



Eucc Coastal News

No. 2

March 2008

Eucc Coastal News is the international newsletter of the Coastal Union (Eucc) for its members and for the press. We have ca. 4000 readers.

We gratefully acknowledge the EU annual grants that we are receiving for our work programme every year. However, the financial support of all members is still vital for this newsletter. Eucc-members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: please check in www.eucc.net/en/members. Please transfer the appropriate amount to bank account 916 of Eucc, mentioning membership type. Name of bank: Postbank, IBAN-code: NL10 PSTB 0000 0009 16, Swift code: PSTBNL21.

Contributions to the next issue due to: 10 May 2008 Eucc-members are invited to send their contributions to news@eucc.net

- CONTENTS -

- Eucc NEWS -

1. Eucc launches idea for European Coastal Council
2. Special Wishes to CMRC (Ireland) colleagues
3. ICES meets on ICZM
4. "Marine mammals in time: past, present and future"
5. QualityCoast – Eucc lead initiative submitted to INTERREG IV C programme

- EU NEWS & INITIATIVES -

6. INSPIRE Directive – latest developments
7. DG MARE: new organisation will boost implementation of EU Maritime Policy
8. EU Guidelines on Natura 2000 in the marine environment

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: TRENDS & IMPACTS -

9. Thaw of world's glaciers quickens to new record-UN
10. Map shows toll on world's oceans
11. Study shows hurricane impact of warmer Atlantic
12. "Tipping Points" seen for Greenland ice
13. Climate news Antarctica: a collection of recent studies on Antarctica
14. Reef fish get lost as climate changes

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSES -

15. British government names climate committee members overseeing new law
16. Shell says cheap renewable energy still far off

- NATURE AND CONSERVATION -

17. "Encyclopaedia of Life" is taking shape
18. Galapagos sea lion massacre fuels conservation fears
19. Cuba bans marine turtle hunt in bow to conservation
20. Kiribati creates world's largest marine reserve
21. Whaling News
22. Dolphin saves two whales stuck on New Zealand beach
23. Fast-growing corals key to Caribbean reef – study
24. Warm winter kills baby ringed seals

- AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES -

25. Russia tries to save sturgeon with caviar monopoly
26. World fisheries face collapse within decades
27. Sharks disappearing as fin chopping rises
28. Croatia grants fishing rights to boost EU talks
29. EU finalises deal to fish less off Mauritania coast

- PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

30. Journal of Coastal Conservation – *The official journal of Eucc – The Coastal Union*
31. INFOREGIO website: EU Regional Policy 2007-2013
32. The nature guide to the Camargue, La Crau and les Alpilles - France
33. In Defence of Dolphins

- EVENTS & TRAINING: 1ST ANNOUNCEMENTS -

- COLOPHON -

- EUCC NEWS -

1. EUCC launches idea for European Coastal Council

EUCC is considering the idea of a European Coastal Council as a representation of major European networks. This would be a mechanism to unite the whole coastal community, to connect coastal research networks with coastal practitioners and policy makers, and to provide for a broad forum and a common voice to European institutions. This has always been the prime objective of EUCC and its national branches. However, the parallel development of EUCC and EUROCOAST/CoastNet and the recent emergence of national research networks under the ENCORA project has led to a deeply fragmented coastal community. The ENCORA annual meeting has discussed the option to become a third European coastal organization, also taking practitioners on board.

EUCC, having promoted a merger of European networks in the past, sincerely wishes to fight fragmentation and promote integration. Therefore, EUCC launched the idea of a European Coastal Council at the ENCORA Annual Meeting (Copenhagen), to be initiated by EUCC, CoastNet and the ENCORA project. The idea was warmly welcomed and it was agreed that a task group would report to the ENCORA networks for further consideration.

For ENCORA national networks there is the option to develop into (or merge with) EUCC national branches and to be represented in the Coastal Council with a broader constituency of researchers and practitioners. In some countries there is already progress in this direction.

In parallel to this internal ENCORA discussion, the EUCC Board is further developing the Council initiative on the basis of the viewpoint of the EUCC National Branches; so members are encouraged to make their opinion known to their national contacts (www.eucc.net). Some national branches have already indicated that they would like to be represented in the Coastal Council, and as a result we will consider whether the Council should be open for national networks representing a broad constituency. There are quite a number of different national networks in existence (several in each country). A Council that is very large could be very cumbersome and be more of an administrative burden than a body which will achieve anything.

Therefore, the EUCC Board is very keen to limit the size of the Council since it could make more sense for smaller networks (and for individual institutes) to get connected through the two major European network organizations that already provide for a variety of networking and communication facilities and democratic representation mechanisms.

2. Special Wishes to CMRC (Ireland) colleagues

We were very sorry to hear that our colleagues in the Coastal Marine Research Centre (CMRC), in Cork, Ireland have had their laboratories and building severely damaged by fire on 11 March 2008.

Fortunately, no-one was hurt. We have been working together with CMRC in several projects - COREPOINT, CoPraNet ENCORA, SPICOSA - and know the team to be not only very dynamic and on top of their work but enthusiastic and ready to take chances to bring ICZM and marine matters forward. These qualities will stand them in good stead as they seek to re-build the fabric of their working environment. Whilst, of course, we send them our best wishes, we know that they will return from the ashes like the proverbial phoenix.



Block 4 at the naval base, Haulbowline, incorporating the CMRC offices, engulfed in flames, Tuesday March 11th 2008.
Picture © Brian Loughheed/ Evening Echo

3. ICES meets on ICZM

During the week of March 11th, EUCC attended, by invitation, the ICES Working Group on ICZM held on Mallorca Island, Spain. The week long meeting concentrated on the challenges facing stakeholders trying to implement ICZM in a pragmatic way and reviewed the work the group undertook during the last years. Attendance at this meeting nicely dovetails in to work of the EUCC Policy Unit on ICZM and complements well our presence at HELCOM-Habitat, OSPAR-MASH, the EU ICZM Group of Experts and the Working Group on Information and Data.

For more details about this meeting please contact Alan Pickaver at a.pickaver@eucc.net

4. "Marine mammals in time: past, present and future"

The 22nd yearly Congress of the European Cetacean Society took place in Hotel *Zuiderduin, Egmond aan Zee*, in the Netherlands between 10-12th March. The theme of the congress was: 'Marine mammals in time: past, present and future'. Around 450 participants ranging from 30 countries have come together to exchange their views over three time span topics: the past - palaeontology, archaeology, evolution, 16th-17th century whaling or research (strandings), the present - lab and museum basic research, taxonomy, anatomy, 18-20th century whaling and tourism, and the future: climate change, effects on populations and food, monitor species. The congress was financially supported by Dutch Maritime Museum, IUCN, Dolphin Fund, Eucc Coastal Union and *Natuurmonumenten*. Next year the ECS congress will take place in Istanbul, Turkey.

More information: www.europeancetaceansociety.eu

5. QualityCoast – Eucc lead initiative submitted to INTERREG IV C programme

The Eucc International and QualityCoast-CoPraNet partnership, in cooperation with new partner organisations in various European regions prepared the submission of a new proposal to the new INTERREG IV C Programme – "*QualityCoast - The future face of integrated management for coastal sustainability*".

492 applications have been submitted to the INTERREG IVC's first call for proposals! The Programme's Secretariat has already undertaken the eligibility check through which our proposal passed. The secretariat is now conducting the quality assessment tasks. Given the high number of applications received, this process is expected to continue until Autumn 2008.

The INTERREG IVC Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective. Authorities and stakeholders at local and regional level have a vital role to play in the achievement of the EU's strategies for growth, jobs and sustainable development. The exchange, sharing and transfer of policy experience, knowledge and good practices will contribute to the success of this objective. Launched in 2007, the INTERREG IVC programme will run until 2013.

More information about QualityCoast at <http://www.qualitycoast.net> and about INTERREG IV C programme at www.interreg4c.eu/

- EU NEWS & INITIATIVES -

6. INSPIRE Directive – latest developments

Relevant developments for the coastal and marine community are presented in the EC's "Results of the Call for Expression of Interest for participation in INSPIRE Annex I Data Specifications according to scenario 1 and 2". INSPIRE Data Specifications are proceeding according to two Scenarios: scenario 1: if only one or a very few (2-3) data specifications are put forward for a theme, demonstrating a strong convergence and pre-existing, wide thematic community acceptance of this specification; scenario 2: applies when no candidate specification has emerged for a particular data.

Eleven candidate specifications were submitted for the Annex I Hydrography data theme – more than for any other Annex I theme. "... in (the) case of Hydrography, both hydrographical offices, water authorities, and national mapping and cadastre agencies (NMCAs) have a main role in data supply responding to different segments of users' need. However, issues related to underground waters indicate that the geological community may also play a role in the specification process. Also other communities may be identified. ... If more than one specification was submitted by main stakeholders, this was taken as an indication that there is a need for harmonisation and/or consensus building. Consequently, such cases should be channelled to scenario 2."

As a result, specification for the Hydrography data theme "...already shows the interest in this data theme of various communities. Representatives of the NMCAs, the hydrographical, marine and the environmental communities have submitted specifications and also nominated experts. The domain-specific views and also the proposed national solutions require therefore data harmonisation work. The Technical Working Group consisting of 5 domain experts selected from 4 communities will work according to scenario 2." This scenario relies on voluntary contributions of the Spatial Data Interest Communities (SDICs) and Legally Mandated Organisations (LMOs) that may offer their expertise. This and other recent developments available online at www.ec-gis.org/inspire and updates of relevance for coastal and marine community at Eucc Information and Data Management Working Group, by Roger Longhorn Eucc Information Policy Advisor at www.eucc.nl/en/comm/idm.htm See also – *Eucc Coastline Special From Data to Information* at www.eucc.nl/coastline/coastline07-34.pdf

7. DG MARE: new organisation will boost implementation of EU Maritime Policy

The European Commission has decided on a far-reaching reorganisation of the Directorate-General in charge of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. The former "DG FISH" becomes the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and will now be known as DG MARE. The main change involves the setting

up of three geographic Directorates that will be responsible for managing both the Common Fisheries Policy and the new EU integrated maritime policy (IMP) in Europe's three main maritime regions. These will be complemented by a new Directorate in charge of co-ordination and policy development. The other two Directorates (External Policy, and Resources and Legal Affairs) will remain largely unchanged. There will be greater focus on Mediterranean fisheries and on control in international waters in line with the EU's commitment to fight illegal fishing. The new set-up started since 29 March.

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/press_rel270308_en.html

8. EU Guidelines on Natura 2000 in the marine environment

The EU Commission has published new guidelines to assist Member States in establishing Natura 2000 in the marine environment. Guidance is provided on the selection and management of sites under both Habitats and Birds directives and covers both the inshore and offshore marine environments. The establishment of Natura 2000 in the marine environment remains an important gap that needs to be filled in 2008.

More information at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/marine/index_en.htm

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: TRENDS & IMPACTS -

9. Thaw of world's glaciers quickens to new record-UN

A thaw of the world's glaciers has accelerated to a new record with some of the biggest losses within Europe, in a worrying sign of climate change, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). "Meltdown in the mountains," UNEP said in a statement, saying that a retreat of glaciers from the Andes to the Arctic should add urgency to UN negotiations on working out a new treaty by the end of 2009 to combat global warming. "Data from close to 30 reference glaciers in nine mountain ranges indicate that between the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 the average rate of melting and thinning more than doubled," it said. Some of the biggest losses were in Europe - in the Alps, the Pyrenees and the Nordic region - according to the UNEP-backed World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. "The latest figures are part of what appears to be an accelerating trend with no apparent end in sight," WGMS director Wilfried Haeberli said in a statement. The estimates, based on measuring the thickness of glacier ice, indicated an average loss of about 1.5 metres (5 ft) in 2006, up from just over half a metre in 2005. The thinning was the fastest since monitoring began.

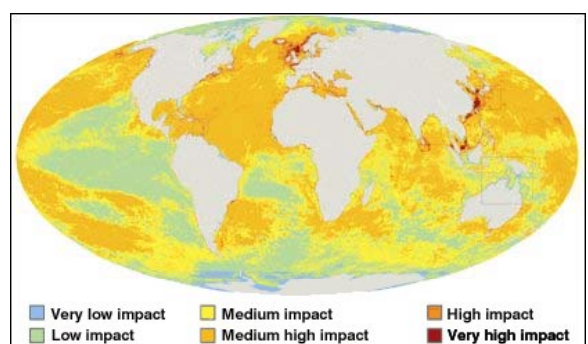
Since 1980, glaciers have thinned by about 11.5 metres in a retreat blamed by the UN Climate Panel mainly on human use of fossil fuels. The thaw could disrupt everything from farming - millions of people in Asia depend on seasonal melt water from the Himalayas - and power generation to winter sports. The thaw could also raise world sea levels.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47546/newsDate/17-Mar-2008/story.htm

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/7299561.stm

10. Map shows toll on world's oceans

Only about 4% of the world's oceans remain undamaged by human activity, according to the first detailed global map of human impacts on the seas. A study in Science journal says climate change, fishing, pollution and other human factors have exacted a heavy toll on almost half of the marine waters. Only remote icy areas near the poles are relatively pristine, but they face threats as ice sheets melt, it warns. The authors highlight that the data is a "wake-up call" to policymakers. The map is the first attempt to describe and quantify the combined threats facing the world's oceans from human factors, ranging from commercial shipping to over-fishing. The international team of 20 scientists in the US, Canada and UK built a complex model to handle large amounts of information on 17 different human threats. The map reveals the most and least heavily impacted areas. The researchers divided the world's oceans into 1km-square sections and examined all real data available on how humankind is influencing the marine environment. They then calculated "human impact scores" for each location, presenting this as a global map of the toll people have exacted on the seas. The scientists say they were shocked by the findings. The researchers said the two biggest drivers in destroying marine habitats were climate change and over-fishing.



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7241428.stm>

<http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2008/214/2>

11. Study shows hurricane impact of warmer Atlantic

"A 0.5 degree C increase in sea surface temperature is associated with a 40 percent increase in hurricane frequency and activity," British researchers wrote in a report published in the journal Nature on January 29. The finding by the team from University College London is a contentious one in the debate over how climate change affects weather and, especially, storms. The team showed ocean warming is directly linked to the frequency, strength and duration of hurricanes, said Adam Lea, the research scientist who co-led the study. The study, which did not look at whether greenhouse gases linked to global warming played a role in increasing water temperature, will help scientists better predict how warmer oceans might affect hurricanes, he added. Hurricanes feed on warm water, leading to conventional wisdom supported by some recent research that global warming could be revving up more powerful storms. U.S researchers, however, earlier challenged this view, saying global warming could reduce the number of hurricanes hitting the United States with warmer waters resulting in atmospheric instabilities that prevent storms from forming, see

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46620/newsDate/25-Jan-2008/story.htm &

www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2008/2007GL032396.shtml (and also CN 2007-3, item 15). The British team looked at storms that formed in the tropical North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico - a region that produced nearly 90 percent of the hurricanes that struck the United States between 1950 and 2005. Lea and his colleague Mark Sanders at University College London built a statistical model based on local sea surface temperature and wind to replicate hurricane activity over the past 40 years. This allowed them to remove the effects of wind to determine the sole impact of sea surface warming.

"The results ... indicate that local sea surface warming was responsible for 40 percent of the increase in hurricane activity relative to the 1950-2000 average between 1996 and 2005," the researchers' report said.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46694/newsDate/31-Jan-2008/story.htm

www.nature.com/news/2008/080130/full/news.2008.544.html

See also **Unmanned aircraft could boost hurricane-monitoring**

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46583/newsDate/23-Jan-2008/story.htm

12. "Tipping Points" seen for Greenland ice

Global warming this century could trigger a runaway thaw of Greenland's ice sheet and other abrupt shifts such as a dieback of the Amazon rainforest, scientists said on February 4. They urged governments to be more aware of "tipping points" in nature, tiny shifts that can bring big and almost always damaging changes such as a melt of Arctic summer sea ice or a collapse of the Indian monsoon. Other sudden changes linked to climate change, stoked by human use of fossil fuels, included a dieback of northern pine forests, or a stronger warming of the Pacific under El Nino weather events that can disrupt weather worldwide, they wrote. A possible greening of parts of the Sahel and the Sahara, if monsoon rains in West Africa were disrupted, was one of the few positive abrupt shifts identified by the scientists. Even a moderate warming could set off a thaw of Greenland's ice sheet that could then vanish in 300 years - raising sea levels by 6 metres (20 ft), or 2 metres a century and threatening coasts, Pacific islands and cities from Bangkok to Buenos Aires. The report also identified risks such as damage to northern pine forests - widely exploited by the pulp industry - because of factors such as more frequent fires and vulnerability to pests in warmer, drier conditions. But it played down some other fears, such as of a runaway melt of Siberian permafrost, releasing stores of methane which is a powerful greenhouse gas. And it said a shutdown of the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean that brings warm water north to Europe "appears to be a less immediate threat".

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46797/newsDate/6-Feb-2008/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7227080.stm>

www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0705414105v1?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=Timothy+Lenton&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT

See also **Thickest, oldest Arctic ice is melting - NASA data**

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47578/newsDate/19-Mar-2008/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7303385.stm>

13. Climate news Antarctica: a collection of recent studies on Antarctica

Southern Ocean rise due to warming, not ice melts

Rises in the sea level around Antarctica in the past decade are almost entirely due to a warming ocean, not ice melting, an Australian scientist leading a major international research programme said. The 15-year study of temperature and salinity changes in the Southern Ocean found average temperatures warmed by about three-tenths of a degree Celsius. Satellites also measured a rise of about 2 cms (about an inch) in seas in the southern polar region over an area half the size of Australia.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46988/newsDate/18-Feb-2008/story.htm

www.acecrc.org.au/drawpage.cgi?pid=about_ace&aid=797000

Warming risks Antarctic sea life

Unique marine life in Antarctica will be at risk from an invasion of sharks, crabs and other predators if global warming continues, scientists warn

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7248025.stm>

Antarctic glaciers surge to ocean

UK scientists working in Antarctica have found some of the clearest evidence yet of instabilities in the ice of part of West Antarctica. If the trend continues, they say, it could lead to a significant rise in global sea level. The new evidence comes from a group of glaciers covering an area the size of Texas, in a remote and seldom visited part of West Antarctica. The "rivers of ice" have surged sharply in speed towards the ocean.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7261171.stm>

Antarctic boulders may point to sea level rise

Boulders as big as soccer balls show that a thinning of West Antarctic glaciers has become 20 times faster in recent decades and may hold clues to future sea level rise, scientists said on February 29.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47300/newsDate/3-Mar-2008/story.htm

www.gsjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1130%2FG24207A.1

(abstract)

All the recent attention for Antarctica is also due to **2008 being the International Polar Year**, see

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7226358.stm>

14. Reef fish get lost as climate changes

Climate change might be causing reef fish to get lost, unable to return to breeding grounds from the open ocean, which could have profound implications for the survival of reef ecosystems, Australian scientists say. Climate change-induced environmental stress, including warmer and more acidic seawater, could be hindering the development of the ear bones in young reef fish, which rely on sound for navigation, the marine experts said on March 7. The scientists from the James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science found that fish with asymmetrical ear bones struggle to return to their home reef. Fish at the end of their "ocean stage" after hatching navigate by homing-in on reef-associated sounds, such as the gurgling of fish and the snapping of crustaceans, said the scientists, whose study was published in the British scientific journal Proceedings of the Royal Society. Vertebrate animals make sense of sounds by comparing differences in the acoustic signal between their two ears. To do this well, ear structures must be relatively symmetrical. Asymmetrical ear bones do not appear to make the fish deaf, but might interfere with the ability of the fish to hear effectively. The scientists said ear bone asymmetry could be closely linked to rising sea surface temperature and acidity, caused by high atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, as well as localised stresses. Oceans absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, acting as a giant sink for the greenhouse gas. Fish ear bones, like fish skeletons and reef-building corals, are made from calcium carbonate. When seawater becomes more acidic, there is less calcium carbonate available for building calcium-based structures, including fish ear bones.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47401/newsDate/10-Mar-2008/story.htm

<http://journals.royalsociety.org/content/8053j3n467830743/?p=a3acbbbc97ab4ad99aef8ed645deb09a&pi=6> (Abstract) and **Some algae may help corals withstand warmer waters**

Certain types of algae can help corals withstand higher sea temperatures and prevent them from bleaching, scientists in Australia have found.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47631/story.htm

<http://journals.royalsociety.org/content/127518140jm42n67/>

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSES -

15. British government names climate committee members overseeing new law

The British government recently named the first five members of the climate change committee that will be created to monitor carbon cut progress when the Climate Change Bill becomes law later this year. Environment Secretary Hilary Benn, who has already named Adair Turner to head the committee, said scientists Brian Hoskins and Robert May, technologist Jim Skea and economists Sam Fankhauser and Michael Grubb would make up the new committee. The climate change bill will set a legally-binding target of a 60 percent cut from 1990 levels in national carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 with an interim target of 26-32 percent by 2020. It is expected to become law within three months. Hilary Benn said earlier he would ask the committee to review the 60 percent target by the end of the year and recommend whether it should be raised to the 80 percent demanded by environmentalists.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47143/newsDate/25-Feb-2008/story.htm

16. Shell says cheap renewable energy still far off

The world faces a doubling of energy demand by 2050 but renewable sources are still too expensive and will take decades to make a big impact, Royal Dutch Shell CEO Jeroen van der Veer. In a speech on "Shell scenarios for the 21st century", van der Veer said one of the three hard truths facing the world was a big rise in demand as the global population rose from around six billion to nine billion by mid-century. He told the EastWest Institute think-tank in Brussels that Shell saw "about 50 percent more

demand for energy in the world in the coming 25 years, and a doubling of energy (demand) by 2050". The second hard truth was that most renewable energy sources were still far too expensive, even compared with higher prices for oil, gas and coal. The third truth was that the reserves of oil and gas that were easily accessible and close to the markets where they were required, were depleting. Extracting new supplies would require much larger investments per unit than in the past.
www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47092/newsDate/22-Feb-2008/story.htm

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- NATURE AND CONSERVATION -

17. "Encyclopaedia of Life" is taking shape

About 30,000 species of creatures and plants have been listed in a draft "Encyclopaedia of Life" that may aid understanding of issues from human ageing to disease, scientists said on February 25. The free Internet encyclopaedia www.eol.org aims to eventually list all 1.8 million known species of life in a \$100 million, 10-year project that begun in 2007. The first draft, with 25 fully completed entries including text, pictures and video, is due to be launched at a conference in Monterey, California, on February 27. A further 30,000 have less detailed information. "Our major message to the world is 'Here's our first attempt at putting together this encyclopaedia, please give us our feedback, your criticisms, your comments'," James Edwards, executive director of the project, told Reuters. "The very fact of assembling all these species is a revolution," Jesse Ausubel, chairman of the project at the Rockefeller University in New York City said. The project is led by the US Field Museum, Harvard University, Marine Biological Laboratory, Missouri Botanical Garden, Smithsonian Institution, and Biodiversity Heritage Library - a group that includes London's Natural History Museum, the New York Botanical Garden and the Royal Botanic Garden in Kew, England.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47176/story.htm
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7263134.stm>

18. Galapagos sea lion massacre fuels conservation fears

Ecuadorean authorities are investigating a massacre of 53 sea lions in the pristine Galapagos islands which has raised concerns about whether the government can protect the famous archipelago. Park rangers found the decomposing sea lions with their skulls crushed on a remote islet earlier this month. Now reports of tourists meddling with animals are prompting calls for stricter controls at the UN World Heritage site. Ecuador is already debating whether to limit growing tourism on Galapagos and has expelled hundreds of illegal workers to protect the natural reserve after the United Nations warned last year that the site was in danger. Authorities don't know why the sea lions were butchered. Traffickers often kill animals to take organs in demand for traditional medicines. But these sea lions were untouched except for head wounds, officials said. The volcanic islands, located 650 miles (1,000 km) off Ecuador's coast, inspired British naturalist Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Centenarian tortoises and blue-footed boobies live alongside 18,000 islanders who earn a living from fishing and tourism.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46689/newsDate/31-Jan-2008/story.htm

19. Cuba bans marine turtle hunt in bow to conservation

Cuba has banned the hunting of marine turtles endangered in the Caribbean by the illegal trade in shells used to make combs. The decision was applauded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as a lifeline to all turtle species hatching on beaches throughout the Caribbean, but above all the critically endangered hawksbill turtle. The ban took effect this weekend, said the Cuban Fisheries Ministry's director of regulations, Elisa Garcia. She said it would remain in effect "until it is scientifically proven that the species is recovering."

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46567/newsDate/23-Jan-2008/story.htm

20. Kiribati creates world's largest marine reserve

The Pacific island nation of Kiribati has created the world's largest protected marine reserve, a California-sized wilderness brimming with reefs, fish and birds. The Phoenix Islands Protected Area, covering 410,500 square kilometres (158,500 sq m), is one of the planet's last intact coral archipelagos and is threatened by over-fishing and climate change, the groups say. It lies near the equator about half way between Fiji and Hawaii. Conservation International along with the New England Aquarium, is helping the Kiribati government develop a management and funding plan for the largely uninhabited area. Studies led by the US aquarium have found more than 120 species of coral and 520 species of fish, some new to science. The area also has some of the most important sea bird nesting sites in the Pacific, large fish populations and sea turtles, the aquarium and Conservation International say. The protected zone is more than double the area Kiribati originally pledged to protect at a UN biodiversity conference in Brazil in 2006.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46960/story.htm

21. Whaling News

Norway keeps whaling quota, draws ire

Norway has set a commercial whaling quota of 1,052 minke whales in 2008, unchanged from last year, drawing criticism from environmental groups pressuring Oslo to join the international community and call off its hunts. Norway is the only country to hunt the giant mammal commercially despite a two-decade-old moratorium by the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46860/newsDate/11-Feb-2008/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46830/newsDate/8-Feb-2008/story.htm

www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,23173437-661,00.html ('shocking' pictures)

Iceland likely to start whaling again

This summer Iceland is expected to start whaling again in a move certain to draw the anger of conservationists, according to BBC sources. Iceland ended its ban on commercial whaling in 2006, but in August last year its fisheries ministry said it would not issue new quotas until market demand increased and an export agreement with Japan - where whale meat is popular - was in place.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47491/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7294564.stm>

22. Dolphin saves two whales stuck on New Zealand beach

The case of two stranded whales saved by a dolphin off the coast of New Zealand could be the first such case in the world, a conservation worker said on March 13. Moko the dolphin, a regular visitor to the coast of Mahia on the east Coast of New Zealand's North Island, became an instant hero after leading two pygmy whales that had repeatedly stranded into deep water on March 10. "As far as I know it's the only documented instance of this happening," said local Department of Conservation officer Malcolm Smith, adding he had checked with whale stranding specialists who were also unaware of any similar dolphin rescues. Moko, who had been visiting the beach at Mahia on and off over the summer, arrived at the beach in the nick of time, Smith said. The disoriented mother and calf had resisted attempts to herd them out to sea, and kept re-stranding on the beach, to the point where Smith said the pair would likely have to be killed. Then Moko appeared, and came right up to the whales before leading them out to sea. "Quite clearly the attitude of the whales changed when the dolphin arrived on the scene. They responded virtually straight away," Smith said. "The dolphin managed in a couple of minutes what we had failed to do in an hour and a half." Smith said the whales had not been sighted again in the area.

However Moko had returned and was continuing to play with swimmers near the shore, as she has done for about the past six months. According to Department of Conservation figures about 700 whales strand on New Zealand beaches every year. The exact reasons why are not known, but theories include sickness, and sloping sandy beaches interfering with whales' sense of direction.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47496/story.htm

23. Fast-growing corals key to Caribbean reef – study

Two dominant coral species have built a good chunk of the Caribbean reef, and their ability to grow quickly may help the region's coral reefs keep pace with rising sea levels caused by global warming, researchers say. The endangered staghorn and elkhorn corals grow about 10 times faster than any other in the Caribbean and reproduce in part by breaking into bits for easy ocean spread.

Ken Johnson, who led the study published in the journal Science, said researchers had found that the staghorn and elkhorn coral were not that important until about 1 million years ago, when half the Caribbean coral species went extinct. Today about 60 coral species remain. Johnson said one reason they quickly became dominant was they may have been able to keep up with rapid sea level rise by growing quickly, Johnson said. And if sea levels rise as predicted in the coming centuries, they may have to reprise this role. Coral reefs, delicate undersea structures resembling rocky gardens that are made by animals called coral polyps, are important nurseries and shelters for fish and other sea life. They are also considered valuable protection for coastlines from high seas, a critical source of food, important for tourism and a potential storehouse of medicines for cancer and other diseases. But researchers say overfishing, climate change and human development are threatening reefs worldwide. Even the dominant staghorn and elkhorn species are considered threatened under the US Endangered Species Act. In the Caribbean, an added concern is that the reefs are especially sensitive because they are dominated by just two species, Johnson said.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47492/story.htm

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/short/319/5869/1521 (Abstract, article not freely available)

24. Warm winter kills baby ringed seals

Hundreds of baby Ring seals are dying of cold and starvation in the Baltic Sea. A warm winter is wreaking havoc on the young ring seal population in the Baltic Sea north of Germany, and observers fear that about 500 pups have already died in recent weeks. World Wildlife Federation, an international organization focusing on conservation work to protect endangered species and habitat, is ringing alarm bells. "The situation is dire. It is entirely possible that in some regions not a single seal pup of the estimated 1,500 newborns will survive," the WWF Baltic Group spokeswoman in Stralsund, Germany,

Cathrin Muenster, told ABC News. Muenster explained that the ice cover is melting too quickly, forcing the baby seals into the water too early. "There they starve and die a painful death from the cold," she said. "You can call it 'game over' in some regions." Antti Hallka, a seal expert with WWF Finland, said that because of the lack of ice some seal mothers had given birth on small islands or on the mainland, where predators will likely kill the pups. Ring seals usually give birth on ice floes, where they build birth lairs and seal pups depend on maternal care for about 40 days, during which time they build up a thick layer of blubber. The ring seal is an earless seal found in northern waters all over the world. The Baltic Sea subspecies, which numbers only about 7,000 to 10,000, is listed as an endangered species by the World Conservation Union. About 180,000 ringed seals are estimated to have inhabited the Baltic in 1900. The population had been severely reduced by hunting and pollution but had been well on the road to recovery before this unusually warm winter. The Baltic Sea has experienced the warmest winter in almost 300 years – since records began to be kept in 1720 — and ice packs have begun breaking up earlier than ever, destroying birthing lairs before the seal baby is able to forage on its own.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/GlobalWarming/story?id=4428404&page=1>

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES -

25. Russia tries to save sturgeon with caviar monopoly

Russia hopes to save the sturgeon from extinction by setting up a state caviar monopoly and stiffening punishments for poachers. The sturgeon, popularly known as the "tsar fish", has been hunted to the verge of extinction by poachers and criminal groups who spirit its delicate eggs - caviar - from the Caspian Sea to diners across Europe, Asia and the United States.

The idea of creating a Russian caviar monopoly has been floated several times since the fall of the Soviet Union, but it took officials five years to agree on how it could work. Russia's chief fisheries official, Andrei Krainiy, told the cabinet that a draft law could be debated this year. The tsars created a monopoly for the sale of caviar and the Bolsheviks continued the business. But since communism collapsed, the state has lost much of its control, leaving the sturgeon at the mercy of rampant poaching and rising pollution. Most of the world's sturgeon spawn in the rivers that flow into the Caspian. The caviar is sold by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Russia. Russia says the population of beluga sturgeon, source of the dearest caviar, has fallen by 90 percent over the past 20 years. A spokesman for the fisheries agency said just 9 tonnes of black caviar was produced legally each year in Russia, none of it for export. By bringing the entire production process under monopoly control, Russia hopes to make it harder for poachers or gangs working with corrupt officials to get illegal caviar onto the market. www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46609/newsDate/25-Jan-2008/story.htm

26. World fisheries face collapse within decades

A deadly combination of climate change, over-fishing and pollution could cause the collapse of commercial fish stocks worldwide within decades, said Achim Steiner, head of the United Nations Environment Programme. Some 2.6 billion people worldwide depend on fish for protein, said a UNEP report "In Dead Water" published on Friday. Climate change has compounded previous problems such as over-fishing, as rising temperatures kill coral reefs, threaten tuna spawning grounds, and shift ocean currents and with them the plankton and small fish which underpin ocean food chains. "The question is not whether we should stop fishing but to address climate change, which is creating a degree of impact we've not seen before," said lead author of the UNEP report, Christian Nellemann. "We are getting more and more alarming signals of dramatic changes in the oceans. The recovery from the changes we're making will probably take a million years." The report found the most affected areas included those responsible for half the world's fish catch. A slowing of ocean currents as a result of climate change may over the next 100 years interrupt the transport of nutrients to the most valuable coastal fishing zones, and the flushing away of pollution. In other impacts, Nellemann said he expected more than 50 percent of coral reefs to die by 2050 as a result of rising temperatures, with resulting impacts on tourism. Carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels create an acid when dissolved in water, and could over the coming decades make the sea more acidic than at any time in the past 65 million years, and by 2100 could prevent molluscs in some seas from forming shells.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47142/newsDate/25-Feb-2008/story.htm

www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=528&ArticleID=5751&l=en

27. Sharks disappearing as fin chopping rises

Populations of tiger, bull, dusky and other sea sharks have plummeted by more than 95 percent since the 1970s as fisherman kill the animals for their fins or when they scoop other fish from the ocean, according to an expert from the World Conservation Union, or IUCN. At particular risk is the scalloped hammerhead shark, whose young swim mostly in shallow waters along shores all over the world to avoid predators. The scalloped hammerhead will be listed on the 2008 IUCN Red List as globally "endangered"

due to overfishing and high demand for its valuable fins in the shark fin trade, said Julia Baum, a member of the IUCN's shark specialist group. The numbers of many other large shark species have plunged due to increased demand for shark fins and meat, recreational shark fisheries, as well as tuna and swordfish fisheries, where millions of sharks are taken as by catch each year, said Baum, a fellow at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego. Last year, IUCN put the great hammerhead, the largest of the nine species of hammerhead, on the Red List as "endangered." IUCN said in September 2007 that numbers of the shark in the eastern Atlantic may have crashed by 80 percent in the last 25 years. Hammerhead meat has a very low value but the sharks are among the most endangered species because their fins are highly prized for the Asian delicacy shark-fin soup. In shark finning, fishermen chop the fins of the animals and dump the sharks back into the sea. Fishing for sharks in international waters is unrestricted, said Baum, who supports a recently adopted UN resolution calling for immediate shark catch limits and a ban on shark finning.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/46989/newsDate/18-Feb-2008/story.htm
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7251651.stm>

A European Community Action Plan for Sharks, will be presented to the European Parliament and member nations at the end of the year, designed to reverse the decline of sharks in European waters, see <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7288315.stm>

28. Croatia grants fishing rights to boost EU talks

Croatia's parliament voted on March 13 to allow European Union fishermen to operate in an Adriatic no-fishing zone, a concession that should rejuvenate the former Yugoslav republic's EU membership talks. A tiny majority of deputies supported the ruling Croatian Democratic Union's proposal to scrap enforcement of the zone on EU countries after the European Commission made clear accession talks would stall unless the issue was resolved. Some nationalist leaders and Croatian fishermen described the vote as a capitulation in the face of an EU ultimatum, but Sanader said the country had no choice if it wanted to achieve its goal of joining the EU in 2010 or 2011. Most of the opposition abstained from the vote, state radio reported. Sanader's main coalition partner, the conservative Peasant Party which strongly supports the zone, voted against but said this would not affect its presence in government. At the start of the year Croatia added EU members to the list of those it had barred from fishing in the zone, which reaches into the middle of the Adriatic and is designed to preserve fish stocks and limit pollution. Italy and Slovenia said the measure had breached a pledge by Zagreb not to apply the zone to EU countries. The parliament's decision did not affect non-EU countries barred from the zone.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47500/story.htm

29. EU finalises deal to fish less off Mauritania coast

The European Union has renegotiated its single biggest fishing deal, lowering its fee to Mauritania and nearly halving the amount of fish it takes. The EU has signed more than 20 bilateral fishing agreements, mostly with developing countries in Africa, which substantially oversupply the bloc and convinced the EU Commission of the need to lower them. From a four-year period starting in August, the EU will pay Mauritania 75.25 million euros (\$117.3 million) a year for the right to fish in its waters, down from 86 million euros now - or almost a third of Mauritania's national revenue. The EU's permitted Mauritanian catch will fall to 250,000 tonnes from 440,000 tonnes. Octopus, crab and crawfish, as well as sardines, anchovies and lobster are the main catches. EU ministers will discuss the revised deal in April, as well as how to carve up Mauritanian fishing quotas by EU state. At present, 200 boats flying the flags of some 13 EU nations fish in Mauritanian waters.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47553/newsDate/17-Mar-2008/story.htm

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

30. Journal of Coastal Conservation – *The official journal of EUCC – The Coastal Union*

The Journal of Coastal Conservation is a scientific journal for the dissemination of both theoretical and applied research on integrated and sustainable management of the terrestrial, coastal and marine environmental interface.

Volume 11. Issue 1 . October 2007, ISSN 1400-0350

Contents:

- The role of maritime public domain in the Portuguese Coastal Management, by L. Pinho
- Integrated shoreline management and tourism development on the cross-border World Heritage Site: A case study from the Curonian spit (Lithuania/Russia), by A. Armaitienė, V.L. Boldyrev, R. Povilanskas, J. Taminskas
- The formation of protective dune ridge along the Southeast Baltic Sea coast: historical and social aspects, by R. Žaromskis
- Implications of sea level rise for coastal dune habitat conservation in Wales, UK, by S.E. Saye, K. Pye
- A GIS-based vulnerability assessment of coastal natural hazards, state of Pará, Brazil, by C. Szlafsztein, H. Sterr

- Restoring coastal wetlands that were ditched for mosquito control: A preliminary assessment of hydro-leveling as a restoration technique, by T.J. Smith, G. Tiling, P.S. Leasure

Now Published by Springer see at <http://www.springer.com/environment/journal/11852>

31. INFOREGIO website: EU Regional Policy 2007-2013

The key web pages are available in 22 languages so visitors can read in the languages of 27 Member States detailed information on the history, main aims and key elements of regional policy for 2007-2013 on http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

32. The nature guide to the Camargue, La Crau and les Alpilles - France

Just far enough south to shake off the last edges of the temperate climate, the Camargue and surrounding areas already display some of the best that Mediterranean has to offer. This guidebook describes the nature of three totally different areas that each others direct neighbours: Camargue, La Crau and les Alpilles. Combine the three areas and you have a region of incredible diversity. This guide tells interesting and insightful stories with up-to-date and practical tourist information and observation tips. *By Dori te Boekhorst et al. (2006, 198 pp.). KNNV Publishing and Crossbill Guides Foundation, P.O.Box 19320, 3501 DH Utrecht, the Netherlands. Fax +30 236 89 07. Web: www.knnvuitgeverij.nl E-mail: info@knnvuitgeverij.nl ISBN 90 5011 210 2. Price 19.95 euro.*

33. In Defence of Dolphins

Thomas White relies on his more than fifteen-year journey to understand the nature of dolphins, an odyssey that took him from the classroom to the depths of the ocean. With a growing body of research supporting the sophisticated cognitive and emotional capacities of dolphins, important questions concerning their ethical treatment have arisen. Rich with engaging first-hand accounts, this book, written for a general audience, surveys the latest research on dolphin intelligence and social behaviour and argues that dolphins should be regarded as – and treated as – ‘non-human persons’. *By Thomas I. White (2007, 229 pp.) Marston Book Services, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX 14 4YN, UK. Fax +1235 465556, E-mail trade.order@marston.co.uk Web www.marston.co.uk/Site/Home.html, ISBN 978 1 4051 5779 7, £ 12.99*

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

– EVENTS & TRAINING: 1ST ANNOUNCEMENTS –

This list includes the 1st Announcements of conferences and training courses, and highlights Eucc Conferences and Workshops. For a complete overview of conferences please visit: <http://www.coastalguide.org/meetings>

April 9th – 11th, 2008: Porto, Portugal

2nd CoastLab Course, Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto

This course is designed as a hands-on application-oriented training. It will provide the students with the knowledge necessary to set up a sediment transport simulation in physical model. As far as possible, students will also learn to use laboratory instrumentation. Application procedure and other relevant information available at www.fe.up.pt/ihrh/coastlab

May 21st – 22nd May 2008: Scheveningen, The Netherlands

Risk management meets Crisis management on Coastal Flooding

The EU INTERREG North Sea Programme projects SAFECOAST and CHAIN OF SAFETY present their joint final conference in the Carlton Beach Hotel, Scheveningen, The Netherlands.
www.safecoast.org

June 9th - 27th, 2008: University of Rhode Island, USA

2008 Summer Institute in Advanced Coastal Management

Theme: Planning and Implementation of Regional and Place-based Coastal Management
www.crc.uri.edu/index.php?actid=347

June 23rd - 25th 2008: Maribor, Slovenia

INSPIRE Conference: Implementation and Beyond

With the adoption of the INSPIRE directive, 2007/2/EC, the focus of this year's conference is on reviewing the progress of the INSPIRE Legislation and on the development of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) in general.

www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/inspire_2008/index.cfm

October 20th –24th, 2008: Toulon – Marseille, France

BIOMARINE: Towards an international Sea Policy: Inspiration from the European Model. Conference in the framework of the French EU Presidency.

The Biomarine 2008 Forum is the official marine event of the French Presidency of the European Union. EUCC – The Coastal Union is a official partner of BIOMARINE.

www.biomarine.org

November 25th –28th, 2008: Venice, Italy

LITTORAL 2008 - A CHANGING COAST: CHALLENGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

CORILA, EUCC - The Coastal Union and EUROCOAST have the pleasure to invite you to participate in this LITTORAL 2008, 9th International Conference.

IMPORTANT DATES: Abstract submission due: 28th April 2008

Abstract acceptance notification due: 15th June 2008

Camera-ready final papers due: 5th September 2008

For more information visit the official website at: www.littoral2008.corila.it/

and/or contact: littoral2008@corila.it

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

– COLOPHON –

Disclaimer: EUCC Coastal News is a news service; articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of EUCC – The Coastal Union.

© Articles may be reproduced free of charge with acknowledgement and citation of EUCC Coastal News and the URL of EUCC – The Coastal Union (www.eucc.net). The articles of this and previous issues of EUCC Coastal News can be found at <http://www.eucc.net/en/news/index.htm>

EUCC Coastal News Editorial Team: Albert Salman, Maria Ferreira, Alan Pickaver, René Beckerschmidt, and Ben Spaans.

Special Editors: Magdalena A. Kim Muir (EUCC Advisory Board Member): Climate Change; and Roger Longhorn (EUCC Advisory Board Member): Information Policy

Established in 1989, EUCC - The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with more than 3000 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, PO. Box 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands
Tel.: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>

This publication is supported by the European Union

