

EUCC Coastal News

No 9

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EUCC Coastal News is a monthly newsletter published by EUCC - The Coastal Union for its members. Readers and Network members (only entitled to newsletters) are encouraged to join the EUCC as a Private or Professional member. Members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in www.eucc.nl/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions to this newsletter, please contact news@coastalguide.org.

– Contents –

- EUCC news –
 1. EECONET: LARGEST JOINT EUROPEAN NATURE PROGRAMME EVER
 2. Successful EUCC Members Assembly at Littoral 2004
- EU news and initiatives –
 3. European Commission proposal for protection of coral reefs
 4. EU court takes firm stand on eutrophication
 5. LIFE+: Commission proposes new streamlined funding programme for the environment
 6. European Commission and UNEP to reinforce co-operation a.o. on regional seas
 7. EU pays to reduce Russia's sewage contamination of the Baltic Sea
- International news in brief –
 8. Oil contamination of Kaliningrad coast urgent environmental problem
 9. Faster-rising sea levels predicted
 10. Picture of North Sea fish decline
 11. Scottish aquaculture adding to pressure on world fish stocks
 12. UK study: Man made coastal defences could raise flood risks
 13. Spain will irrigate land with sea water
 14. Russian government gives greenlight to Kyoto Protocol
 15. Noise pollution is an increasing problem in world's oceans
 16. UNEP Launches Report on Environmental Assessment of the Barents Sea
- Publications –
- Newsletters and new websites –
- Events and training –
- Colophon –

The following keywords are applied:

EU policies, ICZM, international conventions, biodiversity, coastal defence, climate change, water (management and policies), marine environment, fisheries and aquaculture, energy, transport, pollution, tourism, health

– EUCC news –

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

1. **EECONET: Largest joint European nature programme ever**

Three leading European nature organizations decided on 7 October to combine forces to initiate the largest joint European nature programme ever: the EECONET programme. The programme aims to boost the establishment of the European ecological network (EECONET) of major nature areas by 2010, because in the wider Europe its realization is currently progressing too slowly. 2010 is the year in which the decline of nature and biodiversity at all geographical levels in Europe should be stopped, according to the EU and all European countries. This is not possible without a fully operational European ecological network.

The three organizations, ECNC-The European Centre for Nature Conservation, EUCC-The Coastal Union and EUROSITE felt that only by joining forces and combining expertise and international networks can the fight against the decline of nature in Europe be won. They therefore created on 7 October the EECONET Alliance. Via the combined networks the three organizations can reach millions of people in Europe.

Another European nature organization, Euronature, will be observer to the Alliance. The Alliance will work closely together with the EECONET Action Fund, a fund that focuses on the purchase and management of EECONET areas, and will also seek close cooperation with the European Commission, UNEP, Council of Europe, IUCN and others.

The EECONET programme aims to speed up the identification of the location of the European ecological network on a map, to increase international and cross-border cooperation between countries and regions, to safeguard important nature areas, and to inform the public via EECONET actions for relevant species and areas.

The European ecological network will enable species to move freely between regions and countries. It will also assist in compensating for the negative effects on species of climate change. A fully operational European ecological network will substantially contribute to realizing the 2010 target, and reversing the trend of decline of nature. The EECONET programme is based on the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. EU's Natura 2000 is the most important instrument for creating this network in the EU.

ECNC, EUCC and EUROSITE reflected their far-reaching commitments in a memorandum of cooperation, the "Loevestein Agreement", named after the famous Dutch castle "Slot Loevestein", where the agreement was reached on 7 October. A recommendation committee consisting of "EECONET ambassadors", who are renowned people from various European countries and organisations, supports the EECONET programme. Fundraising is ongoing to complement the combined EECONET programmes of the organizations with additional resources.

For more information:

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2. **Successful EUCC Members Assembly at Littoral 2004**

More than 300 coastal practitioners and scientists met at the Littoral 2004 Conference, 20-22 Sept. in Aberdeen. At the EUCC Assembly members from 12 countries provided an overview of progress and achievements at a national level, and reported about the election of their representatives to the EUCC Council.

The new EUCC Council met to discuss several policy issues, approved a number of amendments to the Statutes, and elected new Executive Committee members. The Committee is now consisting of: Dr. David Green (President), Prof. Roland Paskoff, Prof. Francisco Taveira Pinto, Dr. Gerald Schernewski, and drs. Wim van Gelder. Albert Salman will leave the board on 15 November and has been appointed EUCC Director General.

The Council also appointed ca. ten members of the EUCC Advisory Board.

Finally, the board accepted the offer of the EUROCOAST Assembly to again join forces in the organization of the next Littoral Conference, to be taking place in Gdansk (Poland) in September 2006.

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– EU news and initiatives –

3. **European Commission proposal for protection of coral reefs**

Keywords: EU policies, fisheries and aquaculture

The European Commission has proposed measures to ensure protection of deep-sea corals around the Azores, Madeira and the Canary islands until long-term rules can be established later on this year. A proposal for long-term protection through a ban on bottom trawling was tabled last February (IP/04/153). However, as its progress through Council and the European Parliament has been delayed by

the European Elections, the Commission has proposed that measures be put in place in the interim period.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1034&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

4. EU court takes firm stand on eutrophication

Keywords: EU policies, water (management and policies)

The European court of justice has insisted on a broad EU definition of eutrophication in a ruling condemning France for breaching the EU urban wastewater treatment directive. The French government had disputed the definition in an attempt to justify designating relatively few "sensitive areas" under the 1991 law. In a case that goes back five years, the European Commission insisted that France should have designated a series of inland and coastal waters as sensitive to eutrophication. It also sought to establish that France should have applied stricter sewage treatment standards in areas that were, or should have been, classed as sensitive. The court states, "any proliferation" of algae or the like constitutes disturbance of the balance of the aquatic ecosystem. And this disturbance is undesirable not only if it harms immediate flora and fauna, but also if it produces "nuisances" due to proliferation of algae or severe outbreaks of toxic or harmful phytoplankton.

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=8915&channel=4

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

5. LIFE+: Commission proposes new streamlined funding programme for the environment

Keywords: EU policies

The European Commission has proposed a new simple and streamlined funding programme for the environment. It will come into place in 2007 when the EU's new budgetary period begins. The new programme called "LIFE+" (LIFE plus) would become the EU's single financial instrument targeting only the environment. LIFE+ should closely support the priorities of the 6th Environment Action Programme (2002-2012) which are to combat climate change, to halt the decline in bio-diversity, to minimise negative environmental effects on human health, and to deal with natural resources and waste in sustainable ways. With this new instrument, aligned more closely with today's environmental and sustainable development agenda, the Commission expects to push improvements ahead more rapidly for the benefit of EU citizens. The Commission has proposed to commit a total of €2.19 billion from 2007 to 2013.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1152&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

6. European Commission and UNEP to reinforce co-operation a.o. on regional seas

Keywords: EU policies, biodiversity

The European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that they will strengthen their cooperation to fight global threats to the environment more effectively. The agreement takes the form of a Memorandum of Understanding and was signed by Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström and Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of UNEP. The Memorandum will reinforce policy dialogue and collaboration at all levels between UNEP and the Commission. This co-operation will support implementation of the commitments made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. One of the areas selected for immediate cooperation is supporting the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, with an initial focus on the 1992 Convention on Biodiversity and agreements on regional seas. It will also help achieve the environment-related UN Millennium Development Goals, such as environmental sustainability.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1115&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

7. EU pays to reduce Russia's sewage contamination of the Baltic Sea

Keywords: EU policies, pollution

The EU is providing more than €150 million in grants and loans to tackle pollution from Russia's second largest city, St Petersburg. The millions of litres of raw sewage which flow out of the river Neva every year have already taken a toll: the Gulf of Finland is devoid of all life on large areas of the sea bed, ruined by high levels of phosphorus. On the surface, toxic algae are turning the sea blue-green. For years, the wealthy countries located on the Baltic - Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Finland - have been cleaning up their own discharges into the sea. The northern arm of the Baltic is now clean, with the populations of grey seals, salmon and sea eagles making dramatic recoveries from a point of near extinction during the 1970s. But the southern part of the Baltic close to Poland, which also discharges raw sewage, and the eastern end at St Petersburg continue to get worse. Scientists on the Muikku, a research vessel of the Finnish Environment Institute, have been taking samples in coastal waters over five summers, and in 2003 estimated that 4,000 sq km (1,500 square miles) of the Gulf of Finland on the sea bed was devoid of oxygen and that all life had disappeared. It takes up to 30 years for

water to flush out the Baltic, so recovery will take time, but the first job is to stop the situation getting worse.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,1315850,00.html>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– International news in brief –

8. Oil contamination of Kaliningrad coast urgent environmental problem

Keywords: Pollution, marine environment

The most urgent environmental problem of the Kaliningrad regional coastline is the contamination of the coastal territory with oil products, as the XXI international conference "Marine coastline: morphological hydrodynamics and geo-ecology" held 7-10 September at Svetlogorsk, Kaliningrad pointed out. The main source of systematic oil pollution is a transborder transit of the carbohydrates. It was determined that pollution has got seasonal character and depends on directions of prevailing winds and drift currents. Northern winds bring oil saturated waters from the sea channel of Klaipeda marine port and accidental oil discharges from Buting oil terminal to the coast of the national park "The Curonian Spit" and the northern part of Sambian peninsula. Western winds bring oil polluted waters from Gdansk oil terminal.

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

9. Faster-rising sea levels predicted

Keywords: Climate change

Global warming could raise sea levels far more quickly than previously thought, according to two new studies on Antarctic glaciers. Both efforts - one led by the University of Colorado (USA) and another by NASA - focused on glaciers that once abutted the Larsen B ice shelf on the Antarctic Peninsula, jutting just south of Argentina and Chile. The Larsen B ice shelf collapsed into the sea in March 2002. The ice masses accelerated to a sprint of about a mile per year. The discovery could have dire implications. Climate models show polar regions to be hardest hit by global warming.

http://www.dailycamera.com/bdc/buffzone_news/article/0,1713,BDC_2448_3200652,00.html

10. Picture of North Sea fish decline

Keywords: Fisheries and aquaculture

A scientific model of the North Sea's ecosystem suggests the total stock of fish has dropped from 26 million tonnes to 10 million in just over a century. Some fish, such as the bluefin tuna, have disappeared completely following intensive fishing in the 1960s. Others, including cod, haddock and mackerel, have declined considerably, while seals appear to be on the rise. Details for the model were revealed at the annual meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. The researchers hope their work will help in forecasting the future impact of fishing and climate change on species within the North Sea.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3694390.stm>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

11. Scottish aquaculture adding to pressure on world fish stocks

Keywords: Fisheries and aquaculture

According to a new report, commissioned by WWF, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland, fish feed manufacturers are plundering already threatened fish stocks to supply salmon feed to the Scottish aquaculture industry. Industrial fish farming is the fastest growing sector of the global food economy and Scotland is one of the largest salmon producers in this market. To feed these quantities of farmed salmon, serious pressure is being placed on populations of small feed fish and questions must be raised about the sustainability of the feed fish industry. Of the top six feed fisheries used by Scotland's aquaculture industry, blue whiting from the North Atlantic is particularly at risk, with 2.3 million tonnes - four times the recommended safe quota - being caught in 2003. The long-term future of the aquaculture industry, as well as the health of the marine environment, depends on healthy populations of feed fish. In the next five years it is expected that the global demand for fishmeal will increase by 50 per cent - to reach 3.45 million tonnes - by 2010.

http://www.oneworld.net/external/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.panda.org%2Fabout_wwf%2Fwhere_we_work%2Fasia_pacific%2Fnews%2Fnews.cfm%3FuNewsID%3D15092

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

12. UK study: Man made coastal defences could raise flood risks

Keywords: Coastal defence

Man made coastal defences could in fact be raising the risk of flooding in some areas by making the coastline steeper, a study has found. It suggests that holding all defence structures in their current positions may not be sustainable in the long term as they will not be able to offer the same levels of protection. Coastal steepening is the process by which the low water and high water marks move closer together on a shore. The landward retreat of the low water mark relative to the high leads to a narrowing and steepening of shorelines which can make waves much more damaging to the coast as the energy contained in them hits full strength at sea defences rather than losing energy on the journey up a beach.

The study found that 61% of the UK coastline had experienced steepening over the last 113 years, with the south of England showing the most dramatic changes. In some instances, as beach widths decrease and water depths increase in front of structures, they will no longer be able to offer the same levels of protection and the strength of wave energy will lead to structural damage and overtopping. In addition, the narrowing of the coasts has serious implications for conservation of important natural habitats, such as beaches, mudflats and saltmarshes. In some locations, the area of such habitats is decreasing as the low water mark advances landward while the high water mark remains fixed.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/dorset/3690654.stm>

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=8952&channel=4

13. Spain will irrigate land with sea water

Keywords: Water (management and policies), health

The Environment Minister of Spain has revealed plans to use sea water to irrigate the parched southern parts of Spain. Desalination plants will utilise the vast natural resources provided by the Mediterranean Sea to provide irrigation and fresh water to Valencia and Murcia, where nearby rivers and reservoirs have been unable to meet demands. The end product will be priced according to its intended purpose. Desalination plants are available along the coast to help cope with the demand for water, and the proposed system would provide much greater water and energy efficiency than re-directing the River Ebro. The hugely controversial plans to re-route the Ebro river down across Spain to its southern provinces that were put in place before the current socialist government was elected last March have been scrapped.

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=8844&channel=1

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

14. Russian government gives greenlight to Kyoto Protocol

Keywords: Climate change, international conventions

The Russian government gave its approval for a ratification package for the Kyoto Protocol, the world's only international agreement to reduce emissions of CO₂, to become international law. Once the Russian Duma endorses ratification, the UN will finally have a binding multilateral agreement to combat climate change. Russia is the latest of 126 countries to ratify the protocol.

For further information: Katya Pal, Head of Communications, WWF-Russia, e-mail: kpal@wwf.ru

15. Noise pollution is an increasing problem in world's oceans

Keywords: Pollution, marine environment

The world's oceans are now so saturated with noise that whales and other marine mammals are severely affected. The UK's Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) is launching a campaign, Oceans of Noise, to tackle this problem. Key sources of undersea noise are the search for oil and gas, and the use of low-frequency military sonars. Long-distance effects according to WDCS is that noise is causing hearing loss in cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), injuring them and causing to strand themselves, and is sometimes killing them. It also believes excessive noise is seriously interfering with cetaceans' ability to communicate with each other. Some noise sources of human origin may be blotting out other, biologically important sounds, preventing mothers and calves from staying in touch and masking sound cues for predators and their prey. The WDCS is proposing an action plan, which includes a proposal for an international treaty to regulate marine noise pollution, and for an independent body to undertake further research.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3680086.stm>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

16. UNEP Launches Report on Environmental Assessment of the Barents Sea

Keywords: Marine environment, pollution

Overfishing of cod and haddock, nuclear waste storage, the invasion of the Red King crab and a projected six-fold increase in oil and gas transportation are some of the issues threatening the Barents Sea Arctic ecosystem, scientists are warning. The absence of long-term planning and legislation are the main causes of these threats according to a new report prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), released at the Offshore Northern Seas conference in Stavanger, Norway. The overexploitation of fish stocks is "the most alarming problem for the region at present," according to the report. It says, fish in the Barents Sea continue to be over-fished despite measures of regulation and control. Pollution was identified as the next most important concern. While the report notes that the Barents Sea is much cleaner than other European seas, and that pollution does not constitute a threat to human health or ecosystems, it points out risks associated with the expansion of oil and gas industries in the region. Other major issues of priority concern are the storage facilities for radioactive wastes and possible contamination of the environment, the modification of ecosystems by invasive species and the unintentional introduction of alien species through ballast water of oil tankers. In response to the problems identified, the report recommends that new regulations for different sectors should be adopted and enforced, along with rigorous adherence to existing international environmental agreements.

<http://www.aquamedia.at/>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– Publications –

Coastal Engineering. Processes, Theory and Design Practice

By Dominic Reeve, Andrew Chadwick and Christopher Fleming (2004, XVIII + 461 pp.) Spon Press, 2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN www.sponpress.com ISBN 0-415-26840-0 (hbk) 0-415-26841-9 (pbk)

The book provides a thorough introduction to all aspects of coastal processes, morphology and design of coastal defences. The use of detailed and state of the art modelling techniques are an important theme of this book, and there are numerous case studies showing real life examples where mathematical modelling has been applied through engineering judgement.

A strategy for Scotland's coast and inshore waters

Scottish Coastal Forum (2004, 100 pp.) Scottish Coastal Forum 1-J South Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

The Scottish Coastal Forum (SCF) has set out to create a national strategy for the sustainable use of Scotland's coast and inshore waters. The aims are to take stock of the resources and key management issues and then look beyond the short term to develop an influential vision based on a 25-year forward view. The process of developing the strategy in an inclusive manner has been seen as valuable in itself to build coherence and synergy in coastal policy and management, whilst taking into account the needs of all sectors and the EU's encouragement for the development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

Impacts on Europe's Changing Climate

Report about the impacts of climate change on Europe's environment and society. Past trends in the climate, its current state and possible future changes are presented using 22 selected indicators. For almost all of these a clear trend exists and impacts are already being observed. The report highlights the need to develop strategies at European, national, regional and local level for adapting to climate change.

http://reports.eea.eu.int/climate_report_2_2004/en/impacts_of_europes_changing_climate.pdf

– Newsletters and new websites –

EC FP6 – The Floodsite Project

The FLOODsite Project covers the physical, environmental, ecological and socio-economic aspects of floods from rivers, estuaries and the sea. FLOODsite is the largest ever EC research project on floods.

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

Waterbirds around the world

A global review of the conservation, management and research of the world's major flyways.

<http://www.wetlands.org/GFC/docs/Programme.pdf>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

– Events and training –

October 18-20, 2004

Workshop on the development of an inventory of internationally shared surface waters in south eastern Europe (see),

Thessaloniki, Greece

Organized by UNESCO, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO with an objective to promote effective cooperation between Balkan countries, in order to alleviate potential risks of conflict in transboundary water management issues.

http://www.inweb.gr/workshops/surf_main.htm

http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=55632004-6-29&DOC=19&TBL=EN_NEWS&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:22244&CALLER=EN_NEWS

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

October 20, 2004

Making space for water: conference about developing a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England
University of London

Defra is currently leading an exercise to develop a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/policy/strategy.htm>). As a part of this consultation process CIWEM will be organising a one day conference on the theme of the strategy. Details of the event programme will be available on www.coastms.co.uk.

October 23 - 27, 2004

7th Marbena E-conference "The Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea: New Challenges for Marine Biodiversity Research and Monitoring".

Piran, Slovenia

Marine biodiversity research and monitoring issues will be addressed during the e-conference. During the three sessions – one Mediterranean, one Black Sea and one joint session – it will be discussed:

- a) Some research issues like the role of top predators, climate change and biological invasions for marine biodiversity in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions, neglected microbiota and deep sea biodiversity.
- b) Monitoring of biodiversity, impact of human activities, biodiversity indicators and conservation, and
- c) Regional and international cooperation.

More information is also available on the web site: <http://www.vliz.be/marbena>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

October 25 - 26, 2004

Management of recreational waters in relationship with harmful micro algae blooms (HAB) in the Mediterranean Sea, End users meeting of European project STRATEGY (2001-2004).

Calvià, Mallorca (Spain)

The session topics include:

- a) HABs in the Mediterranean coastal areas as an emerging problem.
- b) Socio-economic implications of HABs in the Mediterranean.
- c) Monitoring – Integrated control.
- d) Actions plans and measures for an integrated control.

<http://www.icm.csic.es/bio/projects/strategy/>

November 15-18, 2004

ELOISE (European Land Ocean Interaction Studies), European Conference on Coastal Zone Research. Portoroz, Slovenia.

For all registrations and enquiries concerning the Conference, please contact the Conference Secretariat at: Mrs. Berit Modalen, phone: +47 63898071, e-mail: berit.modalen@nilu.no or eloise@nilo.no

November 17-25, 2005

The 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress - "People and Nature - only one world"

Bangkok, Thailand

Contact: IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Ursula Hiltbrunner, tel: +41 (0) 22 999 02 32 (direct)

www.iucn.org/about/wcc/wcc.pdf

November 29-December 1, 2004

Offshore Arabia 2004, conference and exhibition of coastal protection

International Exhibition Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

For exhibition details please contact: Basil Nader at +44 1702322000 or email him at basil.nader@timesgroup.co.uk

For conference details please contact Hana Holy or Susan Thomas at 00971 42651585 or email them at info@index.ae / marketing@index.ae

General information can be found at www.offshorearabia.ae

January 19 – 20, 2005

Coastal Futures 2005, Call for Topics and Sponsors

please email bob.earll@coastms.co.uk or ring Bob Earll, +44-01531 890415

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

November 29 - December 1, 2004,

Ocean Biodiversity Informatics - International Conference on Marine Biodiversity Data Management, Hamburg, Germany

Discussion of new technologies and linking between networks. Conference topics will be restricted to marine biological data management (taxon-based), and environmental, non-taxon based data management.

<http://www.vliz.be/obi/>

April 11-15, 2005

Coastal Dynamics 2005, international conference about multi-scale dynamics of the coastal system.

Barcelona, Spain

Organization: LIM/UPC <http://www.coastaldynamics.org>

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

April 13-15, 2005

COASTAL ENGINEERING 2005: Seventh International Conference on Modelling, Measurements, Engineering and Management of Seas and Coastal Regions.

Algarve, Portugal

For further information: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/coastal2005/1.html>

April 17 - 20, 2005

International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal.

Info: ICCCM2005 Secretariat, Tel: 351 966055637, E-mail: iccm2005_as@aeiou.pt,

<http://iccm2005.tripod.com>

April 18-20, 2005

COMRISK 2005 – International Conference on Coastal Risk Management, Kiel, Germany.

More information can be obtained at www.comrisk.org and via the project secretariat by Daniel Witzki, tel: + 49 4319885158 or email: daniel.witzki@im.landsh.de

July 3-7, 2005

WAVES 2005: Fifth International Conference on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis

Palacio de Congresos, Madrid, Spain

Closing date for abstracts and reports: 31 October 2004.

For further information: www.cedex.es/waves2005

September 12-18, 2005

The World Conference on Ecological Restoration, "Ecological Restoration: A Global Challenge"

Zaragoza, Spain

For more information: secretariat@ecologicalrestoration.net or <http://www.ecologicalrestoration.net>

September 19 - 23, 2005

Dunes & Estuaries 2005, international conference.

Casino Koksijde, Belgium.

Ministry of the Flemish Community (AMINAL-Nature Division).

Organised by: Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), EUCC - The Coastal Union and Municipality of Koksijde, with support from the LIFE-nature project 'FEYDRA'.

www.vliz.be/de2005/

[Back to: – Contents –](#)

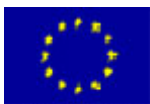
– Colophon –

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



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[Back to: – Contents –](#)