

EUCC Coastal News

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EUCC Coastal News is a monthly newsletter published by EUCC - The Coastal Union for its members and for the press. 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.net/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions, please contact: news at coastalguide.org (apologies for anti-spam code).

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All EUCC Network members are kindly encouraged to PAY their annual fee for 2005 (€5) or to make their payment for 5 years (€20). Please transfer the requested amount to bank account 916 , EUCC (Name of bank: Postbank, IBAN-code: NL10 PSTB 0000 0009 16, Swift code: PSTBNL21).

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 - including Littoral 2006.

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– EUCC News –

1. Zandvoort hosts European QualityCoast flag for sustainable tourism

The Dutch municipality of Zandvoort has received the flag connected to the European QualityCoast Award for sustainable tourism. Zandvoort is the first sea resort receiving the flag of the QualityCoast label. The flag was hoisted in the final weekend of the Week of the Sea in the Netherlands, 27 May 2006. The beach of Zandvoort is directly accessible by train, beach cafés are engaged in environmental labelling, and the central part of the boulevard will receive a more natural character in future years.

The QualityCoast label is being developed by the INTERREG IIIC project Coastal Practice Network (CoPraNet) that started in January 2004, involving 21 partners from 11 EU member states, under the leadership of EUCC - The Coastal Union. The QualityCoast Award is a recognition of a sea resort ensuring a basic quality for man and nature friendly tourism, making special achievements, and preserving its own cultural identity and heritage. Resorts have to provide objective information on important aspects of its touristic product and their policy. Zandvoort has integrated man and nature friendly tourism in its policy and adopted a plan for improvement, which is subject to biannual review. This process is controlled by the EUCC. *QualityCoast* is looking at sea resorts as a whole, as a complementary programme to the Blue Flag, which looks at urban beaches and at marinas.

EUCC strives towards a further development of the European QualityCoast programme in combination with regional planning, and is seeking for collaboration with other programmes for destination labels, such as the UK's QualityCoast programme and FEE / Blue Flag.

<http://www.coastalpractice.net>

2. EUCC-France and ANEL collaborate on coastal erosion management

EUCC-France has engaged in a cooperation with the National Association of Coastal Local Authorities (Association Nationale des Elus du Littoral - ANEL) in the organization of the National Seminar Days of ANEL which were held on April 27-28th in Torrelles, on the French Mediterranean coast. These days were devoted to animated discussions regarding the theme "From coastline protection towards sustainable coastal erosion management" and gathered approximately 200 participants, including wide representation of elected officials from coastal municipalities. Established in 1978, ANEL brings together elected officials representing 60% of the local authorities in France and overseas territories and constitutes a forum for sharing and exchanging experiences, common problems and solutions.

This year's event has introduced a new partnership with EUCC-France who actively contributed in terms of the latest scientific and policy developments regarding coastal erosion, including the presentation of the latest book of Roland Paskoff "Les plages vont-elles disparaître?" and the presentation of the results of the EC project EUROSION, in particular the policy recommendations for sustainable coastal management.

For more information about the event results and ANEL activities please visit <http://www.anel.asso.fr/>, for EUCC-France please contact Christine Clus-Auby, Secretary General at c.clus.auby@gmail.com

3. EUCC and CML report on fish migration in coastal waters

For the first time, an overview is provided of the status and problems of the most common migrating fish species in the Netherlands: European eel, Sea trout, Three-spined stickleback, Flounder, European smelt, Sea lamprey and European river lamprey. The report covers the main part of the coast of North and South-Holland and the Brouwersdam (Grevelingen). The closure of estuaries and river mouths (with dams and sluices) form serious barriers for most species migrating between marine, coastal and inland waters, providing risks to the survival of populations.

The report is written by Thijs den Hertog of EUCC - The Coastal Union and CML (University of Leiden). The first copy of the report was presented to Mrs. Geke Faber, Mayor of Den Helder (previously deputy minister for nature management), at the national opening of the Week of the Sea in the Netherlands, 20 May, 2006.

In a publicity campaign that received massive media attention the EUCC requested for the application of more fish friendly facilities and management, which is important to both coastal ecosystems and fisheries. The response from water management authorities has been very positive and encouraging.

http://www.eucc.net/nl/nieuws/fish_migration.pdf

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– EU News and Initiatives –

4. Input requested for review of EU ICZM Recommendation

The EU ICZM Recommendation stipulates that the Commission should review the Recommendation by the end of 2006 and submit an evaluation report to the European Parliament and Council. . Following a meeting with the Steering Group, composed of representatives of various Directorates General of the European Commission, the Evaluation team intends to work in a cooperative spirit with all stakeholders in the area of ICZM. It was outlined that the evaluation has to be thorough, transparent and impartial.

EUCC kindly invites all its members to support the evaluation by filling out a questionnaire in order to give your opinion and experience with local, regional or European ICZM. The timetable of the ICZM evaluation is relatively tight: the questionnaires to be included in the evaluation should be supplied to the evaluation team by 9 June 2006. The evaluation report will be submitted to the European Commission by 18 August 2006.

The questionnaire can be found at: <http://www.rupprecht-consult.eu/iczm/>

5. Europe failing North Sea environment according to NGOs

Europe has missed the last chance to tackle the threat of commercial activities to North Sea ecosystems, conservationists have said. They call for protected areas and "refuges" they deem necessary to stop the extinction of species like cod and skate from the North Sea and wider repercussions on the marine ecosystem. However, they state that the environment and transport ministers gathered at the sixth North Sea Conference failed to take any decisive action to protect marine life from the impacts of offshore development, shipping and over-fishing. The eight EU states around the North Sea held the first North Sea Conference in 1984, with the hope of creating political impetus to protect their marine environment. But the upshot of the sixth conference held in Gothenburg, Sweden, was a declaration on the impacts of shipping and fishing on ecosystems that the RSPB and other conservation organizations dismissed as completely ineffective in protecting marine life. As it was the last time ministers from all the EU states around the North Sea came together, conservationists see no hope left for moving towards the desired refuges and marine protected areas.

www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=11428 and also

www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/6363 for an official view of the conference

6. Amber tree awards for three INTERREG III B projects

At the Baltic Sea INTERREG III B project conference, "Setting Regions in Motion", that was held in Malmö Sweden on the 16th and 17th of May, three "Amber tree awards" were granted to projects in the Baltic region for special achievements for the first time.

The European Route of Brick Gothic and its follow up project EuRoB II (<http://www.eurob.info>) received the award for diving deep into the history of the southern Baltic Sea Region, and at the same time connecting the architectural heritage of the past with the challenges of today using modern IT-technology. SEAREG and its follow up project ASTRA (<http://www.astra-project.org>) were awarded for looking far into the future, but already today bringing economic, social and natural scientists, policymakers and spatial planners together in search for new tools and approaches when facing a global change affecting the whole Baltic Sea Region. The third project to receive the award is BARENTS 2010 (<http://www.barents2010.net>) for setting different sectors and areas of the northern Baltic Sea Region in motion, and at the same time involving the very eastern part of our region in true neighbourhood activities.

Conference news and documents: <http://www.bsrinterreg.net/news/conf.html>

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

7. 650,000 fish-fingers labelled sustainable for school meals

On May 24th the "Fish & Kids" project was launched in Surrey by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). This UK three-year project aims to teach children about the impacts of overfishing and increase the use of sustainably-caught fish in school lunches. Supporting the government's new minimum nutrition standards, "Fish & Kids" is an innovative way for schools to follow a whole school approach to food and sustainable development. Fish & Kids will encourage schools to offer children sustainable fish bearing the MSC's independent seafood eco-label. Surrey's schools have served their pupils over 650,000 sustainable

fish-fingers from Brakes carrying the MSC eco-label in the last year. The MSC hopes to see schools all over the country follow the Surrey example and make sustainable fish a part of English school menus and cross-curricular teaching.

Fish & Kids features a free and fun education pack and website (www.fishandkids.org) that explore the threats facing the oceans and engage children in activities and games to save the seas before time runs out.

http://www.msc.org/html/ni_228.htm

8. Migrating birds suffer huge loss

Migratory birds have suffered a dramatic decline in numbers, according to a study. Species that migrate thousands of miles from Africa to the UK have been the worst hit over the last 30 years. The researchers say the cause of the decline remains a "mystery", but could be linked to climate change, habitat destruction or pesticide use. Writing in the journal Biological Conservation, they warn the losses may indicate wider environmental damage.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/5017346.stm>

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– International News –

9. Portugal: five new Ramsar sites designated

The government of Portugal has designated five new Wetlands of International Importance, effective since 2 December 2005. Among them are the following two coastal areas:

Mondego Estuary (1,518 ha) Which comprises the estuary of the Mondego River as it passes around the Murraceira island, including intertidal areas, salt marshes, salt pans, reedbeds, rice fields and fish farms. This site is one of the main stopover and refuge areas for migrating birds along the northwestern coast of Portugal and is particularly important for waders.

'Fajãs' of Caldeira and Cubres Lagoons (87 ha), two small coastal lagoon systems formed by landslide processes off steep coastal cliffs on S. Jorge Island in the Azores Autonomous Region. The site features variegated lagoon systems, unique for this region and highly uncommon on volcanic ocean islands, which provide important habitat for breeding and migrating birds such as *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Sterna dougallii* and *Calonectris diomedea*. The architecture and the testimonials of traditional agriculture form the historical and cultural value of the site.

The other areas are: Bertandos and S. Pedro of Arcos Lagoons (346 hectares), a complex of permanent and temporary freshwater lakes on the right bank of the Lima River in the north of the country; Estrela Mountain upper Plateau and upper Zêzere River (5,075 ha), the upper reaches and plateau region of Portugal's highest mountain (1993m); and Mira Minde Polje and related Springs (662 ha), an important, flat karstic depression and associated subterranean hydrological system, springs, and caves.

http://ramsar.org/wn/w.n.portugal_five.htm

10. Portugal: World's first wave farm - shipping of first machine

The M/V Sea Power will be installed this year at a site 5km off the coast of northern Portugal, near to Póvoa de Varzim. In 2005 Ocean Power Delivery (OPD) announced the signing of a contract with a Portuguese consortium, led by Enersis, to build the initial phase of the world's first commercial wave-farm to generate renewable electricity from ocean waves.

When completed the eventual 22.5 MW project is expected to meet the average electricity demand of more than 15,000 Portuguese households whilst displacing more than 60,000 tonnes per year of carbon dioxide emissions from conventional generating plants.

www.greenjobs.com/Public/IndustryNews/i_news_00411.htm

www.google.nl/search?hl=nl&q=wave+farm+portugal&btnG=Google+zoeken&meta

www.oceanpd.com

11. Sweden: 30 concrete measures for a better marine environment

Sixteen Swedish public agencies have agreed a joint action for the marine environment, the country's environmental protection agency announced on 27 April. The plan describes 30 measures aimed at addressing eutrophication, biodiversity loss and hazardous substances and improving knowledge and coordination. It is intended to complement existing national efforts and also to support Swedish input to Baltic and EU regional initiatives.

www.internat.naturvardsverket.se/index.php3?main=/documents/press/2006/p060427.htm

www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_baltic/en_GB/BalticNews26634/

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12. Shell says whale numbers near Sakhalin recover, Greens doubtful

Royal Dutch Shell Plc said the numbers of critically endangered Western Grey whales, whose feeding areas lie close to the company's biggest oil and gas project, are increasing but environmentalists dispute the claim. Shell's US\$20 billion Sakhalin-2 project off Russia's east coast has faced international opposition from green groups, and a protracted search for funding, partly because of the risks that the whales may be driven to extinction. Shell Chief Executive Jeroen van der Veer said on May 16th that contrary to the fears, whale numbers were rising. The chairman of an independent panel which is overseeing the whale population confirmed it was growing but disputed a Shell official's claim that numbers rose to 123 from 100 last year. He said further it was impossible to tell if the rate of recovery would be higher if there was no disturbance from oil and gas exploration in the area around its feeding grounds off Sakhalin island.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/36394/newsDate/17-May-2006/story.htm

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– Aquaculture and Fisheries –

13. Still no EU agreement on cash for struggling fisheries

The European Union, unable to bridge a broad north-south divide, failed on May 23 for the second time in less than a year to agree on how to spend a multi-million-euro programme on its embattled fisheries sector. The plan for the next seven years' spending has been on the table since July 2004, with a budget of 3.8 billion Euros. The last time ministers tried to agree on future funding was in June 2005, but the meeting ended in deadlock. The most controversial area concerned EU aid for replacing engines for small-scale vessels as well as cash for modernising boats: concepts that angered northern states worried about chronically low stocks depleted after years of overfishing.

Belgium, Britain and Germany voted against the final compromise deal, while Poland abstained. This was enough to scupper the 2007-13 deal, sending it to Finland's incoming EU presidency starting on July 1 when it takes over from Austria.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm?newsid=36498&newsdate=23-May-2006>

14. Monitoring the success of MSC's sustainable fishery certification programme

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is inviting experts in fisheries science, management and conservation to review and discuss the results of a study into the environmental benefits of its sustainable fishery certification programme. The study, Environmental benefits resulting from certification against MSC's Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Fishing, was published 15 May 2006 as a first step towards creating a robust system to monitor and evaluate the MSC's independent fishery certification and seafood eco-labelling programme. Future steps include a workshop with fisheries experts and stakeholders later in 2006, and the development of a formal strategic framework for monitoring and evaluation. The report analyses environmental benefits based on case studies of ten certified fisheries researched using documentary evidence and personal communications with field experts.

The complete report (134 pages, 2MB) and a short summary can be downloaded from http://www.msc.org/html/content_1266.htm. A short summary of the ten case studies is available.

http://www.msc.org/html/ni_227.htm

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– Coastal & Climate Change –

15. Warming set to 'devastate' coral

Rising ocean temperatures look set to cause lasting devastation to coral reef systems, a study suggests. An international team of researchers looked at reefs in the Seychelles, where an ocean warming event in 1998 killed much of the live coral. The group found the oceanic reef had experienced fish extinctions, algal growth, and only limited recovery. Details have been published in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/4772715.stm>

16. European Eutrophication and Climate Change

By Magdalena A.K. Muir, Advisory Board member on Climate Change for EUCC – The Coastal Union.

The management and legislative dimension of climate change is global in scale while coastal and marine eutrophication tends to be local and regional. Eutrophication in the coastal zone is a result of multiple 'pressures' including climatic forcing. Time-series are available from monitoring systems that allow the investigation of climate change as one of the pressures that can lead to eutrophication. Arguably, the fresh water sector is more advanced than the marine sector in understanding and responding to climate change. It also has more comprehensive regulation and wider tools under the Water Framework Directive and other measures. Taking a scientific and technological perspective, it might be useful to consider the applicability and transfer of developments and tools in the freshwater sector for the marine sector. For example, the Water Framework Directive, and its broad inclusive approach to fresh and coastal waters includes climate issues.

This matter will be discussed further at a seminar on climate change and eutrophication at an international conference in Denmark in June on eutrophication and coastal zones. Please see www.eutro2006.dhi.dk for further information.

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- Publications and Websites -

HELCOM: new report on phytoplankton in the Baltic Sea

The Helsinki Commission released a report on May 17th on biovolumes and size-classes of phytoplankton in the Baltic Sea. The use of a standardised species list with fixed size-classes and biovolumes contained in this report will be a decisive measure for improving the quality of the phytoplankton counting method and the comparability of results.

www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Publications/Proceedings/bsep106.pdf

HELCOM: TV-series, The Baltic – Sea of Surprises

People all around the Baltic are now more aware than ever of its fragile nature – and that maintaining the natural balance of the sea is as important for people as it is for marine life. This TV-series portrays the close inter-relationship between people and the marine environment. It also looks into the ways we can safeguard the future of this unique sea. The series was directed by Nick Upton and produced by Mandart Production for HELCOM.

The Baltic – Sea of Surprises consists of four ten-minute films which you can download at:

http://www.helcom.fi/press_office/av/en_GB/seaofsurprises/ The films are also available in VHS and DVD copies which can be ordered from the HELCOM Secretariat.

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- Events and training, 1st Announcements -

This list only includes the 1st Announcements of conferences and training courses.

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

June 8, 2006 - Worldwide

World Ocean Day

<http://www.theoceanproject.org/wod/>

June 14-18, 2006 – Samothraki, Greece

CoPraNet - The role of Local Authorities and NGOs in planning sustainable coastal tourism development

<http://www.coastalpractice.net/en/workshops/samothraki.pdf>

September 18-20, 2006 – Gdansk, Poland
Littoral 2006 Conference "Coastal Innovation and Initiatives"
<http://www.littoral2006.gda.pl/>

October 23-24, 2006, Baie de Somme, France
Coastal Practice Network (CoPraNet) Final Event
<http://www.coastalpractice.net>

November 14-18, 2006 – Sissi-Lassithi, Crete, Greece
Open Science Conference on the GHG Cycle in the Northern Hemisphere
<http://www.carboeurope.org/conference/>

November 17-18, 2006 – Berlin, Germany
Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change: "Resource Policies: Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity"
<http://web.fu-berlin.de/ffu/akumwelt/bc2006/>

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

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

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 2006/06 : 23 June 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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