

**EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter**  
**N° 5**  
**June 2005**

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## - EDITORIAL -

In 1992, during the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio it was decided to celebrate a World Ocean Day to enhance the oceans' importance in our lives. Oceans cover 70 % of the Earth surface and produce more than 90 % of our planet's biomass. Seventy percent of the world population lives within a coast strip of 80 km, 150 million people live along the Mediterranean's 46.000 km coastline. Furthermore, more than 170 million tourists visit its coasts every year.

Oceans and seas are a major source of food on which 3.5 billion people in the world rely. Ninety-five per cent of world fish catch (80 millions tons) is from near-shore waters but most of the world's 17 major ocean fisheries are in decline. Important coastal habitats like coral reefs are disappearing at an alarming rate and despite the obvious ecological and socio-economical importance of oceanic systems, less than 0.5% of marine habitats are protected - compared with 11.5 % of land habitats.

In 1977, the Cousteau team circumnavigated the Mediterranean Sea onboard Calypso to survey its state. It was found to be extremely alarming, which subsequently gave birth to the film *Mediterranean: Cradle or Coffin* (1979) and to the book *Mediterranean: the Wounded Sea* (1987). Twenty-three years later, the Mediterranean Sea is still very endangered and under the same intensive pressures.

Again some facts: around 28% of the world's sea-borne oil traffic transits the Mediterranean with some 200.000 crossings per year. Some 60 petrol refineries dump into the sea nearly 20.000 tonnes of petrol per year, generating the equivalent of one "Prestige" per year.

More than 48% of the Mediterranean urban centres still lack sewage treatment facilities and around 80% of the wastewater still flows into the sea untreated!

Following the Rio Earth Summit, the concept of "Integrated Coastal Zone Management" was defined. It refers to the enhancement and sustainable use of coastal areas taking into account the socio-economic development generated by the presence of the sea, while

preserving the biological and ecological balance of the coastal areas for the benefit of future generations. We must admit that despite some progress, the commitment to sustainable development remains still largely unfulfilled. Many projects have been completed at various levels but they have not had enough visibility for the general public and the potential users of the coast.

Finally, there is a well-reasoned analysis about how we got to the present state - and what should be done to turn things in the right direction. The underlying message is that we have now the tools to do it right. The challenge is to use them.

**Tarik Chekchak**  
**The Cousteau Society**

## - EUCC news –

### 1. EUCC Mediterranean Centre conducted successfully “Clean-up the Med” action

*Keywords: education, pollution.*

On 27 May, EUCC Mediterranean Centre, took part for the first time in the Clean-up the Med campaign promoted by Legambiente. The Municipal Institute of Parks and Gardens of the Barcelona City Council and the Consortium El Far were collaboration partners.

The highlight was 100 school children who collected all kind of waste from the Barcelona beach and placed it into selective waste collection bins. Besides, the students interviewed some sunbathers in order to find out their attitudes. Before the action, children had the opportunity to attend a presentation about the problem of solid waste on Mediterranean beaches.



The purpose of this action was on one hand to clean-up the beach and on the other hand to raise their awareness about the problem caused by uncontrolled waste disposal.

*For further details:*

Pedro Fernández, [p.fernandez@eucc.net](mailto:p.fernandez@eucc.net)

### 2. ICCCM'05 and EUCC Med Centre Event

*Keywords: ICZM.*

The Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (ICCCM'05) held from April 17 to 20, 2005 in Tavira, Portugal was a tremendous success. The Conference, organised by the IHRH of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto with the support of IHRH, EUCC Portugal and many other institutions, gathered about 200

coastal management experts and professionals who contributed not only to oral presentations and the posters session but also to a series of thematic workshops.

The EUCC Mediterranean Center Board held its 3rd Board during this Conference and a parallel session was devoted to introduce the Mediterranean Centre to EUCC members and to obtain feedback directly from the members as well as to discuss ways of strengthening communication and cooperation in the future. Even though participation was not too high due to logistical problems, the Med Centre intends to organize short sessions in all those conferences where the participation of a large number of EUCC members is expected.

## - EU policies –

### 3. SMAP III call for proposals, closed

*Keywords: ICZM, EU policies*

The deadline for the receipt of preliminary proposals for the SMAP III expired 10th June 2005. More than 50 preliminary proposals had been received. 20 of them will be invited to submit full proposals.

The Short and Medium-term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) is a framework programme of action for the protection of the Mediterranean environment, within the context of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It was adopted unanimously by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Helsinki on the 28th November 1997.

More information on: [www.smaprms.net](http://www.smaprms.net)

### 4. EU bid to evade driftnet ban likely to kill thousands of dolphins

*Keywords: EU policies, biodiversity, fisheries*

A failure to plug a loophole in the European Union's anti-driftnet legislation will result in the return of driftnet fishing to the Mediterranean, and is likely to cause the death of thousands of dolphins and other species, warns the NGO WWF. According to WWF, already between 3,000 and 4,000 striped and short-beaked common dolphins – threatened species – are estimated to be caught every year in the Alboran Sea

(southwestern Mediterranean) alone as illegal driftnet fishing continues unchecked.

WWF urges EU Fisheries Ministers to amend the loophole in the Mediterranean Fisheries Regulation, which creates a new category of floating-gillnets. These so-called “anchored floating gillnets” would be allowed to catch tuna and similar fish species, at present banned for driftnet fishing.

But, according to WWF, this is an attempt to disguise driftnet fishing under another name. WWF says that modified driftnets, even when re-labelled “anchored floating gillnets”, are nothing more than large scale driftnet gear which targets large fish like tuna, and are therefore illegal.

According to a recent WWF report, about 23,000 sharks are captured as bycatch annually by the Moroccan driftnet fleet in the Alboran Sea, and another 77,500 are caught in neighbouring areas. Under the current legal framework, this driftnetting activity is a form of pirate fishing.

*For further information:*

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/where\\_we\\_work/mediterranean/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21291](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/mediterranean/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21291)

## **- Mediterranean Organisation Profile –**

Each issue of EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter presents one Mediterranean Organisation, its activities, and its contribution to coastline management.

For this issue, and regarding the SMAP call for proposals, the Greek organization MIO-ESCDE is the spotlight.

### **MIO-ESCDE**



#### **PROFILE**

The **M**editerranean **I**nformation **O**ffice for **E**nvironment, **C**ulture and **S**ustainable

**D**evelopment, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for Environment and Development, acting as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In co-operation with Governments, Intergovernmental and other International Organisations and socio-economic partners, MIO-ESCDE plays an active role in the development of policies, the protection of the environment and the promotion of the sustainable development of the Mediterranean countries and of the region as a whole.

The main objective of MIO-ESCDE is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biodiversity, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, traditional settlements, cultural diversity, cities, etc.) as well as areas of interaction between the two (landscapes etc) of the Mediterranean region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ESCDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ESCDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organisations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean region at all levels.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of appropriate information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by stimulating collaboration between NGOs and scientific and/or academic institutions.

- Raising public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental and social issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, presentations, etc.

### *ACTIVITIES*

The activities of MIO-ECSDE cover many thematic fields: integrated water resources management (IWRM), sustainable agriculture, climate change, desertification, education for environment and sustainability (ESD), nature and biodiversity, tourism, scientific research, etc. Regarding the marine environment and ICZM, particular attention has been directed in following evolutions (legislation, research, practical initiatives) relating to the assessment and challenge of the impact of anthropogenic activities in the marine and coastal Mediterranean environment, with focus on marine pollution issues. The Secretariat was particularly active in the many parallel efforts of various stakeholders concerning maritime safety controls, which had taken on extra momentum after the Prestige tanker spill. Immediately after the Prestige mishap MIO-ECSDE initiated a series of strategic steps which included: support of its Spanish and other NGOs involved in the various reactions to the accident, close collaboration with UNEP/MAP (and REMPEC [Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea]) on the issue in order to assure co-ordinated rather than isolated actions in the region, pressure on decision-making bodies at EU and national level to take the proper measures to avoid this happening again, constant dissemination of information to the wider MIO-ECSDE network on the various initiatives taken and the reactions to them as well, etc.

MIO-ECSDE also closely follows developments within the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and in the proposed framework for a European Marine Strategy and its links to the Mediterranean Sea. At the 13th meeting of the Barcelona

Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea, held in Catania, Sicily (11-14 November 2003), 16 environmental NGOs, including MIO-ECSDE presented a petition calling on Mediterranean governments who still have not ratified the Land Based Sources of Pollution (LBS) Protocol, of the Barcelona Convention, to do so urgently. The issue was widely promoted to the press and the NGOs around the region in order to exert as much pressure as possible. At the same meeting MIO-ECSDE supported the Catania Declaration, a proposal of the European Commission to the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, which focuses on political objectives and concrete actions in terms of the protection of the Mediterranean Marine Environment.

MIO-ECSDE actively participated in the forum on the ICAM (Integrated Coastal Area Management) Protocol organised by PAP/RAC (28-29 May 2004, Cagliari, Italy) with the support of the Italian Ministry for the Environment. MIO-ECSDE was the coordinator of the NGO input to the meeting. The draft NGO text was circulated to the participants and the MIO-ECSDE membership for comments. Its final version was included in the overall final report of the forum. In the previous year MIO-ECSDE participated in the 6th Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) (12-15 February, Malta) and assisted in drafting an NGO Statement during an NGO meeting that took place immediately before the REMPEC meeting.

MIO-ECSDE was a partner in the two-year research project SUDECIR (Sustainable Development of European Cities and Regions) supported mainly by DGXII of the European Commission. The primary objective of the project was to develop a (bottom-up) analytical concept and an associated set of practical guidelines for the development of sustainability plans which, when applied to a well-defined region, would produce for that region a

clear and concrete path towards sustainable development. Indeed, derived from scientific theory and refined through practical experience, the SUDECIR project developed and tested an approach (a) for assessing the sustainability of a given region, (b) for identifying those sectors that are most important for its future progress, (c) for ensuring the public education and participation necessary for the development of appropriate plans and actions, (d) for tracking progress toward sustainable development, and, crucially, (e) for reviewing and eventually revising the appropriate action plans.

In the framework of SUDECIR, MIO-ECSDE focused mainly on a typical Mediterranean coastal region, the island of Rhodes, and on the analysis of the predominant economic sector, tourism. In the book *"Planning Sustainable Regional Development: Principles, Tools & Practices - The case study of Rhodes island"*, MIO-ECSDE: presents the team's working definition of regional sustainable development, general observations deriving from the review of successful regional and local sustainable development case studies and examples of criteria and measures that, according to programme, should be taken into account in drafting sustainability plans; proposes a methodology for approaching sustainable tourism planning which pays particular attention to the determination of the "carrying capacity" of a region and incorporates early in the process the "expectations" and the subjective assessments and aspirations of the stakeholders involved in the development of a region; some practical tools for implementing this methodology; information on the main steps and outcomes of the implementation process in the Rhodes case-study.

MIO-ECSDE, being the major Mediterranean Federation of Environmental NGOs is very keen to promote sustainability plans in coastal areas, particularly in the area of Tourism and facilitate its member

NGOs and citizens to participate actively in the drafting of these plans.

*MORE INFORMATION*

<http://www.mio-ecsde.org>

## **- Research initiatives -**

### **5. Spanish Ministry of Environment will finish sea bed inventory by 2010**

*Keywords: research, biodiversity.*

The director for Biodiversity of the Spanish Ministry of Environment announced last April that it is foreseen to finalize an "inventory" of Spanish marine life.

According to the director, more than 99% of marine species have not been identified yet. Data about the sea bed and oceans are lacking, necessary to implement basic principles of sustainability in order to guarantee their conservation.

The inventory, which intends to eco-cartography the Spanish sea beds, is taking a substantial effort. Once it is finished and the most valuable and vulnerable areas are identified, it is expected to create a network of marine protected areas which will have similar functions as the Natura 2000 Network.

*Information gathered from:* INFORMACIÓN (Spanish newspaper) 27<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

### **6. Royal Approval for a MEDASSET Mediterranean Project**

*Keywords: education, public awareness*

MEDASSET announced on 29th June a contribution by the Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation towards the production of an Arabic version of the Environmental Educational Kit, "The Mediterranean Sea: A Source of Life" which will be distributed free of charge to schools in Arabic speaking countries bordering the Mediterranean.

The Kit is a unique project for 6-12 year olds to propagate knowledge, environmental values and a sense of regional responsibility in an educational and entertaining format. It has already been produced and distributed in Greek and English.

The Arabic version of the Kit has also received support from the "Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation", UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA).

This educational tool aims to foster an appreciation of the Mediterranean as a living resource, promoting a better understanding of the natural world and taking one more step towards the conservation of Mediterranean Sea Turtles.

For further information:

[medasset@medasset.gr](mailto:medasset@medasset.gr)

### - Calls for tenders and proposals-

a) 2005 Call for Proposals in the field of Community co-operation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution (2005/C 126/09).

Deadline: 31st July 2005

More information on: [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/c\\_126/c\\_126\\_20050525en00190019.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/c_126/c_126_20050525en00190019.pdf)

### - International news in brief –

#### **7. MAP adopted Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development**

*Keywords: international conventions, sustainability.*

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) adopted the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) in the 10th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD), 20-22 June 2005.

This report is being prepared following a proposal of the MCSD and a decision of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention. The draft report was reviewed first at a Regional workshop which took place on 5-7 April 2005 in Italy. The revised version was discussed and adopted by the 10th meeting of the MCSD (20-22 June 2005, Greece) for submission for adoption to the 14th meeting of the Contracting Parties (8-12 November 2005, Slovenia).

The Strategy is structured around four objectives and seven interlinked priority fields

action. Thirty-three indicators are annexed to enable to monitor in achieving the Strategy's goals for target dates ranging from 2010 to 2025. The Strategy will be reviewed by MCSD every two years, and revised every five years. The four objectives are:

- 1) Contribute to economic development by enhancing Mediterranean assets.
- 2) Reduce social disparities by implementing the Millennium Global Goals.
- 3) Change unsustainable production and consumption patterns and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.
- 4) Improve governance at the local, national and regional level.

The full report can be found at:

[http://www.unepmap.org/Archivio/All\\_Language\\_s/WebDocs/pdf/MCSD/MSSD\\_latest\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unepmap.org/Archivio/All_Language_s/WebDocs/pdf/MCSD/MSSD_latest_eng.pdf)

Further information on:

<http://www.unepmap.org>

#### **8. 8th June: International Ocean Day**

*Keywords: biodiversity, marine, fisheries, pollution.*

On the occasion of the International Ocean Day, Greenpeace called for a radical change regarding ocean exploitation and demanded:

- a. the governments must act concerning the deep crisis of the oceans.
- b. to recover the fishing grounds and stop destructive fishing practices.
- c. to protect sea beds and declare an international network of marine reserves.
- d. to stop definitely whale hunting.

Greenpeace also proposed a Decalogue for the real protection of the oceans:

- 1) to reduce significantly the size of the industrial fleet;
- 2) to reduce drastically the impact of fishing to the marine ecosystems and the species, which are not commercially fished, by reducing the most aggressive fishing practices;
- 3) to protect the rights and ways of the traditional fishermen;
- 4) to declare a global network of protected marine areas;
- 5) the FAO International Action Plan against illegal fishing must take effect;

6) to fight against the effects of climate change and destructive aquaculture practices, especially in high value ecosystems as reefs and mangroves;

7) to stop marine pollution;

8) to establish a moratorium on fishing in areas where the deep sea biodiversity is high;

9) to guarantee unlimited responsibility for industrial activities which may damage the marine environment; and

10) to protect coastal ecosystems.

*Further information on:*

<http://www.masmar.com/noticias/html/34910.html>

### **9. Oceana urges Portugal to protect seamounts against bottom trawling**

*Keywords:* biodiversity, fisheries.

Portugal, one of those European countries with more seamounts and less trawlers, is taking a position in favour of the Spanish government regarding its objective of permitting bottom trawling in Azores and other seamounts areas.

Spain is blocking the agreements to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems such as the Azores archipelago and its seamounts, which has a high environmental value. Oceana, as well as the autonomous government of Azores, demand Portugal to abandon the support to the Spanish position. Portugal could lead the protection of the seamounts in its waters and internationally, which has been required from scientific communities and fishermen from Azores and Madeira.

Both in the Azores and Madeira Archipelagos and continental waters, the marine heritage is outstanding: there are seamounts (some of them 4.000 metres deep), which are very important geological formations, because they provide habitats for numerous species, many of them endemic species.

*Further information on:*

<http://www.masmar.com/noticias/html/34816.html#>

### **10. 26,7% of the Catalan land will become Natura 2000**

*Keywords:* biodiversity, EU policies

The Department of Environment and Housing of the Catalan government intends to increase the

Natura 2000 Network from 19,5% to 26,7% surface area of Catalonia. Besides, 77.099 ha of marine areas have been integrated in this proposal, which strengthens the protection of the marine environment in Catalonia. After the public consultation period, it will be approved by the Catalan government, then by the national government and finally by the European Commission.

Nowadays, the total area of the Natura 2000 Network in Catalonia is 679.984 ha while the proposal of enlargement would add 236.583 ha of land and 77.099 ha of sea. The total area would be then 933.666 ha.

There are three main reasons to enlarge the proposal of Catalan areas to the Natura 2000 Network:

- 1) Need for better representation of the habitats and species of Community interest at the Alpine and Mediterranean biogeographical regions.
- 2) Offence procedure due to the insufficient declaration of special protected areas (SPA) for birds.
- 3) Community complaint regarding the declaration of new areas within the limits of steppes.

*Further information on:*

[http://mediambient.gencat.net/cat/ciudadans/participacio\\_publica/ampliacio\\_natura-2000.jsp?ComponentID=53189&SourcePageID=44412#1](http://mediambient.gencat.net/cat/ciudadans/participacio_publica/ampliacio_natura-2000.jsp?ComponentID=53189&SourcePageID=44412#1)

### **11. Mediterranean Social Forum held in Barcelona**

*Keywords:* international conventions.

From 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June The Mediterranean Social Forum (FSMed) was held in Barcelona. There were seven thematic axis which were discussed at the conferences and workshops; regarding the Mediterranean environment, the axis was "Development pattern and environmental sustainability".

Within this topic, there were discussions mainly about water (supply, privatization, quality, etc.), NGO networking, hazardous substances transport, etc. Several NGOs were present such as Legambiente, Friends of the Earth Catalonia, COAGRET, Mediterracqua and EUCC Mediterranean Centre.

Although the initiative had a high acceptance, participants and organizers were not fully satisfied due to the relatively low public attendance.

Further information on:

<http://www.fsmed.info/>

## **12. World's First Wave Power Plant Set for Portuguese Coast**

*Keywords: energy*

The world's first commercial wave-farm generating renewable electricity from ocean waves is in the works.

Ocean Power Delivery, a company based in Edinburgh, Scotland, recently signed a contract with a Portuguese consortium to build the first phase of the project. The initial phase will consist of three Pelamis P-750 Wave Energy Converters located five kilometers off Portugal's northern coast, near Póvoa de Varzim. Pelamis Wave Energy Converters take the movement of the ocean and convert it into electricity.

The €8 million project will have an installed capacity of 2.25MW, and is expected to meet the average electricity demand of more than 1,500 Portuguese households while displacing more than 6,000 metric tons per year of carbon dioxide emissions from conventional generating plant.

Further information on:

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2005/2005-05-24-04.asp>

## **13. WWF and TOI join forces for sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean**

*Keywords: tourism*

WWF and the Tour Operators' Initiative (TOI) for Sustainable Development launched a partnership to develop sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean.

The partnership between WWF and TOI will be first tested on the Croatian island of Lastovo, one of the last "jewels" in the Mediterranean that is almost untouched by tourism development.

WWF and its Croatian partner Sunce identified Lastovo as an area of high natural importance in the Mediterranean in need of urgent protection. WWF and TOI priorities are to assist national authorities and the local

community in the establishment of Lastovo as a nature park and to provide inputs for its sustainable management plan. The two organizations will also explore opportunities for economic development through sustainable tourism.

Both WWF and TOI share concerns over the environmental effects of tourism in the Mediterranean and will focus their efforts and activities on supporting governments and authorities to improve conservation and the sustainable use of marine and coastal habitats. They will also work together to raise tourists' awareness on marine issues.

Further information on:

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=20435](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=20435)

## **14. Mediterranean fish at risk of exotic viruses**

*Keywords: biodiversity, fisheries and aquaculture, pollution, health.*

Mediterranean wild fish are exposed to exotic viruses because of huge quantities of imported feed-fish used in tuna farming, says a report launched by WWF. The NGO is therefore asking the EU to urgently ban the use of non-Mediterranean fish as feed in tuna farming.

The report shows that during their captivity, which lasts about six months, tunas are fed on large quantities of feed-fish. Most of it consists of imported frozen, untreated fish from other regions (West Africa, the North Atlantic, and North and South America) and involves non-Mediterranean species such as herring or capelin.

As a result, as much as 225,000 tonnes of feed-fish – most of them alien to the region – are used annually by tuna farms in the Mediterranean, a higher number than the area's annual catch of sardines. This could lead to the introduction of new viruses that might affect the whole Mediterranean ecosystem.

With Spain, Malta, Italy, Greece, and Cyprus accounting for 71 per cent of the officially declared tuna farming activity in the Mediterranean, the problem is mainly European and the EU has the responsibility to halt the threats.

Further information on:  
[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=20232](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=20232)

### **15. Urgent protection needed for Mediterranean high seas**

*Keywords: interntational conventions, biodiversity.*

WWF is asking delegates at a meeting of the UN Convention on Biodiversity to approve the creation of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mediterranean high seas. MPAs are beginning to be established in coastal regions in some Mediterranean states, but the high seas are yet to be considered.

The Mediterranean high seas showcase a range of outstanding features and rank among the most important in the world, according to a recent report by WWF and IUCN - The World Conservation Union.

Sea-beds go down to 5,000m in depth and contain vaste submarine canyons, seamounts, mud volcanoes, or deep trenches. Moreover, the Mediterranean is one of the few warm deep-sea basins in the world, with temperatures around 12.5°C–14.5°C at all depths, high salinity, and high oxygen levels. These characteristics translate into the presence of a unique biodiversity with a high presence of endemic species.

WWF is proposing an initial list of six sites to be protected regionally, with the status of MPAs:

- Alboran Sea seamounts,
- Cap de Creus canyon system,
- "Lophelia" deep-sea reef
- Chemosynthesis-based ecological community,
- Eratosthenes seamount,
- "Pelagian Sanctuary" open-sea area

Further information on:  
[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21296](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21296)

### **16. International Whale Commission anual meeting 2005**

*Keywords: international conventions, biodiversity.*

Five days of gridlock and political posturing at the International Whaling Commission held in Ulsan (Republic of Korea), 20-24 Junne, was

unable to halt the advance of Japan's so called "scientific whaling".

Despite Japan's defeat on three major votes, it has announced it will expand its whaling in Antarctica and take 50 endangered fin whales, 50 humpbacks, and double its quota of minke whales to 850.

Japan stated at the interantional whaling meeting that it would win a vote of support for its science next year. This is clearly a sign it will continue to recruit new countries to vote with it. This year, the number of countries that voted for conservation was neck and neck with the pro-whaling bloc. Swing votes on key issues, or further abstentions, would have given the pro-whaling bloc the majority.

Japan tried to abolish the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary, but was defeated. Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa tried to establish a South Atlantic Sanctuary, which was then defeated by the pro-whaling bloc.

Should Japan and its allies finally achieve the majority, there are clear signals that next year they will abolish the conservation committee tasked with looking at ship strikes, bycatch (incidental catch in fisheries nets) and other threats, including climate change. They would also strike whale watching, sanctuaries, and environmental and health issues from the agenda.

Japan's draft proposal was rejected. However, the IWC agreed to continue talks on this issue before the next meeting.

Further information on:  
[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21401](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=21401)

## **- Events and training -**

### **July 3-7, 2005**

WAVES 2005: Fifth International Conference on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis  
Palacio de Congresos, Madrid, Spain

For further information:  
[www.cedex.es/waves2005](http://www.cedex.es/waves2005)

### **July 11-24, 2005**

International Voluntary Eco-Camp  
Samothraki, Greece

Contact: Michalis Theodoropoulos,  
Mediterranean SOS Network  
[medsos@medsos.gr](mailto:medsos@medsos.gr) or [michalis@medsos.gr](mailto:michalis@medsos.gr)

**July 21-23, 2005**

6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium  
Computer Mapping and GIS for Coastal Zone  
Management: "Defining and Building a Marine  
and Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure"  
Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre,  
Scotland  
Abstract Deadline still open for submissions  
Manuscript Deadline 31 March 2005  
<http://www.aecc.co.uk>  
<http://www.coastgis2005.org.uk>

**September 12-16 2005-06-29**

International Training Course On COASTAL  
EROSION MANAGEMENT  
Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto,  
Portugal  
Training course website at  
<http://www.fe.up.pt/~fpinto/Erosion>

**September 12-18, 2005**

The World Conference on Ecological Restoration  
"Ecological Restoration: A Global Challenge"  
Zaragoza, Spain  
Contact:  
Tel.: +34-976-211748, Fax: -212959  
[secretariat@ecologicalrestoration.net](mailto:secretariat@ecologicalrestoration.net)  
<http://www.ecologicalrestoration.net>

**September 27-28, 2005**

Annual meeting EUCC France. Terrain workshop  
Sète, France  
Contact: Christine Clus-Auby  
Secrétaire générale d'EUCC-France  
[c.clus-auby@noos.fr](mailto:c.clus-auby@noos.fr)

**October 13-16, 2005**

12<sup>st</sup> Hellenic Congress of Ichthyologists (1<sup>st</sup>  
Announcement)  
Drama, Greece  
Paper submission deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005  
Thematic areas: Fisheries, Aquaculture and  
Environment  
Contact details:  
Congress Secretariat, Ms Lidia Katsaiti

Tel./Fax: +30-25210-35795  
E-mail: [lidi@in.gr](mailto:lidi@in.gr)  
[www.ichthyologists.gr](http://www.ichthyologists.gr)

**October 3-December 3, 2005**

Euromediterranean course on environmental  
journalism Laura Conti  
Parque Nacional de Cilento y Ballo de Diano  
(Salerno, Italy)  
Scholarships available  
More information: Editoriale La Nuova Ecologia  
tel + 39.0645430942 - fax + 39.0645430943  
[http://www.lanuovaecologia.it/corso\\_giornalismo\\_2005.htm](http://www.lanuovaecologia.it/corso_giornalismo_2005.htm)

**October 25-29, 2005**

MEDCOAST 05 International Conference  
Kusadasi, Turkey.  
The deadline for papers submission is 30 June  
2005.  
More information:  
[www.medcoast.org.tr](http://www.medcoast.org.tr)

**October 2005-September 2006**

17<sup>th</sup> International degree Programme MBA  
Programme for executive and policy makers  
Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Contact: International Ocean Institute (IOI)  
[www.icpe.si](http://www.icpe.si)

**October 2005-June 2006**

Master y Título de Experto sobre Gestión  
Integrada de Áreas Litorales  
Facultad de Ciencias del Mar y Ambientales  
Cádiz, Spain  
*For further information:*  
<http://www.uca.es/grup-invest/coast>

**November 14-December 16, 2005**

IOI Training Course on regional ocean  
governance for Mediterranean and eastern  
European countries  
Gzira, Malta  
Contact details: Charles Galdies, International  
Ocean Institute. Tel. +35621356528  
<http://www.ioinst.org>

## - Colophon –

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Members of the EUCC Euro-Mediterranean Newsletter editorial team: Jordi Serra, Irene Lucius, Carolina Pérez, Pedro Fernández,

Contributions: Tarik Chekchak (The Cousteau Society) and Anastasia Roniotes (MIO-ESCDE).

**Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Euro Mediterranean Newsletter No 6 2005: 31 August 2005.**

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. EUCC Mediterranean Centre is an association aiming at serving the EUCC Southern European and Mediterranean membership and at developing new EUCC initiatives in the region. 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>, email: [info@eucc.net](mailto:info@eucc.net)  
EUCC Mediterranean Centre, c/ Escar 6-8, Mòdul 10A, 08039 Barcelona, Spain, tel: + 34-93-2247340, email: [med@eucc.net](mailto:med@eucc.net)



This publication has received funding from the European Community. Sole responsibility of this publication lies with the authors; the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information herein.