

# EUCC Coastal News

## No 01 & 02

### January – February 2006

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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. Progress towards the Portuguese National ICZM Strategy

During two days in late January, 220 participants representing different groups from public institutions, universities, NGOs, private consultancies and companies, among others gathered in the Coast of Caparica (Lisbon) to discuss the challenges and opportunities of implementing strategic policies for the sustainable development of the coastal zone in Portugal. The event was called “ACÇÃO XXI LITORAL” – Contribution for a Coastal Strategy for the Portuguese Littoral” and has been organised by EUCC – Portugal and the Department of Sciences and Engineering of the Environment of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the New University of Lisbon (DCEA-FCT-UNL). It has resulted in the unanimous approval of a set of recommendations including strategic principles for the National ICZM Strategy. This set of recommendations, known as “Carta da Caparica” has been approved in the presence of the Secretary of State for Spatial Planning and Towns, from the Ministry for Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development, Prof. João Ferrão, as well as other dignitaries. During this event, the Bases for the Coastal Strategy in Portugal, a report requested by the Minister of Environment has also been presented by Prof. Veloso Gomes who leads the working group of experts. This document is publicly available for comments. <http://www.maotdr.gov.pt/MAOTDR/INICIATIVAS/Estratégia+para+o+Litoral.htm> (in Portuguese) For more information about the event results and follow-up actions please contact Francisco Taveira Pinto (EUCC-PT) at [fpinto@fe.up.pt](mailto:fpinto@fe.up.pt) and/or José Carlos Ferreira at [jcrf@fct.unl.pt](mailto:jcrf@fct.unl.pt)

### 2. Facilitating the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network: a programme focusing on South-East Europe and the Black Sea Area

ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation is starting up a programme to facilitate the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network in South-East Europe and the Black Sea Area. This two-year programme will be carried out by ECNC in cooperation with EUCC-the Coastal Union and Eurosite, and with various partner organizations and the governments in this region. The programme is funded by the BBI Matra fund of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The programme aims to facilitate the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) in South-East Europe and the Black Sea Area, and to ensure that interests and considerations specific to these regions are taken into account in international policy processes dealing with PEEN. This programme will adopt an integrative approach, aimed at involving all relevant stakeholder groups and specifically including non-governmental stakeholders. The focus will be on: promoting the concept of PEEN among relevant actors and in relevant forums, initiating capacity building for ecological networks, stimulating involvement of the region in international processes, and providing support to organizations from the region in successfully applying for funding for projects in support of ecological networks and PEEN.

On 1 February the programme partners met at ECNC headquarters to kick off the work. First outcomes of the meeting are the establishment of a website which will provide easy access to background information and relevant publications on PEEN, funding sources and a contact database of experts and stakeholders dealing with ecological networks. A calendar showing main events on ecological networks will also be accessible from this website. Capacity-building events and workshops are planned for later in the year, after an assessment of training and information needs of stakeholders in the targeted regions has been completed.

More information is available from Sandra Rientjes, Head of Programme Development - Deputy Director, ECNC; [rientjes@ecnc.org](mailto:rientjes@ecnc.org)

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### 3. CoPraNet: special on Integrated Coastal Management

EUCC in conjunction, with the Interreg IIIC project Coastal Practice Network (CoPraNet) partners, have produced a 24 page, full colour brochure entitled ‘ICM – do we *really* have a choice’. The booklet is aimed at providing convincing arguments for politicians and interested stakeholders as to why integrated coastal management should be implemented throughout Europe. The brochure looks at economic arguments and job creation, , as well as lessening the effects of natural disasters and restoring habitat. The text is studded with real examples from around the world where ICM is having a major, and positive, effect on coastal management, the social welfare of coastal communities and the natural habitats and landscapes of the coast.

3000 copies of the brochure have already been spread among the Network Partners, EUCC members and persons that are involved in ICM in various governments, organisations, institutes and committees throughout Europe. The magazine is free for EUCC members, for information on how to become a member see [www.eucc.net/en/members](http://www.eucc.net/en/members). For more information about CoPraNet visit: <http://www.coastalpractice.net>

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## **-EECONET / NatureNet News – News for Friends of the Coast**

### **4. Row over claim that in Japan “whale meat is made into dog food”**

Japanese scientists have reacted angrily to media reports that surplus whale meat is being sold as pet food. A UK conservation group said last week that Japan's research programme was landing so many whales, unwanted meat was being turned into dog food. In a statement issued on Thursday, the ICR's director general criticised claims made by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) and the media's reporting of them. Dr Hatanaka said the meat in question was less than 100kg of small intestine from Baird's beaked whale, a creature not regulated by the global ban, or part of the ICR's research programme.

A global moratorium on commercial whaling has been in place since the 1980s, but hunting for scientific research is permitted under the rules of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The hunting is condemned by most conservation groups on the grounds that it is inhumane, unnecessary and may harm fragile populations. Japan and Iceland run scientific programmes, while Norway lodged a formal objection to the moratorium and maintains an openly commercial operation. The sheer volume of Japan's operations has made it the principal target for the wrath of conservation groups. Its latest scientific programme, JARPA-2, will slaughter 935 minke and 10 fin whales each year; while its other programme JARPN kills 100 sei whales, 100 minke, 50 Bryde's whales and five sperm whales annually from the north Pacific. Many whale species are at risk of extinction, and last year 63 members of the IWC's Scientific Committee condemned the JARPA expansion. In January a group of 17 countries, including the UK, mounted a formal diplomatic protest. Japan maintains that hunting is part of its cultural heritage, which other nations have no right to condemn.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4700418.stm>

### **5. Whale birth decline tied to global warming according to study**

By observing more than 1,800 right whales in the southern Atlantic, researchers have determined that changes in climate are affecting the whales' reproductive success. The problem, experts believe, is not that whales suffer directly from warm conditions, but that their food supply—mainly krill—does. In their study, scientists compared sea-surface temperatures in the southwest Atlantic to their index of the yearly calving success of whales that breed off the Argentine coast. Researchers found a strong correlation between the number of right whale calves born and changes in sea-surface temperature in the autumn of the preceding year. Previous data support a significant relationship between sea-surface temperature and the breeding success of krill-loving gentoo penguins. Leaper says the new study, which is described in the current online issue of the journal *Biology Letters*, has implications for whaling policy as well. Quoting the Japanese government, Leaper said that their motivation for scientific whaling is "to take into account species interaction [ecosystem] effects in understanding the dynamics of the baleen whale species in the Antarctic ecosystem and predicting future trends in their abundance and population structure." But if that is their aim, Leaper says, hunting and killing whales is not the best strategy. "Our results would indicate that long-term studies of live whales are much more likely to achieve this objective than the Japanese whaling program."

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/01/0118\\_060118\\_right\\_whales.html](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/01/0118_060118_right_whales.html)

### **6. Reference to naval sonar deleted in whale-beaching report**

Documents released under a court order show that a government investigator studying the stranding of 37 whales on the North Carolina coast in the United States last year changed her draft report to eliminate all references to the possibility that naval sonar may have played a role in driving the whales ashore. The issue of sonar's effects on whales is a sensitive topic for the U.S. Navy. It has clashed with environmentalists in several court suits seeking to limit use of the technology because of its possible effects on marine mammals and other sea creatures. The January 2005 stranding occurred shortly after naval manoeuvres in the area -- which is off North Carolina and in the region where the Pentagon wants to build a controversial underwater sonar training range.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/19/AR2006011902990.html>

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## 7. Shark attacks fall in 2005

Shark attacks dropped in 2005 because people are fighting back more often when threatened and the ranks of ocean predators are thinning, according to a University of Florida report presented by George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File housed at the university's Florida Museum of Natural History.

Worldwide there were 58 shark attacks in 2005, down from 65 a year earlier, and fatalities fell to 4 from 7. Human-shark encounters are dropping partly because there are fewer sharks, a decline caused by overfishing of the species, which generally is slow to reproduce. Humans are also taking greater care to avoid areas where sharks gather and fighting back when they get bitten.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=35073&newsdate=14-Feb-2006>

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## – International News –

### 8. Estonia: Oil slick could kill up to 35,000 water birds

A thick oil slick off the shore of northwest Estonia could kill as many as 35,000 birds, far more than previously feared, as freezing seas hamper rescue and recovery efforts

The oil spill of about 20 tonnes, whose source is being investigated, was first reported on the Estonian coast on January 28<sup>th</sup>, but was initially believed to have a limited impact. However, further reports from bird watchers have initially confirmed that as many as 5,000 birds were expected to perish, a figure that since then has been adjusted to 35,000 due to the severe conditions. "The oil has coated the feathers of many birds including swans and the rare long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), which summers in Sweden and Norway and winters in Estonian waters," said Estonian Fund For Nature spokeswoman Kristel Toom. Conservationists especially fear for the population of the long-tailed duck.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=34925&newsdate=07-Feb-2006>

### 9. US Officials learn from Dutch flood expertise

Officials from Louisiana, visiting the Netherlands in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in January, hailed Dutch know-how and said they still had much to learn to prevent future flood disasters.

The US government has committed about \$3.1 billion to strengthen the New Orleans levees but views still vary on how to rebuild flood protection systems, strengthen against future storm surges and restore and protect wetlands and coastal areas. The Dutch stressed - and their US counterparts agreed - that short-term measures would not protect low-lying lands from storms such as the two Category 5 hurricanes that devastated New Orleans, the Mississippi marshes and Louisiana coast last year. At least 1,300 people in Louisiana were killed and one million displaced by Hurricane Katrina, while tens of thousands of buildings were destroyed.

After suffering a similar calamity in 1953, when a massive North Sea storm breached the famed Dutch dikes in more than 450 places along the southwest coast, the Dutch spent nearly \$15 billion over the next five decades improving flood defences. More than 1,800 people were killed in "the Misery of 1953", and in a vast engineering operation called the Delta Project, huge dikes were built and a complex system of flood gates was designed to keep the sea at bay. One system alone, the Maeslant storm surge barrier, cost \$700 million to build and was completed only in 1997.

The Louisiana visitors said they were struck by how the Dutch were constantly aware of the threat to their land and their lives with the full knowledge that nearly two-thirds of the country was below sea level. The Dutch reminded their visitors repeatedly that long-term thinking was crucial to preventing flood disasters, that they themselves are working on plans to cope with rising sea levels, sinking land and increased rainfall.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=34476&newsdate=13-Jan-2006>

### 10. UK report: Research needed on marine sound

Research into the effect of sound in the oceans on marine mammals should be commissioned by the UK Government, a report recommends. The Inter-agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology says mammals are affected by many sounds, including sonar, oil exploration and shipping. It suggests research should include deliberately exposing mammals to noise. There has been speculation that the whale found in the Thames last month had been disorientated by sounds. The Inter-Agency Committee (IACMST) brings together experts from government departments and academia and reports to the government's Office of Science and Technology. Its new report identifies 13 cases of strandings by whales and dolphins which appear to have been linked to specific sources of noise; most of those sources involved naval vessels.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4706670.stm>

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### **11. Norway: Hydro develops floating windmill**

The Norwegian company Hydro, a leading offshore producer of oil and gas who is also at the forefront of wind and hydrogen energy production, has developed a new concept for producing power at sea: Hywind. Floating concrete construction technology developed for the North Sea oil industry will be applied to offshore windmills. A model of the floating windmill has been tested and the results are promising. The placement of a windmill in the North Sea is now being evaluated to demonstrate that it is possible to build offshore wind parks at sea depths of 200-300 meters. Hydros director of new energy forms, Alexandra Bech Gjørsv emphasizes that Hywind will be a supplement, not a substitute to land-based wind parks. A demonstration project is currently being planned based on wind turbines with a power generation capacity of 3 megawatt (MW). The windmills will reach 80 meters above the sea's surface and will have a rotor diameter of about 90 meters. According to plans, the demonstration project will start operating in 2007.

[http://www.hydro.com/en/press\\_room/news/archive/2005\\_11/hywind\\_en.html](http://www.hydro.com/en/press_room/news/archive/2005_11/hywind_en.html)

### **12. Netherlands Antilles: New species of fish, seaweeds found on Caribbean's Saba bank**

An underwater mountain that forms the world's third-largest atoll has some of the richest diversity of marine life ever found in the Caribbean, according to scientists who recently explored the area. A two-week expedition in January by scientists from Conservation International (CI), the Netherlands Antilles government and Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History encountered new species of fish, seaweed and other ocean life at little-studied Saba Bank Atoll, a coral-crowned seamount 250 kilometers southeast of Puerto Rico in the Dutch Windward Islands.

The unprecedented richness of marine life and vulnerable status of the atoll's coral beds make Saba Bank a prime candidate for designation as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) under the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Mark Littler, marine botanist of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, declared Saba Bank the richest area for seaweeds in the Caribbean basin, including as many as a dozen new species along with commercially valuable species that will facilitate the creation of economic activity zones under PSSA designation. Paul Hoetjes, marine biologist with the Ministry of Nature Affairs for the Netherlands Antilles (MINA), called the expedition crucial to getting the area protected to benefit local populations.

[http://www.conservation.org/xp/news/press\\_releases/2006/021406.xml](http://www.conservation.org/xp/news/press_releases/2006/021406.xml)

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### **13. Portugal: Plans for artificial island resort off Portuguese coast**

A Dutch businessman wants to build Europe's first holiday resort on an artificial island off Portugal, in a project that would cost 1.5 billion euros and include a casino and underwater hotel. The 100-hectare (250-acre) island would be built about 300 metres (yards) off the coast of the Vale de Lobo resort in the Algarve tourist area and be connected to the mainland with an underwater tunnel, businessman Sander van Gelder said. According to Van Gelder the initial reaction from Portuguese authorities had been positive as the government was keen on original, new tourist projects. However, Helder Spinola, president of the Quercus environmental group, said any such plan needs to first carry out a study of the environmental impact. Van Gelder, who is chairman of the Vale de Lobo Group of Companies, is planning to restore the eroded beaches along the resort with 400,000 cubic metres of sand in March. An island in front of the beaches could be a permanent solution to end erosion.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/34922/story.htm>

### **14. Sweden: Call for EU marine strategy to be accelerated**

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomed the EU Commission's draft integrated marine strategy, but considers the pace of implementation to be too slow. The EPA advised the Swedish Government to press for a much shorter time horizon for the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. "For 30 years we have been striving to establish effective international agreements to remedy the environmental problems facing our marine areas. So we welcome the draft EU marine strategy. But we want the EU to bring the timetable forward substantially so that the Baltic and the North Sea don't have to wait until 2018 before joint measures are implemented," says Lars-Erik Liljelund, Director-General of the Swedish EPA.

<http://www.internat.naturvardsverket.se/index.php3?main=/documents/press/2006/p060203.htm>

### **15. Estonia and Latvia: Outcome of LIFE project workshop**

22-26 August 2005 the second workshop in the LIFE Co-op project "Dissemination of ecological knowledge and practical experiences for sound planning and management in raised bogs and sea dunes" was held in Latvia and Estonia. Over 100 people, involved in nature management, policy making and scientific research in different disciplines, from 13 European countries participated. The PowerPoint presentations presented during this workshop can be downloaded from the website of the project: [www.barger.science.ru.nl/life/](http://www.barger.science.ru.nl/life/) under "Workshop 2005 - Program".

## 16. UK: Protests against proposed closure of research facilities

UK trade union for professionals Prospect has raised protests against restructuring plans announced by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) that included the closure of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) Banchory, in north-east Scotland, ending over 30 years of world-class environmental research there. It is foreseen that the restructuring of CEH would cause untold disruption to the delivery of critical ecological and hydrological science, at a reported cost of £45 million pounds. CEH Banchory is one of four CEH sites earmarked for closure. In total one-third of the staff within CEH will be made redundant (ca. 200 staff). Such a large loss will fundamentally undermine the ability of the UK Government to access unbiased, large-scale, long-term research for policy formulation and the delivery of the UK's environmental commitments.

<http://www.prospect.org.uk/>

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## – Aquaculture and Fisheries –

### 17. Fisheries scoreboard: Member States must do more to prevent overfishing

The European Commission on January 19th published the third edition of the Common Fisheries Policy Scoreboard which includes, for the first time, data from the new Member States. Like the previous one, it shows that more progress has to be made in the collation and timely transmission of data to the Commission. While there has been some improvement, notably where fleet management and implementation of the fisheries fund programmes are concerned, timely reporting in several areas, such as quota uptake, crucial to effective fisheries management remains largely unsatisfactory. Not surprisingly, more than two-thirds of the infringement procedures currently pending against Member States relate to cases of overfishing. Indeed, the Court of Justice has recently ruled against Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Finland and Sweden for overshooting their quotas. Moreover, on 12 July 2005, in a landmark case involving France, it also imposed a penalty of €20 million as well as an additional € 57 million for each period of 6 months of non-compliance with a court ruling dating back to 1991.

Scoreboard: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/scoreboard/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/scoreboard/index_en.htm)

Press release:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/52&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### 18. The Netherlands: Pulse trawl proposed to replace beam trawl in fisheries

Tests with pulse trawls have shown such positive results, that pulse trawling is deemed by the Dutch ministries concerned to have advanced far enough to allow it to be used on a grand scale. Pulse trawling is considered to be a good replacement for beam trawling which is under increasing pressure because of the effects on the organisms that live on the seabed and because of the unwanted by-catch that is produced by this method. Bottom organisms receive a mild-electric shock causing them to rise above the surface. If they are not caught by the net, the electric shock wears off and the animals can burrow back into the sand and sediment. The fisher boats also use 20-40% less fuel with these new nets.

Although fishing with electricity has been forbidden in the EU since 1988 because of its widespread destructive nature, it is expected that an exception can be made for the pulse trawling technique that has been developed by the Dutch firm Verburg Holland Inc. from Colijnsplaat, with support of the Dutch ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Food Quality and the Fisheries Organisation. The method of pulse trawling that is being developed is considered to be less harmful than methods of fishing with electricity available until now.

[http://www.noordzeeloket.nl/Images/2\\_1338.pdf](http://www.noordzeeloket.nl/Images/2_1338.pdf) (in Dutch)

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### 19. Dutch Eel Management Plan received well by Minister Veerman

In a letter to the Dutch Parliament the Dutch minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Food Quality, Cees Veerman, has reacted positively on the Netherlands Eel Management Plan of the Netherlands Eel Committee, stating it performed a good job. He sees enough room for continued cooperation between his ministry and the Eel Committee, although he has pointed out that the Eel Committee's plan should be brought into line with European Directives regarding eel conservation. The Eel Management Plan should especially be integrated into the measures demanded by the European Water Directive for the river basins of the Rhine, Maas (Meuse) Schelde (Scheld) and Eems. The European Directive requires the member states to complete their plans for eel conservation at the end of 2006.

Veerman makes reservations on the proposed financial support for fishermen and eel breeding companies, stating the financial means available are very limited and that support is not really in the line of current government and EU policy. The minister is positive about the proposed limitation of eel export to the Far East, taking into account obligations in the WTO framework. Also the recommendations to

reduce poaching are considered positive, as is the plan to reduce the dangers posed to the eel by power- and pumping stations. The minister is confident that with constructive consultation between the responsible ministries and conservationists it is possible to form an integrated approach towards the recovery of the eel population. For more information about the Eel Committee, see Coastal News 2005-4. Minister Veerman's letter to Parliament (in Dutch):

[http://www9.minlnv.nl/servlet/page?\\_pageid=106&\\_dad=portal30&\\_schema=PORTAL30&p\\_item\\_id=119804](http://www9.minlnv.nl/servlet/page?_pageid=106&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30&p_item_id=119804)

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## – Coastal & Climate Change –

### 20. Parts of Portugal Could Become Desert – Report

Portugal's south risks turning into a desert as temperatures rise, its coasts will erode and droughts will become more frequent, the country's most complete report on the impact of global warming showed on Monday January 30<sup>th</sup>.

The report, which is the result of a research project that started in 1999, concludes that Portugal will be one of the hardest hit by global warming in Europe in coming decades. "I think the biggest impact is the risk of desertification in the interior of the south," Filipe Duarte Santos, a physics professor who oversaw the project, told Reuters. "...The indication is less rainfall, higher temperatures, more frequent extreme events, such as droughts which will become more frequent."

The report covered the impact of global warming in Portugal on water resources, agriculture, fisheries, human health, energy and coastal regions. Apart from increased risk of forest fires, forests in dry areas such as the central Alentejo region could disappear altogether. Some tree species could migrate from the south to the north and from the interior to the coast, the report said.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=34755&newsdate=31-Jan-2006>

### 21. UK government report on impact of climate change

Rising concentrations of greenhouse gases may have more serious impacts than previously believed, a major scientific report has said. The report, published by the UK government, says there is only a small chance of greenhouse gas emissions being kept below "dangerous" levels. It fears the Greenland ice sheet is likely to melt, leading sea levels to rise by 7m (23ft) over 1,000 years. The report, *Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change*, collates evidence presented by scientists at a conference hosted by the UK Meteorological Office in February 2005.

More information about the report: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/adcc/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4660938.stm>

### 22. A 20th century acceleration in the rate of sea-level rise

Research by Australian climate scientists has shown that global sea level has been rising at an increasing rate over the past 130 years. Using information from tide gauges and measurements from satellites, Dr John Church and Dr Neil White estimated changes in global mean sea levels since 1870. Their work, published in the science journal *Geophysical Research Letters* (6 January), indicates an acceleration in the rate of sea-level rise that had not been detected previously.

<http://www.csiro.au/csiro/content/standard/ps13f,..html>

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## – EU News and Initiatives –

### 23. Partial agreement LIFE+

On December 2nd 2005 it was announced that a partial political agreement on LIFE+ was reached by the European Council. It is partial because the budgetary aspects were left out of the agreement, because of the fact that the discussion on the future financial cadre of the Community (Financial Perspective 2007/2013) were not yet concluded. LIFE+ will support the implementation of the 6th environment action programme (in which the implementation and full protection of the NATURA 2000 Network is mentioned as a goal). The European Commission initially proposed to integrate nature conservation measures and biodiversity in other financial instruments of the Community.

In the present political agreement on LIFE+ nature and biodiversity are more prominently included. LIFE+ will support demonstration measures that underpin nature and biodiversity goals, like urgent protection measures for threatened species. Furthermore, innovative or demonstration measures will be supported that otherwise would not be eligible to Community financial support.

Press release: [http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/envir/87368.pdf](http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/envir/87368.pdf)

Unofficial Council text: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/news/lifepluscounciltext.pdf>

#### **24. Coastal stakeholders' participation is key to sustainable development of maritime activities**

Stakeholder participation in the consultation process that will soon be launched on a future maritime policy for the European Union, and in fisheries management, is crucial for the future of regions such as Brittany. This is the message that Joe Borg, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, will take to Brittany during a two day-visit to the region on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of February. In his address to the CPMR, Commissioner Borg will say that the heading of the Conference – Regions at the heart of the Green Paper - is fitting. The Commission is preparing to publish this consultation paper before the summer on the potential of a Maritime Policy for the Union. He will say that the challenge is to find a balance between economic growth from sea-related activities and the protection of the environment which is essential to their sustainability. Other themes to be discussed during the Commissioner's visit include the economic difficulties of the fishing fleets and possible measures; the future European Fisheries Fund for the period 2007-2013, to be discussed at the April Council and measures to rebuild depleted stocks. The full text of the speech is available at:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/99&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

For details of the visit see:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/175&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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#### **25. Maritime Safety Agency, monitoring of oil spills**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has adopted an opinion on the proposal for multiannual funding for the action of the European Maritime and Safety Agency (EMSA) in the field of response to pollution caused by ships. The four priority areas identified by the EMSA are the Baltic Sea, the Atlantic coast and the Mediterranean, where the Agency intends to station chartered pollution response vessels ready to act when called upon by one or more Member States. It should be pointed out that the EMSA's role in this field will be to *supplement* national pollution response mechanisms upon Member States' request. The EESC supports this proposal. However, first it is important to make sure that states have exhausted their possibilities and the EESC stresses that enough funds should be available. Finally it is being emphasized that the EMSA plays a crucial part in the coordination and cooperation of Member states' resources.

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/c\\_028/c\\_02820060203en00160018.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/c_028/c_02820060203en00160018.pdf)

#### **26. European Environment Agency, 2006 call for proposals**

January 28 three European Topic Centre tenders were opened; ETC Water, ETC Air and Climate Change , and ETC Land Use and Spatial Information. Three successful consortia - one for each ETC -will be proposed Framework Partnership Agreements covering initially the period from 2007 to 2008 (under current EEA Strategy 2004–2008) which may be renewed for an additional period of 2 years under a new EEA Strategy 2009–2013. The yearly budgets for execution of these agreements are currently estimated at about €2,200,000 for ETC "air and climate change", €1,200, 000 for ETC "water", and €1,200,000 for ETC "land use and spatial information", including a contribution of at least 10 % co-financing from the consortia. The call for proposals is open until 11 May 2006.

[http://org.eea.eu.int/tenders/eeaads06001\\_2](http://org.eea.eu.int/tenders/eeaads06001_2)

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### **- Publications and Websites -**

#### **Küsten Newsletter 1/2006**

The first newsletter for 2006 of EUCC Germany has been issued in German. If you wish to subscribe to this newsletter please send an email to: [newsletter@eucc-d.de](mailto:newsletter@eucc-d.de). The newsletter can be found at: [http://www.eucc-d.de/plugins/kuستنnewsletter/pdf/Kuesten\\_Newsletter\\_1\\_2006.pdf](http://www.eucc-d.de/plugins/kuستنnewsletter/pdf/Kuesten_Newsletter_1_2006.pdf)

#### **UNFCCC newsletter**

On 16 February 2006, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will launch the inaugural edition of the UNFCCC newsletter. Distributed bimonthly, the UNFCCC Newsletter will provide a comprehensive overview of major news and announcements, along with practical information about upcoming events.

[http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/newsletter/items/3642.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/newsletter/items/3642.php)

### Corals and Mangroves in the Front Line

The economic value and life saving function of coral reefs and mangroves is brought into sharp focus in this new report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The report underlines the vital role these natural features play in tourism, stemming coastal erosion and acting as nurseries for fish including those in the multi-million dollar aquaria trade. The report recognises that corals and mangroves absorb up to 90 per cent of the energy of wind-generated waves. It also underlines that conserving them is a small price to pay when set against the costs of destroying them or substituting their role with man-made structures.

The full report - "In the Front Line: Shoreline Protection and other Ecosystem Services from Mangroves and Coral Reefs", is available online at [www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/PDFs/In\\_the\\_front\\_line.pdf](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources/PDFs/In_the_front_line.pdf)

### Online climate prediction project

The BBC is inviting viewers to join the world's biggest online climate prediction project.

Climateprediction.net has already been running for two years and has generated forecasts on the likely extent of climate change. Participants download software onto their personal computers which run the program when the machine is idle.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sn/hottopics/climatechange/>

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

**This list only includes the 1<sup>st</sup> Announcements of conferences and training courses.**

**For a complete overview of conferences please visit: <http://www.coastalguide.org/meetings>  
EUCC related conferences are added in boxes.**

February 27- March 2, 2006 – Athens, Greece

### European Wind Energy Conference & Exhibition 2006

<http://www.ewec.info>

March 7, 2006 – Helsinki, Finland

### HELCOM Stakeholder Conference

[http://www.helcom.fi/events/en\\_GB/07-03-06/](http://www.helcom.fi/events/en_GB/07-03-06/)

March 22, 2006 – London, United Kingdom

### Marine & Coastal Zone GIS Conference 'Oceans of Change'

<http://www.oio6.com/conference/GISbrochure.pdf>

April 6-7, 2006 – Capbreton, France

### Atelier de terrain d'EUCC-France

<http://www.eucc.net/fr/index.htm> (in French)

April 12, 2006 – Cardiff, United Kingdom

### Conference on Coastal Zone Management

[http://www.ice-wales.org.uk/news\\_events/events\\_view.asp?eventid=4701](http://www.ice-wales.org.uk/news_events/events_view.asp?eventid=4701)

May 8-12, 2006 – Stralsund, Germany

### Marine Nature Conservation in Europe 2006

<http://www.habitatmarenatura2000.de/>

May 17-18, 2006 – Barcelona, Spain

### New Water Policies: the Water Framework Directive

[http://www.ewaonline.de/downloads/Barcelona\\_programa%20defi.pdf](http://www.ewaonline.de/downloads/Barcelona_programa%20defi.pdf)

May 17-18, 2006 – Rochefort-sur-mer, France

### Atelier scientifique "Littoral convoité : entre accès et excès"

<http://rivagesdefrance.org/preprogrammeAtelierCEL.pdf> (in French)

August 22-25, 2006 – Greifswald, Germany

### 5th European Conference on Ecological Restoration. Land use changes in Europe as a challenge for restoration: ecological, economical and ethical dimensions.

[http://www.uni-greifswald.de/SER2006/themes\\_coasts.html](http://www.uni-greifswald.de/SER2006/themes_coasts.html)

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August 29- September 13, 2006 – Dalyan, Turkey

**MEDCOAST INSTITUTE 2006, Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The 8<sup>th</sup> International Training Programme.**

<http://www.metu.edu.tr/home/wwwmdcst/mci2006/index.htm>

October 25 – 27, 2006 – Gozo, Malta

**2nd International Conference on the Management of Coastal Recreational Resources Beaches, Yachting and Coastal Ecotourism (MCRR2)**

<http://mcr2.icod.org.mt/>

University College Cork, Ireland

**M.A. in Geography (Coastal Management & GIS)**

[http://www.ucc.ie/academic/geography/pages/pgrad\\_ma.htm](http://www.ucc.ie/academic/geography/pages/pgrad_ma.htm)

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## – Colophon –

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

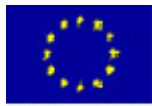
EUCC Coastal News Editorial Team: Albert Salman, Alan Pickaver, Marleen Smallegange, Ben Spaans.

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

Special thanks go to our parting editor Miranda Wien: thank you for your dedication and effort in producing the newsletter and we wish you all the best in your future career.

**Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 2006/03 : 17 March 2006.**

Established in 1989, EUCC - The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2750 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POBox 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands  
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