countries "there is a common tendency to limit or at least focus identification of potential to areas that already have protected status." Additional EU cash is needed to develop the Natura 2000 network in the accession countries, the European Commission working group on financing Natura 2000 "has not addressed the situation and specific needs of the future EU member states.

Source: IMCG Newsletter

8) Portuguese Natura 2000 Network not large enough

According to the European Commission the Portuguese Natura 2000 Network isn't large enough to protect the Iberian lynx, several species of migratory fish and other endangered species. These are the conclusions of a seminar held in February 2003 with Mediterranean member states. Besides endangered animal species, several habitats are not represented sufficiently in the network. These habitats include, cork oak forests, salinated meadow grounds and coastal lagoons. The criticism is primarily aimed at the fact that the Aveiro estuary (one of the EUCC-ICZM demonstration sites) is not on the list of indicated territories. This area is considered to be of fundamental importance for the network. This year, Brussels will evaluate the implementation of the environmental network. In the beginning of 2004, the proposed changes have to be approved. According to the 1979 bird guidelines, Portugal has appointed 48 protected zones. The Non Governmental Organisations are planning to present a list of their own.

Source: LBActualiteiten 14 March 2003 (Newsletter of representatives of Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries, in foreign countries, Dutch).

9) International news survey

Baltic Sea - Late last year 17 hotspots were deleted from an environmental blacklist. More information:

<http://bulletin.rec.org/Bull114/regional.html#HotSpots>

Europe - The chapters of the EU accession negotiation are closed, but the environmental compliance efforts continue. The measures agreed by the European Commission and each candidate country appeared in the 2002 accession progress report.

More information: http://bulletin.rec.org/Bull114/cover_more.html

Germany

- WWF pleads for new flexible coastal defence strategy in Lower Saxony. The government of the state doesn't believe that such rash action is necessary and thinks that strengthening the Dikes is sufficient.

Source: Natur und Landschaft, April 2003 (German magazine about nature management: <http://www.natur-und-landschaft.de/>)

Germany - This year the Higher Administrative court of lower Saxony will decide if the construction of a dam in the lower reaches of the Ems river is rightfull. Although the dam is already completed and the Administrative court has already rejected their appeal, local environmental organisations still ask for this decision. They want the court to treat this case as an example of how the construction of such a large project in a special protected are under the EU Bird Directive should be judged.

Source: Natur und Landschaft, April 2003 (German magazine about nature management: <http://www.natur-und-landschaft.de/>)

Poland - On 4-5 April 2003 The Institute of Marine Sciences from the University of Szczecin and EUCC - Poland, organised a symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Over 60 engineers, natural scientists, marine officers, environment protection specialists, regional planners, representatives of local communities and authorities attended the symposium. It was a great success. All participants suggested to organize the symposium every year.

Scotland - Last spring Scottish fishermen launched their own political party to get better representation in the Scottish parliament. The FP (Fishing Party) is the result of the quota measures for the coming years.

For more information: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/low/scotland/2814969.stm>

Spain - On 21 May 2003 the Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO/BirdLife) has started planting its first certified crop of organic rice at its Riet Vell nature reserve in the Ebro Delta in Catalonia, Spain.

More information: http://www.birdlife.org/news/pr/2003/05/riet_vell.html

Spain - Two weeks ago marine biologists discovered populations of the endangered fish species Black-striped pipefish (*Syngnathus abaster*) in Posidonia sea-grass meadows in Ibiza and Formentera. The biologists hope their discovery will encourage official protection for the areas.

More information: <http://www.wild-spain.com/wsbriefs.php?op=main&nrows=108>

Spain - On 4 April the government of the Balearic Islands was planning to invest 40 million euros (generated from the controversial ecotax) in nature management, tourist projects and monument care. (See also the item below) Source:

LBActualiteiten 7 March 2003 (Newsletter of representatives of Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries, Newsletter in foreign countries, Dutch)

Spain - On 28 May Jaume Matas, new president for the Balearic Islands, announced to end the 'ecotax' instituted by his predecessor Francesc Antich. Since May 2002 visitors are charged up to 2 euros per night towards conservation work on the islands. The environmental budget will remain unchanged, says Matas, in anticipation to criticism from conservationists.

More information: <http://www.wild-spain.com/wsbriefs.php?op=main&nrows=108>

Spain - On 29 April a study of the University of Valencia and the Ministry of Environment was published in which Spanish dolphin hot-spots are revealed. The study proposes 16 areas of special interest for the conservation of whales and dolphins.

More information: <http://www.wild-spain.com/wsbriefs.php?op=main&nrows=108>

Spain - on 14 March the government of the autonomous district Andalusia declared the south coast near Gibraltar a national park. The Parque Nacional del Estrecho is threatened by a number of factors: the intensive sea traffic, urbanisation and the illegal dumping of toxic chemicals.

Source: LBActualiteiten 14 March 2003 (Newsletter of representatives of Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries, in foreign countries, Dutch).

Ukraine - On 20 May 2003 the Ukrainian Union for Bird Conservation (UTOP) today urged the Ukrainian Government to cancel plans to build a deep-water canal through a strictly protected zone of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve on the Black Sea coast.

Source: <http://www.birdlife.org/news/pr/2003/05/danube.html>

* SITE MANAGEMENT *

10) The Netherlands: Grazing in parts of the Amsterdam Watersupply Dunes

Large parts of this area are overgrown with grasses like wood small reed and with Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*). Especially the Black Cherry grows rapidly and prevents the growth of species that are indigenous to the dunes. In part of the area experiments have been conducted with grazing by sheep. With regard to the Black Cherry this has turned out to be a effective and applicable method. In the late summer grazing will start in this new area using sheep and cattle. The sheep are effective in reducing the Black Cherry and cattle reduce the wild growth of grasses. Apart from grazing, the Black Cherry will also be pruned periodically. The new shoots are then further reduced by the sheep.

* NEW IN THE EUCC COASTAL GUIDE WEBSITE *

11) New hyperlinks

Coastal Management

www.coastalmanagement.com sources interesting and informative websites to assist you to sustainable manage, use and research the world's coasts.

EUCC - Poland

<http://eucc.szc.pl/> With information on EUCC - Poland, their aims, activities, partners and the areas they protect.

Natura 2000 - benefits for birds and people

<http://www.natura2000benefits.org/> is part of a project in which Birdlife International partners of eleven EU countries explain the Natura 2000 Network to the public in their countries.

* COASTAL PUBLICATIONS *

12) Promoting Integrated Management in the Strymonikos Coastal Zone (Greece)

A Step-by-Step Proces, E. Koutrakis, Th. Lazaridou, M.D. Argyropoulou, Paper in Coastal Management, 31:195-200, 2003, Publisher: Taylor & Francis. Paper on the Strymonikos project, which was part of the EU ICZM Demonstration Programme. For more information:

<http://www.akdeniz.edu.tr/muhfak/cevre/coastlearn-r/practice/strymonikos.pdf>

13) Coastline 2003-1

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- Towards Policy Recommendations
- BaltCoast - Integrated Coastal Zone Development in the Baltic Sea Region
- Exciting Timens for ICZM in the Baltic Region
- Coastal Sands as biocatalytical filters (COSA)
- BIOMARE - Results
- EUCC Barcelona Office

Coastline is the quarterly magazine of EUCC - The Coastal Union.

Details of this magazine: <http://www.eucc.nl/info/coastline.htm>

For the COSA article visit: <http://www.coastalguide.org/denmark/index.html>

14) Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Proceedings of the MARBENA e-conference, Arvanitidis, C.; Eleftheriou, A.; Vanden Berghe, E.; Appeltans, W.; van Avesaath, P.H.; Heip, C.H.R., Mees, J., eds (2003). Electronic conference on Marine Biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - Summary of discussions, 7 to 20 April, 2003. Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ): Oostende, Belgium. iv, 74 pp.

15) Commission Working Document on Natura 2000

Commission of the European Communities, Brussels, 27 December 2002. Available in the languages of the EU member states in

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/nature/docum.htm>

16) National Evaluation Report of the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme of the Netherlands 2001 (NER). Bovenlander R, Akhiat A. Report of the Joint Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the OSPAR

<http://www.watermarkt.nl/WM/digiproducts/rikz2003.004.pdf>

17) Restoration of Dune Habitats along the Danish West Coast

Danish Forest and Nature Agency, 2003.

http://www.skovognatur.dk/foralle/projekter/klithede/materiale/DK8584_first_progress_report_WEB.pdf

* ANNOUNCEMENTS *

18) New on the Coastal Guide list of events

July 18-16, 2003

Defra Flood and Coastal Management Conference. Keele, July 2003. Info: Reg Purnell: rceg@defra.gsi.gov.uk, phone: +44 (0)20 7238 3000, www.defra.gov.uk/envirom/fcd/Keele/keelemain.htm

August 13-16, 2003

International colloquium series: Studying Land Use Effects in Coastal Zones with Remote Sensing and GIS. NASA, IGBP and IHDP, Kemer/Antalya, Turkey. Info: <http://www.ins.itu.edu.tr/rslucoat1/>

September 9-11, 2003-06-13

International workshop in connection with the EU LIFE project "Restoration of Dune Habitats along the Danish West Coast", including a fieldtrip. Info: Project manager Hanne Stadsgaard Jensen, hsj@sns.dk

September 11-12, 2003-05-15

Workshop EUCC-France, main topics: beach erosion and nourishment, dune evolution and management, south western Atlantic coast just north of the Gironde estuary, France. Info: EUCC-France secretary general valery.morel@univ-artois.fr

November 13-14, 2003

Climate Change and Biodiversity, The North Sea Commission Environment Group.
Leeuwarden, The Netherlands. Info: Hans van Meerendonk: phone +31 58 292 5402,
e-mail j.h.vanmeerendonk@fryslan.nl, www.northsea.org

June 2 - July 1, 2004

Summer Institute in Coastal Management, Coastal Resources Center, University of
Rhode Island, Narragansett, Rhode Island USA. Info: kkaine@gso.uri.edu,
<http://www.crc.uri.edu/train/sicm.html>

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