



## EUCC Coastal News

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

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**Contributions to the next issue due to: 10 July 2008.**

Eucc-members are invited to send their contributions to [news@eucc.net](mailto:news@eucc.net)

### - CONTENTS -

#### - EUCC NEWS -

1. Invitation to become Partner of European Maritime Day 2009
2. 1st European Maritime Day: Eucc attends EU Maritime Policy Conference
3. Eucc active in International Dune Conference, Liverpool
4. Eucc-publications on Natura 2000 in Catalan and Balearic coasts
5. Eucc endorses Sardina Charter for ICZM in the Mediterranean
6. IMCORE project started

#### - EU NEWS & INITIATIVES -

7. LIFE supports Malta's first coastal nature reserve
8. EU cuts Poland cod quota after over fishing in 2007
9. Horizon 2020: Helping protect the Mediterranean Sea from pollution
10. Romania's PlanCoast project continues to investigate marine spatial planning

#### - CLIMATE CHANGE: TRENDS & IMPACTS -

11. Warming trends rise in large ocean areas – UNEP study
12. Oceans absorbing less CO<sub>2</sub> may have 1,500 year impact
13. World sea levels to rise 1.5 m by 2100 – scientists
14. Next decade may see no warming
15. Mediterranean tsunami warning system set for 2011

#### - CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSES -

16. Adaptation to Climate Change: EU Stakeholder Consultation and the White Paper
17. MEPs urge study on climate adaptation economics
18. Floating turbines may join Norway's offshore rigs
19. Scotland: £10m marine energy prize unveiled
20. New hydro-wind power project on Canary Islands

#### - NATURE AND CONSERVATION -

21. Marine reserves increase fishery profits
22. Protection pledged for UK seas
23. Coral flourishing at Bikini atoll atomic test site
24. Iceland to catch minke whales
25. No sex for all-girl fish species
26. Colossal squid comes out of ice

#### - AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES -

27. Cod fall may speed 'toxic tide' in oceans
28. Throw the big ones back, fishing study suggests
29. Farmed salmon less immune for diseases than wild one
30. Fisheries expert questions 'good fish' guides, prefers MSC

#### - PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

31. The Climatic Atlas of European Breeding Birds
32. SUDEST final report published
33. Making Mainstreaming Work An Analytical Framework

#### - EVENTS & TRAINING: 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNOUNCEMENTS -

#### - COLOPHON -

## - EUCG NEWS -

### 1. Invitation to become Partner of European Maritime Day 2009

EUCG – The Coastal Union calls upon maritime cities and towns, ports and marinas, industry, yachting clubs and others to become partners in a European wide event celebrating European Maritime Day 2009, Wednesday 20 May. EUCG will help prepare a spectacular programme that will ensure high media visibility of partner towns and ports throughout Europe, together with the European Commission and many others.

The day will highlight the crucial role that oceans and seas play in the everyday life not only of coastal communities, but of all EU citizens, and for Europe's sustainable growth and jobs at large. Based on a proposal from the Commission, Maritime Day will also encourage better stewardship of coastal zones, seas and oceans by all citizens and actors concerned.

EUCG welcomes the European Commission's decision to celebrate the achievements and potential of Europe's ocean and seas by declaring 20 May as a dedicated European Maritime Day. *"The sea, the maritime sectors and marine resources are essential for Europe's prosperity and well-being. By setting up a European Maritime Day, we, as Europeans, want to celebrate this reality and to raise awareness about maritime opportunities and our new Integrated Maritime Policy"*, said the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso. Joe Borg, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries adds: *"Setting aside a special day each year to mark the importance of the oceans and seas is a way to promote the well-being and welfare of all Europeans"*.

Interested partners are invited to contact EUCG at [admin@eucc.net](mailto:admin@eucc.net).

[http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritime-day-2008\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritime-day-2008_en.html)

### 2. 1st European Maritime Day: EUCG attends EU Maritime Policy Conference

EUCG and its Dolphin Fund have been highly visible at a stakeholder conference in Brussels, at the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Maritime Day, 20 May 2008. From the outset we have closely followed the preparation of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and many of our members participated in providing feedback to the Green Paper and the Blue Book. European Commission's DG MARE (Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) considers a broad consultation of stakeholders as a key tool for the development of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy. In the Blue Book, the Commission committed itself to *"propose a stakeholders consultation structure, feeding into further development of the maritime policy and allowing exchange of best practices"*. In this context the EU launched European Maritime Day on 20 May, as an annual event.

EUCG is keen to contribute to the Maritime Policy in the fields of ICZM, biodiversity and the sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment. We could do so on the exchange of best practices, evaluating integrated policies (through our ICZM indicators), sustainable fisheries (through our involvement in NSRAC a.o.), sustainable coastal tourism (our QualityCoast initiative) and to help building the spatial information infrastructure (under INSPIRE). EUCG is also keen to bring the entire European coastal and marine expert community together to provide the Commission with an important counterpart for consultation and support; in February we took the initiative for a platform of European network organisations (this initiative was already mentioned in the previous issue of EUCG Coastal News). And finally, EUCG has many ideas and opportunities to help celebrate European Maritime Day on 20 May every year.

In the next issue of our magazine Coastline we will focus on important aspects of the Maritime Policy.

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/>

### 3. EUCG active in International Dune Conference, Liverpool

'Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management' - the international conference that was held between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008, in Liverpool (UK) gathered 80 participants from 4 continents: Europe, Africa, Asia and the USA. It was organised by Liverpool Hope University with the support of EUCG International. At the conference, participants had the opportunity to exchange and learn from many experiences. A revision of the 'Sand Dune Inventory of Europe' was presented by J.P. Doody. This new edition is available online for consultation at the ENCORA network Coastal WIKI,

[http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/European\\_Sand\\_Dune\\_Distribution](http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/European_Sand_Dune_Distribution). An accompanying article provides an introduction to the distribution of coastal sand dunes in Europe and is based on the revision.

Furthermore, EUCG in cooperation with three Dutch Programme partners (Water Supply Company, North Holland; WaterNet, Research & Development, Amsterdam Water Supply Dunes; and Dune Water Company of the Province of South-Holland) as well as the Dutch Society for Dune Conservation jointly presented restoration projects and practices in the Dutch dunes, in the form of a poster.

This information is available in the latest CoastLine magazine (2008-01) *Coastal & Marine Challenges*, online at <http://www.eucc.net/coastline/coastline08-1.pdf>

#### 4. Eucc-publications on Natura 2000 in Catalan and Balearic coasts

The Eucc – Mediterranean Centre received, for the second consecutive year, a grant by the *Fundació Territori i Paisatge* to produce the brochure "*Descobreix Natura 2000 des del Mar*" focusing this time on the Balearic Islands coastal NATURA 2000 sites. Its release is expected at the end of the summer, 2008, and will be available at the Eucc MC website, as well as the previous publication on the Catalan coast: <http://www.eucc.net/medcentre/activities/publicacio.pdf>.

Besides the electronic version, 7,000 copies will be distributed to target organizations, specially in the illustrated NATURA 2000 sites,

In March 2006, the Balearic Government approved the enlargement of the NATURA 2000 Network including 35 Sites of Community Importance (31,146 ha) and 10 Special Protection Areas for birds (2,356 ha). Currently, the NATURA 2000 Network in Balearic islands covers 204,290 ha of land and sea. The aim of the present publication is to raise awareness of the local population and administration on the ecological importance of these sites.

For more details, please contact Pedro Fernández, [p.fernandez@eucc.net](mailto:p.fernandez@eucc.net)

#### 5. Eucc endorses Sardinia Charter for ICZM in the Mediterranean

On 20 May 2008, the second day of the Mediterranean Workshop on ICZM Policy, a special session was organised dedicated to the Sardinian experience in ICZM. In the afternoon of the same day, the "[Sardinia Charter](#)" was discussed, jointly with Mr. Renato Soru, President of the Sardinian Region. The "Sardinia Charter" aiming to promote the local level ICZM network, was supported by the representatives of the NGO networks, like WWF, Medcities and Eucc. A press conference with participation of the representatives of the national TVs and newspapers, which was held in the evening, was dedicated to the first celebration of the EU Maritime Day and the adoption of the "Sardinia Charter". [www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/itl\\_news.php?lang=en&godina=2008#228](http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/itl_news.php?lang=en&godina=2008#228)

#### 6. IMCORE project started

The 14th of May marked the kick-off meeting of the new IMCORE project. IMCORE is an EU INTERREG NWE 4B project that will last 3,5 years with a total budget of approximately 6 million euros. The project is led by the Coastal and Marine Resources Centre (CMRC), part of University College Cork.

The official goal of the IMCORE project is to "promote a transnational, innovative and sustainable approach to reducing the Ecological, Social and Economic impacts of climate change on the coastal resources of North-West Europe."

IMCORE takes the very successful expert couplet from the COREPOINT project and expands it to nine couplets. This concept seeks to establish a hands-on collaboration between coastal practitioners and coastal scientists in the form of cooperation between a local government group and a research group. This cooperation should result in improved coastal resource management and gives the project a method to demonstrate the innovative approaches developed in COREPOINT and IMCORE.

Eucc has a role in both the content of the project and in communicating the results of the project to a broader audience. For example, Eucc will produce an analysis of the expert couplet tool in order to investigate common strengths and weaknesses of this tool and will attempt to compare the expert couplet to other ICZM management strategies. Eucc will be working together with CoastNet on the communications part of the IMCORE project

### - EU NEWS & INITIATIVES -

#### 7. LIFE supports Malta's first coastal nature reserve

Funding under the LIFE-Third Country strand has helped Maltese partners to establish the country's first fully functional coastal nature reserve. Some 800 hectares of marine and terrestrial environment are now managed in a sustainable and controlled manner within a carefully prepared, inclusive and integrated programme of conservation actions. The Mediterranean coastal area between Qawara on Malta and Dwejra on Gozo has been nominated by the Maltese government as a potential World Heritage Site. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty containing unique examples of geological, biological and cultural heritage features. Maintaining the quality of these environmental resources had become increasingly challenging during recent times due to uncontrolled economic development and increased pressures from tourism, building, dumping, camping and bird trapping.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/themes/seas/features2008/malta.htm>

#### 8. EU cuts Poland cod quota after over fishing in 2007

European Union ministers agreed on April 14 to reduce Poland's annual allowances over four years for fishing cod in the eastern Baltic Sea as pay back for breaking the quota in 2007, officials said. The decision ends months of angry exchanges between Warsaw and Brussels over whether Poland caught too much cod last year. At one point, Poland even filed a lawsuit against the European Commission,

which administers quotas, at the EU's highest court. Based on catch reports submitted by Warsaw, Poland exceeded its 2007 cod quota by 8,000 tonnes, the Commission says.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47968/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47968/story.htm)

### 9. Horizon 2020: Helping protect the Mediterranean Sea from pollution

The European Commission and the European Investment Bank on April 10 presented the results of a study on potential investments addressing pollution hotspots in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. The study, undertaken as part of the Commission's Horizon 2020 Initiative designed to tackle the major sources of Mediterranean pollution by the year 2020, recognises the need for a programme to help the countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean reduce the pollution they release into the sea. The decline of the Mediterranean threatens the health of the 143 million people living on its shore and jeopardises the long-term development of key economic sectors such as fishing and tourism. The proposed Mediterranean Hot Spot Investment Programme (MeHSIP) and the Horizon 2020 initiative are part of the European Union's cooperation with the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries involved in the Barcelona Process and covered by the EU's Neighbourhood Policy. The EIB will now proceed in finalising a list of projects under the Mediterranean Hotspot Investment Programme based on the 44 projects already identified in seven Mediterranean countries. The MeHSIP will also contribute to closer collaboration between the European Investment Bank and other donors and initiatives in the region designed to integrate the environment in different sector policies in the Mediterranean.

[www.emwis.net/thematicdirs/news/horizon-2020-helping-protect-mediterranean-sea](http://www.emwis.net/thematicdirs/news/horizon-2020-helping-protect-mediterranean-sea)

### 10. Romania's PlanCoast project continues to investigate marine spatial planning

Although the overall INTERREG IIIB NP CADSES Project PlanCoast ([www.plancoast.eu](http://www.plancoast.eu)) has just drawn to an end, activities in Romania will continue with EU funding until the end of this year. The aim of PlanCoast has been to develop the tools and capacities for an effective integrated planning in coastal zones and maritime areas in the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea regions. In Romania, maps for coastal planning, both of the terrestrial and marine zones, developed so far by the project partners National Institute for Marine Research and Development, "Grigore Antipa" (NIMRD) and National Institute for Research and Development (Urbanproject) will be presented to the coastal and marine stakeholders during the coming months. So far, a GIS database on the Romanian Black Sea coast has been established including the two counties Constanta and Tulcea. More information of this activity can be found on [www.plancoast.eu/php/ppp-romanian-coast-cis-database.php](http://www.plancoast.eu/php/ppp-romanian-coast-cis-database.php) The Romanian National Report has been one of the most important deliverables of the Romanian PlanCoast project. It can be downloaded from [www.plancoast.eu/files/Romanianat%20report%20part%201%20draft.doc](http://www.plancoast.eu/files/Romanianat%20report%20part%201%20draft.doc) The report points out that the issue of maritime spatial planning is not included in the existing planning framework although this is the case for most coastal EU countries. Romania has issued a Law regarding the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), thereby being ahead of most other countries in the region. However, enforcement is lagging behind. The report analyses the major obstacles to efficient and sustainable management of coastal resources. For further information, please contact Project Manager Laura Alexandrov, e-mail: [laurenta05@yahoo.com](mailto:laurenta05@yahoo.com)

## - CLIMATE CHANGE: TRENDS & IMPACTS -

### 11. Warming trends rise in large ocean areas – UNEP study

Warming trends in a third of the world's large ocean regions are two to four times greater than previously reported averages, increasing the risk to marine life and fisheries, a UN-backed environmental study said. Overfishing, coastal pollution and degradation of water quality were common in all 64 large marine ecosystems studied by scientists who contributed to the UN Environmental Programme report presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands - *Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management by 2010 in the Context of Climate Change*, in Hanoi, Vietnam in April. The report stated that in 18 of the 64 regions, "the accelerated warming trends are 2-4 times greater than the average trends reported in 2007 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change". The week-long Global Conferences On Oceans, Coasts and Islands is a forum for developing countries trying to improve ocean governance and coastal management, especially in the light of climate change. Scientists said the 800-page report focuses on the risk to the sustainability of the \$12.6 trillion value of goods and services produced each year in the so-called large marine ecosystems. The most rapid warming was recorded in the Baltic Sea at 1.35 degrees Celsius in the past 25 years. Other areas under threat included the Yellow Sea, one of the most heavily over-fished and environmentally degraded seas in the world. Hundreds of millions of people live along or near its shores in China and the Korean Peninsula and pollution from industry and farmland was a particular threat. The report recommended that 29 ocean areas adjacent to developing countries should also cap the yield of annual fishery catches as a precaution.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47866/newsDate/10-Apr-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47866/newsDate/10-Apr-2008/story.htm)

Conference overview and outcomes available at  
<http://www.globaloceans.org/globalconferences/2008/index.html>

## 12. Oceans absorbing less CO<sub>2</sub> may have 1,500 year impact

Global oceans are soaking up less carbon dioxide, a development that could speed up the greenhouse effect and have an impact for the next 1,500 years. Research from the CARBOOCEAN five-year project funded by the European Union showed the North Atlantic, which along with the Antarctic is of the world's two vital ocean carbon sinks, is absorbing only half the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that it did in the mid-1990s. Using recent detailed data, scientists said the amount absorbed is also fluctuating each year, making it hard to predict how and whether the trend will continue and if oceans will be able to perform their vital balancing act in the future. Oceans soak up around a quarter of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but should they fail to do so in the future the gas would stay in the atmosphere and could accelerate the greenhouse effect. Oceans are like a slow-mixing machine with carbon absorbed in the North Atlantic taking around 1,500 years to circulate around the world's seas. This means changes to their fragile balance could be felt long into the future. Scientists are still debating the reasons why oceans are absorbing less carbon dioxide. While some point to CO<sub>2</sub> saturation, others say it could be caused by a change in surface water circulation, triggered by changes in weather cycles. Heinze described a "bottleneck effect" because of the large amount of manmade carbon dioxide oceans already store. Some forms of sea life have suffered from the large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed, because of changes in acidity levels. For the scientists there is only one thing humans can do to resolve the problem - reduce emissions by at least 75 percent.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48010/newsDate/17-Apr-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48010/newsDate/17-Apr-2008/story.htm)

CARBOOCEAN - Marine carbon sources and sinks assessment project website:

<http://www.carboocean.org/>

## 13. World sea levels to rise 1.5 m by 2100 – scientists

Melting glaciers, disappearing ice sheets and warming water could lift sea levels by as much as 1.5 metres (4.9 feet) by the end of this century, displacing tens of millions of people. New research results presented at a European Geosciences Union conference on April 15, forecast a rise in sea levels three times higher than that predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) last year. Dr. Svetlana Jevrejeva of the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory in Britain said the estimate was based on a new model allowing accurate reconstruction of sea levels over the past 2,000 years. "For the past 2,000 years, the sea level was very stable," she told journalists on the margins of the Vienna meeting. But the pace at which sea levels are rising is accelerating, and they will be 0.8-1.5 metres higher by next century, researchers including Jevrejeva said in a statement. Sea levels rose 2 cm in the 18th century, 6 cm in the 19th century and 19 cm last century, she said, adding: "It seems that the rapid rise in the 20th century is from melting ice sheets". Dr Jevrejeva's projections have been submitted for publication in the scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47986/newsDate/16-Apr-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47986/newsDate/16-Apr-2008/story.htm)

<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2008/index.html>

## 14. Next decade may see no warming

Natural climate changes may offset human-caused global warming over the next decade, keeping ocean temperatures the same or even temporarily cooling them slightly, German researchers said on April 30. However, this short-term situation might create a problem if policymakers regarded it as a sign they could ease efforts to limit greenhouse gases or play down global warming. The natural variations change climate on this timescale and policymakers may either think mitigation is working or that there is no global warming at all," said Noel Keenlyside, a climate researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences in Germany who led the study. Climate researchers have long predicted more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere would spur a general warming trend over the next 100 years. The study published in the journal Nature is one of the first to take a shorter-term view. This is useful because natural changes, as opposed to human causes, may play a bigger role in the short term, Keenlyside said. His team made a computer model that takes into account natural phenomena such as sea surface temperatures and ocean circulation patterns. They checked their work by producing a set of forecasts using data recorded over the past 50 years and found the retrospective forecasts were accurate. One possible reason for the relative cooling effect in the next decade is the predicted weakening of a system that brings warm water northward into the North Atlantic and offsets an expected rise in greenhouse gases. Reporting of this research already caused worries that messages like this can take the sense of urgency out of global warming fears.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48180/newsDate/1-May-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48180/newsDate/1-May-2008/story.htm)

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48294/newsDate/12-May-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48294/newsDate/12-May-2008/story.htm)

[www.ifm-geomar.de/index.php?id=4192&L=1](http://www.ifm-geomar.de/index.php?id=4192&L=1) (abstract)

Scientific paper: Keenlyside, N. S., M. Latif, J. Jungclaus, L. Kornblueh, and E. Roeckner, 2008:

Advancing Decadal-Scale Climate Prediction in the North Atlantic Sector. Nature, 453, 84-88.

### 15. Mediterranean tsunami warning system set for 2011

Scientists are developing a tsunami warning system for the Mediterranean region which they said on April 16 should be ready in 2011 and could save thousands of lives. The €40-50 million project started three years ago, shortly after the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed 230,000 people and which prompted Asian nations to develop warning systems. Project chairman Stefano Tinti said that because the most exposed parts of the Mediterranean and surrounding areas are highly populated and popular tourist resorts, even a small tsunami could have a devastating effect. Greek, Turkish and Sicilian coastlines are particularly at risk, as well as Algeria and other parts of northern Africa. One of the last major tsunamis in the region hit islands off the southeast coast of Greece in 1956 and spread to parts of the Middle East coast. It killed four people, but this was before the boom in the Greek tourism industry. The same tsunami today would have a much worse effect, the scientists said. The warning system, which should be ready for preliminary tests later this year, will collect data from national monitoring centres. The scientists say the system should be able to issue a local warning within two to three minutes of collecting seismic data. Broader warnings would take around 15 minutes to issue. Tinti also said the research they collect from the new system will also allow them to predict tsunami risks in the region over the next 10 to 15 years.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48009/newsDate/17-Apr-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48009/newsDate/17-Apr-2008/story.htm)

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

## - CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSES -

### 16. Adaptation to Climate Change: EU Stakeholder Consultation and the White Paper

On May 16, 2008, DG Environment of the European Commission hosted a stakeholder event in Brussels as part of the process of developing a White Paper on Adaptation to climate change, which is due to be adopted by the Commission in the autumn of 2008. This White Paper is a follow up to the Green Paper on adaptation to climate change which was adopted by the European Commission in June 2007.

Both the Green Paper and the proposed White Paper have significant implications for coasts and related fresh and marine ecosystems, and for human development and the built environment on or near the coast including: coastal cities, tourism facilities, roads and infrastructure; and sectors like agriculture, conservation designations, fisheries and tourism.

Within the stakeholder event, there was discussion of stakeholder consultation on the Green Paper, the impacts of climate change in Europe, and the next steps for preparation of an Impact Assessment for the White Paper, and the White Paper itself. All the presentations from the event are provided on the EU website, but some aspects are also summarized below.

There was broad consultation on the Green Paper, and support for its overall approach by governments, organizations and individuals throughout Europe. Within the consultation, there was discussion on the different roles for the EU, member states and the private sector. One key gap identified was the coordination of mitigative measures that reduce greenhouse gases that cause climate changes; and adaptive measures, that reduce the impacts of climate change. Funding of adaptation and the need to include adaptation in EU directives and frameworks was also highlighted.

In the presentation on the impacts of climate change, there is the recognition of differential impacts across regions, ecosystems and sectors in Europe, with strong distributional effects between the north and south. For example, summers will be hotter and dryer in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region, with less overall precipitation. Extreme weather patterns become more likely whether rainfall, storms or heat waves. Accordingly, there will also be shifts and increases in energy demand in southern Europe, particularly for cooling and air conditioning, which will have economic and mitigative impacts. Coasts, mountains and the Mediterranean are particularly vulnerable ecosystems in Europe, having amplified impacts because of sea level rise, extreme weather events including storm surges and coastal erosion, and changes in heat, precipitation, and watersheds. All of these coastal changes affect ecosystems and biodiversity, and the goods and services they deliver. Affected economic sectors like agriculture, fisheries and tourism also concentrate in coastal regions.

The next steps for the White Paper are as follows. There will be further discussion within the Environment DG, followed by preparation of the Impact Assessment supporting the White Paper. This assessment will be submitted to the Impact Assessment Board. Following this review, the White Paper and the assessment will go out for broad consultation across all the DGs, and then be adopted by the European Commission. Further information and updates will be posted as they become available.

<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/stakeholder\\_consultation.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/stakeholder_consultation.htm)>

Results of the stakeholder consultation on the Green Paper:

<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/consultation\\_summary.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/consultation_summary.pdf)>

Preparations of the Impact Assessment - overview of impacts:

<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/ia\\_impacts.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/ia_impacts.pdf)>

Preparations of the Impact Assessment – methodology:

<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/ia\\_methodology.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/ia_methodology.pdf)>

Preparation of the White Paper:

<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/pres\\_white\\_paper.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/pres_white_paper.pdf)>

Agenda for the meeting:

<[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/agenda\\_16\\_05\\_08.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/pdf/agenda_16_05_08.pdf)>.

### 17. MEPs urge study on climate adaptation economics

The European Commission should investigate the costs and benefits of adapting to climate change and "stimulate" economic action encouraging adaptation, the European parliament said in a non-binding resolution adopted on April 10. Responding to a Commission green paper on adaptation (EED 02/07/07 [www.endseuropedaily.com/23511](http://www.endseuropedaily.com/23511)), members of the European Parliament also suggested including funds for adaptation in regional policies and said member states should use rural development funds to help agriculture adapt. The EU must undertake "substantial" efforts to develop technologies for adaptation and enhance cooperation with developing countries, they added. See resolution [www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0125+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0125+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN)

### 18. Floating turbines may join Norway's offshore rigs

Giant turbines the size of jumbo jets bobbing on the North Sea may soon become as common off Norway as oil and gas platforms. At least that is the ambition of Norwegian authorities and industry, eager to use their offshore expertise to corner a potentially lucrative new market - floating wind farms in deep sea waters. Norway's government is contemplating licensing "blocks" for offshore wind generation, and Norwegian oil company StatoilHydro aims to start work next year on a floating turbine project near the site of the first North Sea oil discovery 40 years ago.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48153/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48153/story.htm)

### 19. Scotland: £10m marine energy prize unveiled

The world's largest prize for marine renewable energy innovation has been announced by the Scottish regional Government. The £10m Saltire Prize aims to push the boundaries of research in the global fight against climate change. Scottish first minister Alex Salmond unveiled details of the scheme while on a visit to the US. To be eligible for the prize, innovations must be commercially viable and will be demonstrated in Scotland, the government said.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/scotland/7325870.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/7325870.stm)

### 20. New hydro-wind power project on Canary Islands

The Canary Island of El Hierro has been chosen as the location for a innovative alternative energy project. To give the island the beginnings of (clean) energy self sufficiency, a wind farm has been developed to cover part of the electricity needs of the population. Until now, El Hierro has been totally dependent on a diesel powered electricity station. New in this wind farm is a device by which generated surplus energy will be used to pump water between the reservoirs so that if there is not enough wind speed, the stored water will be released to fall upon several turbines to generate electrical power. So the hydro wind power plant converts an intermittent power source into a controlled and constant electricity supply. For more information please visit: [itc@itccanarias.org](mailto:itc@itccanarias.org)

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

## - NATURE AND CONSERVATION -

### 21. Marine reserves increase fishery profits

New research suggests that establishing even moderate areas of marine reserves along coastlines could benefit fisheries. The researchers evaluated a range of fishery management options each with different amounts of coastline set aside as reserves. Having small or moderate proportions of the coastline as reserves, e.g. only 20%, provided similar yields and profits across a range of reserve configurations and management styles. With larger proportions as reserves, maximum yields and profits were achieved when reserves were configured to be small to medium-sized with small or moderate distances between them. This approach enabled sufficient numbers of new fish produced in reserves to enter adjacent areas and be harvested by fisheries. This work indicates that management strategies using reserves should be flexible and choose the best combinations of sizes and proportions of coastal reserves for specific areas. Reserve-based management could also help meet the twin objectives of creating more employment whilst also ensuring the health of the European Union's marine resources, as explained in the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

**Source:** White, C., Kendall, B.E., Gaines, S. et al. (2008). Marine reserve effects on fishery profits.

Ecology Letters. 11(4): 370-379, see

[www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2007.01151.x](http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2007.01151.x) (abstract)

Contact: [crowsfeather@gmail.com](mailto:crowsfeather@gmail.com)

Further information about EU Maritime Policy at [http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/dev\\_imp\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/dev_imp_en.html)

## 22. Protection pledged for UK seas

The British government has published its long awaited Marine Bill, promising better protection for wildlife including a new network of nature reserves at sea. The Marine bill also pledges better management of inshore fisheries and measures to speed up the approvals process for offshore windfarms by about a year. In England, it will open a new right of public access to coastal lands. Environmental groups say UK seas are "in crisis", and need more protection than the government is offering. The draft bill creates a new agency, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), to enforce environmental laws and regulate development at sea.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7326906.stm>

The Marine Bill is available at: [www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7351/7351.pdf](http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7351/7351.pdf)

## 23. Coral flourishing at Bikini atoll atomic test site

Coral is again flourishing in the crater left by the largest nuclear weapon ever detonated by the United States. 54 years after the blast on Bikini Atoll, a team of research divers visited Bravo crater, ground zero for the test of a thermonuclear weapon in the remote Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954, and found large numbers of fish and coral growing, although some species appeared locally extinct. "I didn't know what to expect, some kind of moonscape perhaps. But it was incredible," Zoe Richards, from Australia's James Cook University, remarked.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47977/newsDate/16-Apr-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47977/newsDate/16-Apr-2008/story.htm)

## 24. Iceland to catch minke whales

The Icelandic government allows forty minke whales to be shot for commercial purposes. Fisheries minister Einar Guoffinsson gave permission for the hunt to proceed. Three ships departed Iceland to hunt minke whales, a government official declared. Iceland resumed commercial whaling in 2006, after living up to the international moratorium for commercial hunting since the second half of the 1980's. Source: Dutch paper Leidsch Dagblad May 21 2008

## 25. No sex for all-girl fish species

A fish species, the Amazon molly (*Poecilia formosa*), which is all female, has survived for 70,000 years without reproducing sexually, experts believe. Scientists from the University of Edinburgh think the fish may be employing special genetic survival methods to avoid becoming extinct. The species, found in Texas and Mexico, interacts with males of other species to trigger its reproduction process. The offspring are clones of their mother and do not inherit any of the male's DNA. Typically, when creatures reproduce asexually, harmful changes creep into their genes over many generations. The species will eventually have problems reproducing and can often fall victim to extinction. Scientists at Edinburgh University have calculated the time to extinction for the fish, based on modelling genetic changes, and concluded that it ought to now be extinct. Scientists, therefore, believe the molly, which is still thriving in rivers in south-east Texas and north-east Mexico, is using special genetic survival processes to help them stay alive. One theory is that the fish may occasionally be taking some of the DNA from the males that trigger reproduction, in order to refresh their gene pool.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/scotland/edinburgh\\_and\\_east/7360770.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7360770.stm)

[www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/8/88](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/8/88)

## 26. Colossal squid comes out of ice

Technicians in New Zealand were beginning to thaw a rare colossal squid *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni* in late April. The operation to defrost the 10-metre long, half-tonne squid, one of maybe six specimens ever brought up, began on April 28 in Wellington. Once thawed, it will be dissected. Very little is known about colossal squid which appear to live largely in the cold Antarctic waters and can grow up to 15 metres long. The specimen was caught in February 2007 in the Ross Sea.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7367774.stm>

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

## - AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES -

## 27. Cod fall may speed 'toxic tide' in oceans

Declining fish stocks could be partly responsible for algal blooms in the oceans, researchers have found. Scientists found that the fall in cod stocks in the Baltic Sea in recent decades increased numbers of the phytoplankton that produce the blooms. The scientific team assessed three decades of data on the Baltic Sea food web. Basically, zooplankton eat phytoplankton, and sprat eat zooplankton. Finally, cod eat the sprat. The data showed a simple correlation. As the cod population declined sharply from the early 1980s, the sprat population rose; zooplankton declined, and phytoplankton increased. The research is reported in the Royal Society's Journal Proceedings B.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7386458.stm>  
<http://journals.royalsociety.org/content/200501qx31vp06r5/> (very technical abstract)

### 28. Throw the big ones back, fishing study suggests

Commercial and sport fishing destabilises fish populations by targeting the biggest, oldest fish and leaving younger fish to proliferate too wildly, US researchers concluded. They say fisheries should in fact encourage the taking of smaller, younger fish instead of requiring that they be thrown back. Writing in the journal *Nature*, Sugihara said that current policies that manage according to biomass targets instead of individual fish size can also destabilize the population. A single large fish will simply grow a little when it gets more food, or lose a little weight when food is scarce. A population of many young, small fish, however, may explode in number or collapse depending on food availability. This is especially important to know when trying to rebuild fish stocks. His team analyzed 50 years worth of records of fished and unfished species from a study set up by the California sardine fishery after its collapse in the 1940s.

[www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47999/newsDate/17-Apr-2008/story.htm](http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47999/newsDate/17-Apr-2008/story.htm)  
[www.nature.com/nature/journal/v452/n7189/abs/nature06851.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v452/n7189/abs/nature06851.html) (abstract article)

### 29. Farmed salmon less immune for diseases than wild one

This is because farmed salmon are not able to choose their mating partners, thereby weakening the immune system of the offspring. It is known that people and all kinds of animals prefer siblings with other immune genes than they themselves possess. The immune systems of their offspring thereby become more flexible, the theory goes. In the case of Atlantic salmon that have been collected in Spain, the suspicion is now stronger: it appears that young wild salmon carry less parasites with them. Wild salmon carried on average seven specimens of a certain worm, while farmed salmon possessed twelve specimens. As expected, the parents of the wild ones turned out to be genetically more varied than that of farmed ones in their immune systems. Wild salmon mate in rivers, where the males inseminate females in their temporary territory. In salmon fish farms milt and spawn are simply mixed. The research was published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* of May 2.

Source: Dutch paper NRC Handelsblad, May 8 2008

<http://publishing.royalsociety.org/index.cfm?page=1087>

### 30. Fisheries expert questions 'good fish' guides, prefers MSC

French-Canadian fisheries expert Dr. Daniel Pauly warns against the 'good fish' guides that are distributed in credit card format by an increasing number of NGO including WWF and Greenpeace. He questions whether these guides will change fishing practices and prevent a world wide collapse of fish stocks. Instead, he promotes the certification of fishing through the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), because this will change fishing practices. Dr. Pauly said this in his first official lecture as a honorary doctor at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, which hosts the IMARES institute for fisheries. Dr. Pauly warns that the critical point of no return has been reached for the world's fish stocks. From figures he distilled from the annual FAO-reports he establishes a 'hidden downturn' of 0.4 million tons annually since the late 1980's. He views this as omen for the global collapse of the world's fishing industries. Consumers are not aware of this because fishing fleets have turned to other fishing areas or to other species. Fifty percent of the total consumption of fish products takes place in another continent than where the catches are made. Only radical measures can turn the tide: fishing subsidies should be abolished; 20% of the world oceans should be declared no fishing zones; and fisheries policies should switch to a species related and ecologically sound approach.

Source: Dutch paper NRC Handelsblad, March 29 2008.

[www.fisheries.ubc.ca/members/dpauly/](http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/members/dpauly/) (site Dr. Pauly)

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

## - PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

### 31. The Climatic Atlas of European Breeding Birds

This Atlas not only shows maps of the potential distribution of each species breeding in Europe at the end of this century, it also provides ways of responding to this challenge. Most of all we need to protect and restore today's wildlife, and secure healthy populations of birds within their current ranges. Central to this will be the strengthening of Natura 2000, the European network of protected areas. The sites must be better protected, managed and connected to provide a "backbone for biodiversity" and to accommodate the expected changes in distribution. At the same time, the landscape outside these areas must become more 'permeable' to species movements by providing stepping stones of high quality habitat and through more sustainable land-use policies. The Atlas has been published as a partnership

between Durham University, the RSPB and Lynx in association with the University of Cambridge, BirdLife International and the European Bird Census Council (EBCC). The book can be ordered through the following website:

[www.hbw.com/lynx/en/books-on-birds/palearctico/ALT0007-climatic-atlas-european-breeding-birds.html](http://www.hbw.com/lynx/en/books-on-birds/palearctico/ALT0007-climatic-atlas-european-breeding-birds.html)

### 32. SUDEST final report published

The SUDEST transitional partnership worked from October 2005 to July 2007 to identify good practices for the sustainable development of sea towns. It involved the participation of a wide range of actors who looked at all the dimensions: from port management to the development of harbour areas and their surroundings. In addition to the City of Naples, lead partner of the project, SUDEST involved four EU and two third country cities, a Port Authority, a society for urban regeneration and four universities. While presenting a summary of the work which was carried out, the project's final report is also a useful instrument to help sea towns find adequate solutions to develop sustainably. Of the total costs of €296,000 the EU contributed €150,000

[www.urbact.eu/sudest](http://www.urbact.eu/sudest)

### 33. Making Mainstreaming Work An Analytical Framework

"Making Mainstreaming Work An Analytical Framework, Guidelines and Checklist for the Mainstreaming of Marine and Coastal Issues into National Planning and Budgetary Processes"

An analytical framework, guidelines and checklist for the mainstreaming of marine and coastal issues into national planning and budgetary processes, prepared for the coordination office of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

By John Soussan (SEI) Published by UNEP 2007, in PDF on

[www.gpa.unep.org/documents/analytical\\_framework\\_for\\_mainstreaming\\_feb\\_08\\_1\\_english.pdf](http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents/analytical_framework_for_mainstreaming_feb_08_1_english.pdf)

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

## - EVENTS & TRAINING: 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNOUNCEMENTS -

This list includes the 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

### June 9<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup> , 2008, Athens, Greece

#### First Regional Workshop GEOSS Support for Decision-Making in the Coastal Zone:

Managing and mitigating the impacts of human activities and natural hazards in the coastal zone.

Organized by the GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice and the IGOS Coastal Theme in partnership with GOOS and GTOS

[www.greekgeo.noa.gr/geoworkshop1/index.html](http://www.greekgeo.noa.gr/geoworkshop1/index.html)

### September 25<sup>th</sup> –4<sup>th</sup> October , 2008, Lauenburg and Buesum, Germany

#### Summer School: Coastal Systems under Pressure

The Alfred-Wegener Institute for Marine and Polar Research, the Baltic Sea Research Institute, GKSS Research Centre and the Research and Technology Centre Westcoast are the leading national centres for coastal research in Germany. They have been organising a common annual summer school since 2002 in Sylt, Helgoland, Geesthacht, Büsum and Warnemünde.

The School is designed for diploma and PhD students and postdocs with a background of earth science, geology, physical and chemical oceanography, or biology. All costs are covered by the organizers.

For application, please send a short cv and a list of publications to: Mrs. Ilona Liesner, GKSS, Max-Planck-Strasse, D-21502 Geesthacht, email [liesner@gkss.de](mailto:liesner@gkss.de). Deadline is the 31st of July 2008

<http://coast.gkss.de/events/summerschool08/>

### October 20<sup>th</sup> –24<sup>th</sup> , 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 an official partner of BIOMARINE.

[www.biomarine.org](http://www.biomarine.org)

### October 27<sup>th</sup> –28<sup>th</sup> 2008: Lille, France

#### 2nd INTERREG IVC European Interregional Cooperation Forum 2008

Regions and Cities of Europe sharing good practice in the fields of Innovation and Environment, held in Lille Grand Palais

[www.interreg4c.eu/](http://www.interreg4c.eu/)

**November 17<sup>th</sup> –20<sup>th</sup> , 2008: St. Petersburg, Florida, USA**

**Coastal Cities Summit: Values and Vulnerabilities**

Today, about 2.8 billion people (more than 40% of the total global population) live in coastal cities. This has significant implications for the coastal environment, inhabitants and ecosystem stability.

Accordingly, it is timely to address these topics in depth as we bring together public officials, non-governmental organization, citizens and natural and social scientists to consider the values and vulnerabilities of coastal regions around the globe.

[www.coastalcities.org](http://www.coastalcities.org).

**November 25<sup>th</sup> –28<sup>th</sup>, 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, 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

**IMPORTANT DATES: Abstract submission due: 28th April 2008**

Abstract acceptance notification due: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Camera-ready final papers due: 5th September 2008

For more information visit the official website at: [www.littoral2008.corila.it/](http://www.littoral2008.corila.it/)

and/or contact: [littoral2008@corila.it](mailto:littoral2008@corila.it)

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

**- COLOPHON -**

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Established in 1989, EUCC - The Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 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  
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