



Eucc Coastal News

No. 4

July 2008



This publication is supported by the European Union

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.

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1. BioMarine Initiative: Free registration for Eucc Members!

BioMarine is a unique 5-day international forum which brings together the business, scientific and political communities to draw out innovative and concrete solutions to advance ocean sustainability. This will be the occasion to meet internationally renowned scientists working in the fields of oceanography, marine biology, climatology and the geosciences. *Science and research French Minister* Valerie Pécresse will be present on this occasion, but also Roger Bingham - Director, Salk Institute - The Sciences Network, San Diego, USA; John Gunn- Deputy Chief CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research, Australia; Tony Haymet - Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA; Peter Hefferman (to be confirmed)- Director, Irish Marine Institute, Ireland; Kiyoshi Suyehiro, Executive Director of Research, Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Japan and many [more...](#)

BioMarine will also be the [major maritime event](#) of the French Presidency of the European Union and will have a strong institutional dimension. *French Prime Minister* François Fillon has confirmed his participation as well as *European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs* Joe Borg. We are expecting the confirmation of the European Commission President José Manuel Barroso. Over the five days of the BioMarine Forum [a business convention](#) open to all will be held allowing one-to-one meetings between professionals. This convention is open to scientists, business partners, financial organisations and all key development stakeholders (technology transfer, research bodies, business consultants, public development agencies etc.)

[Registration to BioMarine is open](#)* and free of charge for Eucc Members from the scientific community, civil society and NGO community, international organizations and government's representatives. It gives access to all the sessions that will take place between 20th –24th October in Toulon and Marseille; the business convention on-line partnering tool and meetings; lunches and coffee breaks during the 5 days of the Forum, cocktail receptions; "BioMarine delegate bag" and the final program of BioMarine.

*As you register, please add "member of the Eucc" in the "comments section to ensure that your registration will be validated by BioMarine.

For more information visit the official website: www.biomarine.org

2. Making a good coastal governance work, the focus of CAP Nador latest events

Two major events took place in Morocco early June concerning coastal governance. Both were connected to the implementation of the ICZM coastal plans in the province of Nador currently being drafted by the Eucc-led project CAP Nador within the EC SMAP III Programme.

Different means of public consultation and participation have proven that coastal and public affairs management relies on an interaction and negotiation process between heterogeneous stakeholders. In order to emphasise the interdependence of powers related to this action of collective management, the project considered it useful to organise a governance seminar. The seminar, jointly organised with the neighbouring SMAP III project Moulouya and SMAP Technical Assistance, aimed at engaging coastal stakeholders to achieve effective coastal governance mechanisms in the Oriental Region of Morocco. Moreover, a second meeting was held in the Province of Nador to set up a "Cellule du Littoral Nador", which will be the body to monitor and promote ICZM in the province.

"Which management structure will allow implementation of ICZM action plans and make them sustainable?" was the question asked by participants and which the seminar tried to answer. More than 60 institutional representatives of the Oriental Region, the national Cellule du Littoral and other relevant actors participated at this event. Three French experts, including the president of the "Pôle Littoral" of the Ministry of Environment, Ms. Catherine Bersani, shared their experience and advice on adapting mechanisms to implement ICZM in Morocco. The round table offered a passionate discussion about the role of the *Cellule du Littoral* to coordinate local projects and to adapt legal tools to ICZM. The identification of legal and contractual experiences applicable to Morocco to engage stakeholders to implement the agreed action plans was another interesting subject of discussion.

During the second day, participants discussed their roles, working mechanisms and status within the set up of a "Cellule du Littoral Nador". Finally, it was agreed that the Provincial Governorate would take the lead to invite members and to coordinate it. CAP Nador project will assist them facilitating the decisions of their first meeting and implementing capacity building actions. Results of the workshop will be published soon at www.eucc.net/en/capnador/index.htm.

3. ICZM processes in Georgia and Ukraine regaining momentum

Since April 2007, Eucc has supported the ICZM component of the EU-funded project Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea (www.ecbsea.org), a follow-up to the last Black Sea Environmental Project, which concluded in 2005. The focus in Ukraine is on improving the Draft ICZM Law with the help of a national group of experts. In Georgia, the project has been managing an ICZM pilot project in a coastal community and facilitated an ICZM Working Group co-chaired by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources and the Ministry for Economy.

Besides general coordination of ICZM-related activities in Georgia, the ICZM Working Group is entrusted with the development of a National ICZM Strategy. On 9 July 2008, a milestone was reached with the

decision to start the first public review phase of the present Draft Strategy. During the coming two months, the document will be widely disseminated to the public and governmental departments not yet involved in the drafting process. After a public hearing on 26 September 2008, the Draft Strategy will be revised based on the comments received, and consequently submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. As a next step, an Action Plan will be developed that outlines activities, budgetary resources and responsible institutions for implementation of the Strategy.

The ICZM pilot project in the small coastal community of Tskhaltsminda situated in the Georgian province of Guria has kicked-off with a community survey, mapping of habitats and present land use, and a community workshop. So far, the identified issues of greatest relevance and urgency for people in the community overlap greatly with those identified in the Draft National ICZM Strategy for the whole Georgian coastline. Dysfunctional municipal infrastructure, lack of access to the beach due to insufficient planning, the decline of natural and cultural heritage, water pollution and coastal erosion are stumbling blocks for sustainable development all along the coast.

More information on the project can be accessed on www.ecbsea.org or by writing to Irene Lucius, Key ICZM Expert of the project: i.lucius@eucc.net The website www.iczm.org contains general information on the Georgian ICZM process.

- EU COASTAL AND MARINE NEWS & INITIATIVES -

4. Bathing Water Quality Europe Wide - results

The Netherlands have received a 100% rating for cleanliness in the European Commission's annual bathing water report. Beaches in Greece, Cyprus, Finland got the next top marks. Britain's beaches have received a 96.5% rating. The 2007 figure for the UK's coastal bathing water is a slight drop on the previous year, but still above the overall EU compliance figure of 95%. Only 29% of Romania's beaches met the standard. The EU-report found that the quality of coastal swimming areas across the EU stayed stable in 2007. "Bathing water quality remains high in the EU," said Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas. A total of 584 bathing areas were monitored in the UK - 573 on the coast (including six in Gibraltar), and 11 freshwater sites. The 96.5% compliance figure for coastal waters represents a 3.1% drop compared with 2006. No coastal bathing sites had to be closed during the swimming season. UK government officials blamed last summer's torrential rain for the slight slippage in British bathing water quality. The percentage of UK bathing sites complying with the EU's mandatory values has been above 90% since 1999. A new EU Bathing Water Directive sets out stricter requirements for the 27 member states which will have to be fulfilled by 2015. In 2007 the EU monitored 21,368 bathing areas - 14,551 on the coast and 6,797 inland freshwater sites.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7431643.stm>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/834&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-bathing/report2008/en_summary.pdf (Summary report)

5. EU court dismisses challenge to sea pollution laws

The European Union is entitled to set tougher standards and criminal penalties on sea pollution than measures included in international conventions, as presented by the European Court of Justice. Shipping interests, including tanker owners group Intertanko, had argued that the EU directive on ship-source pollution contravened two sets of international maritime laws. Ship owners said the directive sought to criminalise accidental spillages and questioned whether the EU had the right to impose criminal liability on foreign-flagged ships. "The court has concluded that the validity of the directive cannot be assessed in the light of either the Marpol Convention or the Convention on the Law of the Sea," an ECJ statement said. The EU's tough maritime laws seek to protect coastal tourism and fisheries from minor discharges from shipping, as well as catastrophic oil spills like the Prestige off Spain in 2002 and the Erika off France in 1999.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48618/newsDate/4-Jun-2008/story.htm

6. INSPIRE Directive " Implementation and beyond"

The INSPIRE 2008 Conference, titled "Implementation and Beyond," was held in Maribor, Slovenia, on 23-25 June 2008. The conference, attended by more than 340 participants, achieved a first in the long series of EC-GI&GIS workshops in that the Plenary Sessions were streamed live to the Internet. This was the first of the Workshops to be branded with the INSPIRE name, following adoption of this Pan-European spatial data infrastructure Directive in May 2007. Many of the 34 spatial data themes in INSPIRE's three Annexes, which set the priority for implementation of metadata and data specifications for the themes, are directly or indirectly relevant to the coastal science and management communities. Of key importance is "coastline", one of the four themes in Annex II.

Among the more than 100 presentations in two parallel streams and adjacent workshops, the new implementation 'roadmap' for the Directive was presented by the European Commission, which sets out

the dates by which various aspects of the Directive are to be implemented across the themes in the three Annexes. Legally enforceable Implementing Rules (IR) are being prepared by a number of Drafting Teams and Thematic Working Groups. The first IR, for metadata, was accepted by the INSPIRE Regulatory Committee, which is comprised of representatives from all EU Member States, and will be published as an EC Regulation by late summer. Other IRs are still in preparation, with delivery dates noted in the INSPIRE Roadmap and implementation methodology.

All public bodies that produce spatial data – i.e. any data that contains a location attribute – will be required to meet the requirements of the Metadata IR and EU Regulation by 15 May 2010. This includes coastline under the "Elevation" theme in Annex II. Metadata for the main themes of interest to the coastal science and management community – we have identified more than a dozen embedded in the many themes in Annex III – must be created by 15 May 2013. The actual harmonised spatial data sets for Annex I data themes must be ready by May 2016 and for all Annex II and III datasets by May 2019. While these dates may seem too far in the future to be of immediate interest, those who need, own, create or use any spatial data in fulfilling their coastal remits should be aware that decisions being taken now and in the coming months will determine the content and level of detail to be covered by future INSPIRE EU Regulations. It is imperative that professionals from the coastal community become more actively involved in the work of the INSPIRE Drafting Teams and especially those future Thematic Working Groups who will develop the harmonised data specifications for themes that impact directly on coastal science and management.

Presentations and other conference materials available at main INSPIRE Web site: <http://inspire.jrc.it/> and www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/inspire_2008/presentations.cfm

7. EU to ban Med bluefin tuna fishing

EU fisheries regulators have banned trawling for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to stop overfishing of a species that is approaching stock collapse. Bluefin tuna is prized by sushi lovers and its numbers have fallen due to overfishing by countries hunting it in those waters - Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. Last year, their combined national fleets caused the EU to exceed its international catch quota by 25 percent. Scientists say bluefin tuna may die out if fishing is not restricted. But the incentive to catch bluefin tuna remains strong, particularly in June, when around 85 percent of the fish are caught. Since last year, market prices for the delicacy have roughly tripled: in Japan a single fish can cost up to US\$100,000. Bluefin tuna are known for their huge size, power and speed. Maximum weights recorded are in excess of 600 kg. As of June 16, vessels flying the flags of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy and Malta will be prohibited from fishing for bluefin tuna in either Mediterranean or eastern Atlantic waters. A similar ban went into force for Spain later in June. It was not immediately clear if or when Portugal would be subject to a ban. The bans apply to vessels that use a "purse seine", a type of net that floats the top of a long wall of netting on the surface while its bottom is held weighted under the water. France has already questioned the decision. But the European Union fisheries chief refused to yield to the French pressure to scrap a ban on trawling for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, saying this year's quota is exhausted.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48849/newsDate/18-Jun-2008/story.htm

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7469109.stm>

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48966/newsDate/25-Jun-2008/story.htm

8. 3rd International Coastal Atlas Network Workshop and Conference

The 3rd International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) workshop was hosted by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen from 7-9 July, facilitated by Prof. Dawn Wright, from the University of Oregon, USA; Ned Dwyer from the Coastal & Marine Resources Centre (CMRC), University College Cork (UCC) and Ronan Uhel of the EEA. For the first time, the ICAN workshop was followed by an ICAN Conference, also hosted at EEA. The two events were attended by more than 50 coastal science and management professionals from Europe and the USA, including representatives from Africa and Australia, representing over 30 national and international institutions, including NOAA, UNESCO IOC IODE (International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange) and several EUCC members. The main thrust of the workshop was to present progress in developing coastal atlases in the USA, Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, prior to breaking into working groups that focused on the future of ICAN, covering technical development, strategic planning and funding, and long-term governance. In support of the work groups, the ICAN organisers had distributed a discussion documents on strategy and governance, including a draft "ICAN Governance Charter", plus several technical papers focusing on semantics, ontology, etc. State of play in projects such as the US Marine Metadata Initiative (MMI); Europe's SeaDataNet and ECOOP (European COastal sea-shelf OPerational observing and forecasting system); and the African and Caribbean Marine Atlases of IOC-IODE were presented and discussed in relation to the needs of ICAN.

The Conference was held from mid-day on 9 July to 10 July at the EEA, with a keynote welcome by EEA Executive Director, Prof. Jacqueline McGlade, who also later took part in plenary discussion sessions. Prof. McGlade highlighted the growing importance of the coastal zone to the EU and the world, especially in relation to climate change issues and socioeconomic development of coastal states. The EU's Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) was presented, including SEIS' relationship to the EU's

INSPIRE Directive for a pan-European spatial data infrastructure. Several workshop participants remained in Copenhagen on 11 July for further deliberations on the issues raised in the workshop and conference and to produce updates to the strategy, technical and governance documents presented prior to the event. Full details, background documentation, reports from the previous two ICAN workshops and all presentations are available on the ICAN web site at: <http://ican.science.oregonstate.edu/home> (see ICAN presentation on news item 30.).

- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: TRENDS & IMPACTS –

9. Coasts under threat, fisheries vulnerable-UN study

High food prices may add pressure for more fishing along coasts where the environment faces threats from pollution and climate change, are some of the findings of the UN University International Network on Water, Environment and Health (INWEH) report. The study shows that 40 percent of all people live within 50 km (30 miles) of coasts and that governments needed to work out better policies to safeguard resources. "The decline is terminal, unless we introduce much more effective management immediately," said the study by the UN university's INWEH. High prices for foods such as wheat and rice may mean people press for more fishing, he said. A conclusion in the report said "management of fisheries is failing". The study said world fish catches peaked in the late 1980s with larger species, such as tuna and swordfish, being progressively fished out. Coastal marine systems have declined progressively in recent decades due to the growth of human populations and their demands on the marine environment and resources," the report said. "Bays and estuaries, sea grasses, and mangroves and wetlands have suffered dramatically in the past 50 years." Run-off from fertilisers were adding to "dead zones" along the coasts and corals could be under threat from warmer oceans.

www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/coastal/Coastal-Policy-Brief.pdf (A Policy brief from the United Nations University, INWEH report)

10. Intensified Greenland ice sheet movements not affecting rising sea levels

Meltwater is rapidly increasing the tempo of glacial movements on the rim of the Greenland ice sheet. Over the long term, however, this process is interrupted as meltwater drains away via broad channels, as a result of which ice movement decreases once again. Ultimately, this is not a cause of accelerated sea level rise. Scientists from around the world are closely monitoring the Greenland ice sheet, as accelerated glacial melting is believed to cause rising sea level. The theory is that increased volumes of meltwater accelerate the movement of ice to warmer low-lying areas and, consequently, even more intensified glacial melting. Utrecht University researchers in The Netherlands, however, insist that this is not how the process actually works in the long term. Since the early 1990s, Utrecht University scientists have tracked the movement of the West Greenland ice sheet using GPS measurements. During warmer weather, the ice appears to move – over the course of a few days – as much as four times faster, because the meltwater acts as lubricant between the ice and the subsoil. As a result, the ice sheet moves more rapidly to lower and warmer areas. It seems, however, that over time larger channels form in the ice that are able to drain off the increased volumes of meltwater. As a result, the water pressure on the ground once again decreases, as does the tempo of the ice movement. Over the long term, therefore, the feedback mechanism between the glacial melting and ice sheet movement contributes little to rising sea levels. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080708093615.htm

Journal reference: R.S.W. van de Wal, W. Boot, M.R. van den Broeke, C.J.P.P. Smeets, C.H. Reijmer, J.J.A. Donker, J. Oerlemans. Large and Rapid Melt-Induced Velocity Changes in the Ablation Zone of the Greenland Ice Sheet. *Science*, 2008; 321 (5885): 111 DOI: 10.1126/science.1158540

11. Key space ocean mission goes into orbit

A space mission that will be critical to our understanding of climate change has been launched from California. The Jason-2 satellite will become the primary means of measuring the shape of the world's oceans, taking readings with an accuracy of better than 4cm. Its data will track not only sea level rise but reveal how the great mass of waters are moving around the globe. This information will be fundamental in helping weather and climate agencies make better forecasts. The satellite left Earth at 0746 GMT atop a Delta-2 rocket from the Vandenberg Air Force Base. The spacecraft, built by Thales Alenia Space, represents the joint efforts of the US and French space agencies (Nasa and CNES), and the US and European organisations dedicated to studying weather and climate from orbit (NOAA and EUMETSAT). Jason-2 will provide a topographic map of 95% of the Earth's ice-free oceans every 10 days. Although we think of our seas as being flat, they are actually marked by "hills" and "valleys", where the highs and lows may be as much as two metres apart. Elevation is a key parameter for oceanographers. Just as surface air pressure reveals what the atmosphere is doing above, so ocean height will betray details about the behaviour of water down below. The data gives clues to temperature and salinity. When combined with gravity information, it will also indicate current direction and speed.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7457818.stm>

12. China's shoreline waters seriously polluted

Vast stretches of China's coastal waters are seriously polluted, and the country's coastal wetlands and mangrove forests are vanishing, Xinhua news agency reported on June 8, citing a marine specialist. Luan Weixin, a professor at the Economics and Management College at Dalian Maritime University, said 50 percent of inland coastal wetlands had disappeared because of excessive reclamation and 80 percent of coral reefs and mangrove forests had been destroyed over the past 50 years. Severely affected areas included waters near East Liaoning, Bohai and Hangzhou bays, and the estuaries of the Yellow, Yangtze and Zhujiang rivers, as well as inshore areas of major coastal cities, he told a conference in the northern coastal city of Tianjin. A total of 145,000 square kilometres (56,000 square miles) of shallow waters along China's coast failed to meet quality standards, with 29,000 square kilometres of seawater considered to be seriously contaminated by major pollutants, such as inorganic nitrogen and phosphate, the Xinhua report said. China has about 350,000 square kilometres of coastal and inland water area along its mainland coastline registered under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48669/story.htm

13. Natural lab shows sea's acid path

Natural carbon dioxide vents on the sea floor are showing scientists how carbon emissions will affect marine life. Dissolved CO₂ makes water more acidic, and around the Mediterranean Sea vents, researchers saw a fall in species numbers, and snails with their shells disintegrating. Writing in the journal Nature, the UK scientists suggest these impacts are likely to be seen across the world as CO₂ levels rise in the atmosphere. Some of the extra CO₂ emitted enters the oceans, acidifying waters globally. The only way of reducing the impact of ocean acidification is the urgent reduction in CO₂ emissions. Studies show that the seas have become more acidic since the industrial revolution. Research leader Jason Hall-Spencer from the University of Plymouth said that atmospheric CO₂ concentrations were now so high that even a sharp fall in emissions would not prevent some further acidification. "It's clear that marine food webs as we know them are going to alter, and biodiversity will decrease.... Those impacts are inevitable because acidification is inevitable - we've started it, and we can't stop it."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7437862.stm>

www.nature.com/news/2008/080606/full/news.2008.877.html

14. Glimmer of hope for shrinking Aral Sea

The Aral Sea has shrunk by 70 percent since 1960 when Soviet planners started siphoning off water from its feeder rivers to faraway farming projects, bringing starvation and misery to traditional fishing communities. Its sea level has dropped by 16 metres, and storms carry salt and dust from its new deserts as far away as the Himalayas. The sea finally split into two bodies of water in 1990: a big southern part in Uzbekistan and a smaller Kazakh pocket. Yet there is a glimmer of hope. A seven-year project led by the World Bank has helped replenish the smaller northern part of the Aral Sea by trapping water behind a dike - filling local people with a new sense of optimism and purpose. "Good news - the sea is coming back," says a poster in the centre of Aralsk, its muddy streets sparkling with crystals of salt. Flocks of seagulls squawk as they glide above houses, and a faint hint of the sea is in the air. The 13 km (8 mile) Kok-Aral dike is part of a wider, US\$86 million project due to be finished this year. Since it was built in 2005, the sea's turquoise waters have crept as close as 25 km to Aralsk port, from a previous distance of 100 km. "After the small sea started filling up, we started hoping again," said Akshabat Batimova, who is helping start up a new fish-processing plant. "If there is sea, there will be life." The World Bank is considering a follow-up project with the Kazakh government, at an estimated cost of US\$300 million, to improve water efficiency and restore Aralsk's waterfront. Two fish-processing plants will open in Aralsk this year, and the fishing fleet, which vanished in the 1990s, now employs 600 people. Although the local catch remains a fraction of that seen in Soviet times, 16 types of fish, including new species such as the salt-resistant flounder, are netted regularly. But restoring the whole Aral Sea would require much more. The larger, Uzbek part is still dying. Uzbekistan - Central Asia's most populous nation which relies on cotton exports - would have to shut down its entire water-thirsty textile industry to allow the Amu Darya river to flow back into the sea. "I am afraid much of it may be lost," World Bank head Robert Zoellick told Reuters during a visit to Kok-Aral on June 19 to oversee the first phase of the project on the Kazakh side.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48967/newsDate/25-Jun-2008/story.htm

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- COASTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE: RESPONSES -

15. Summit ends with climate 'vision'

World leaders have proclaimed a "shared vision" on climate change, but failed to bridge differences between rich and emerging nations on curbing emissions. Concluding a summit in northern Japan, leaders from the G8 and developing countries said "deep cuts" in greenhouse gas emissions were

needed. China and other emerging powers declined to endorse specific targets. On the third and final day of the summit, the G8 and eight developing countries issued a statement calling global warming "one of the great global challenges of our time". We, the leaders of the world's major economies, both developed and developing, commit to combat climate change in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities". But it stopped short of urging numerical targets reducing greenhouse emissions. India and China dismissed the rich nations' call for them to halve emissions by 2050.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7497032.stm>

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/49281/newsDate/10-Jul-2008/story.htm

16. Adaptation to climate change in water sector – UNECE workshop

The workshop on adaptation to climate change in water sector took place in Amsterdam early July, was organized under the auspices of the Water Convention and of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention, following the outcomes of the first meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate.

The workshop aimed to (a) share experiences and thus assist governments in developing strategies for adaptation to climate change in the water sector and the related health aspects, (b) assess information needs for elaborating such adaptation strategies based on well-informed data and information, and (c) especially address the benefits of and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation in adaptation activities. The workshop addressed institutional, policy, legal, scientific and financial aspects of adaptation in the water sector, including cross-cutting issues such as education. It also gave an opportunity to present to a wider audience the draft Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change, for discussions and comments, and to enrich it with examples and good practices.

The workshop was open to experts dealing with water and climate change issues from relevant national, regional and local authorities, the private sector or non-governmental organizations from all UNECE member countries as well as for experts from international organizations.

Presentations and workshop materials available at

http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/water_climate_workshop.htm

17. Largest offshore Dutch wind farm inaugurated

The wind farm, the largest offshore wind farm in the Netherlands, has been named the Princess Amalia Wind farm, after Princess Catharina-Amalia. The farm consists of 60 wind turbines of 2 MW each and is situated 23 kilometres off the coast in block Q7 near IJmuiden. The water depth in this area varies from 19 to 24 meters. This makes it the largest wind farm outside the Dutch 12 mile zone, which is considered a nation's sovereign territory. It is also the furthest one offshore as well as constructed in the deepest water. The wind farm will supply 435 GWh of power to Dutch households, approximately supplying 125,000 of them. Jeroen de Haas, chairman of the Board of Management of Eneco was quoted as saying: "For Eneco, the realisation of this wind farm represents an important milestone in our sustainable strategy. In the next coming years Eneco will invest substantially in sustainable energy, a significant part of which will go to wind energy at sea. For the Netherlands the Princess Amalia Wind Farm is a good step towards the 6,000 MW of wind energy at the North Sea which should make a substantial contribution to achieving the Dutch energy and climate objectives."

www.windfair.net/press/4745.html

18. Marine power lags wind power by only 5 years – Triodos Bank reports

Technology to make electricity from wave and tidal power lags maturer wind power schemes by just five years and will catch up rapidly, according to Triodos, one of the first banks to invest in wind in the 1980s. Analysts have said marine power, which generates electricity from ocean waves and tidal changes, is as much as 20 years behind wind in its ability to meet the UK's energy needs. Ethical bank Triodos, a Netherlands-based bank with over 3.3 billion euros (US\$5.2 billion) in assets, has been investing in wind projects since it turned against nuclear power after the 1986 Chernobyl power station disaster. "The appetite is there, the market is there, the growth will be surprisingly fast," Triodos Renewables operations director Matthew Clayton said. His fund hopes to raise 8.5 million pounds (US\$16.6 million) through a prospective share issue, up to 20 percent of which will be invested in marine power and other fledgling sustainable energy projects, with the rest in wind. UK-based Triodos Renewables, which operates 24 MW of wind capacity in the UK, has looked at 30 wave and tidal investment opportunities in the past two years. It invested 1.8 million pounds in Marine Current Turbines, which has created a tidal device that uses underwater blades similar to wind turbines. "There will be 3-6 marine technologies that work and which will be there in the long-term, from the 30-40 currently, and that process of selection is happening," said Clayton. Wave and tidal power will catch up with wind quickly because the UK government has promised to double financial support for marine power from April 2009, through its so-called Renewable Obligation Certificate system of guaranteed payments. The government will give twice the financial support for each megawatt of marine electricity compared to onshore wind. Stephanie Merry, a spokeswoman for the Renewable Energy Association, an industry group, said the sector was at the same stage of development as wind was in the early to mid-1980s - but that did not mean marine was two decades behind wind. With the first grid-connected projects coming on line soon - such as MCT in Strangford Loch, Northern Ireland, Pelamis in Portugal, and OpenHydro at the European Marine Energy Centre off Orkney - she believes it will be 10 years

before marine systems have the same electricity-producing capacity as the current crop of wind systems.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48674/story.htm

19. UK gets first taste of big tidal power

The world's first commercial-scale tidal power turbine has supplied the British grid with its first surge of tidal electricity, Marine Current Turbines (MCT) said on July 17. The tidal current turbine, known as SeaGen, briefly generated 150 kilowatts of power off the coast of Northern Ireland as part of testing ahead of full commercial operations in a few weeks, the company behind the project said.

SeaGen works like an underwater windmill, with the rotors driven by the power of the tidal currents rather than wind. Strangford Lough, where the turbine has been rooted, has among the strongest tidal currents in UK and Irish waters. Once fully operational, SeaGen will be able to generate up to 1.2 megawatts, which is enough carbon-free electricity to supply about 1,000 homes. Tides are created by the moon and sun's gravitational pulls on the oceans, combined with the centrifugal force of the earth's rotation. Lying in the North Atlantic, the British Isles have some of the strongest tidal currents in the world, together with some of the strongest and most reliable winds to drive offshore wind turbines. The British government is hoping to exploit these natural advantages to help it reach tough European Union renewable energy targets but planning and grid connection problems have frustrated the rapid growth of wind power so far. MCT has plans for a 10.5 MW project off the coast of Anglesey, north Wales, which it expects to commission by 2012. (Reporting by Daniel Fineren, editing by Anthony Barker)

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/49387/story.htm

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- NATURE AND CONSERVATION -

20. HELCOM measures keep illicit oil spills in Baltic near record lows

The number of deliberate, illegal oil discharges from ships annually observed by national surveillance planes, as well as satellites over the Baltic Sea area has increased slightly, but still remains near record lows, according to a HELCOM study released on June 3 in Helsinki. According to the latest national annual reports provided by the Member States to HELCOM, 238 illicit oil spills were detected during a total of 3,969 hours of surveillance flights conducted by the coastal countries over the Baltic Sea during 2007, compared to 236 discharges observed during 5,128 air patrol hours in 2006, and 224 discharges observed during 5,637 air patrol hours in 2005. Despite the small increase, this is still one of the lowest numbers since 1999, when 488 discharges were detected during 4,883 air patrol hours. "HELCOM has achieved a significant reduction in the number of illicit oil discharges in the Baltic Sea area over the past years, even though the density of shipping has rapidly grown," says Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM's Maritime and Response Professional Secretary. "We attribute this to the success of the complex set of measures known as the Baltic Strategy to prevent illegal discharges of oil and waste into the sea which the HELCOM countries have been implementing since the 1990s." Deliberate oil discharges from ships have been regularly observed during surveillance flights over the Baltic Sea since 1988. One of the peak years was 1989, when 763 spills were detected during 3,491 flight hours. Since 1999 the number of discharges has been steadily decreasing.

www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_helcom/en_GB/Illegal_oil_discharges_2007report/

www.helcom.fi/stc/files/shipping/spills2007.pdf

www.helcom.fi/stc/files/Maps/oilspills/oilspills2007.pdf

21. World Marine Species Register clears out 'fishy' names

Huge numbers of fish and other marine organisms have been named several times over, say scientists trying to tidy up the system for cataloguing ocean life. The researchers have produced a new World Register of Marine Species. It contains about 122,500 validated names, and has rooted out some 56,400 confusing aliases in the process. One Atlantic sponge was found to have 56 Latin names, given by researchers who thought each of its many guises constituted a distinct species. *Halichondria panicea*, often called "breadcrumb sponge", first appeared in the taxonomic literature in 1766. It is known to hang on to floats, pilings, and the underside of rocks and smells like exploded gunpowder. Its over-classification was the worst example found by the project - but by no means was it an exceptional case. Some 56,400 aliases have had to be sorted out - 32% of all names reviewed. The Register is part of the on-going Census of Marine Life, a international programme dedicated to classifying what lives in the oceans. The Census is currently set to run through to 2010, by which time it is estimated there will be about 230,000 marine species known to science and fully described. The ones still unknown - and therefore yet-to-be described - could push the number of marine species on Earth over a million.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7473707.stm

www.marinespecies.org/index.phpn

22. 'Alarming' plight of coral reefs

The first comprehensive survey of reef-building coral species suggests that one-third of them are in danger of extinction, a sevenfold increase in just the past decade. If current trends continue, the authors predict a mass die-off among the engineers of some of the world's most important and diverse ecosystems. That is the stark conclusion from the first global study to assess the extinction risks of corals. Writing in the journal *Science*, researchers say climate change, coastal development, overfishing, and pollution are the major threats. The economic value of the world's reefs has been estimated at over \$30bn (£15bn) per year, through tourism, fisheries and coastal protection. "The picture is frightening," said Alex Rogers from the Zoological Society of London, one of 39 scientists involved in the assessment. The analysis shows that reef-building corals are more threatened than any group of land-dwelling animals except amphibians.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7498502.stm>

<http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2008/710/2>

<http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2008/710/1>

23. Mystery surrounds mass dolphin stranding

Tests on some of the 25 dolphins which died after Britain's biggest mass stranding in almost three decades showed they had been healthy, rescuers said, as mystery surrounded the beaching of June 9 on a Cornish river. The dolphins died after they swam up the Percuil River near Falmouth on the morning and were left stranded. In what one rescuer called a "sea of carnage", marine experts, wildlife volunteers and vets battled all day to save the stricken dolphins. Seven were saved and led back out to sea. Investigators are exploring several possible causes, including the theory that the dolphins had become distressed by naval sonar equipment or were frightened by an unexplained explosion several residents reported hearing late on Sunday. Claims the animals had moved inland to feed on fish, attracted by a large algae bloom caused by a recent bout of hot weather, were dismissed after no food was found in their stomachs. While confirming it had a "presence" in the area, the Royal Navy said no training or official activity had been conducted there since June 5. A Navy spokesman also said officials had no knowledge of an explosion involving any vessels. Despite residents contacting two separate conservation groups reporting hearing loud explosions, local police and the coastguard said they had no record of such an incident. Autopsies carried out by the Institute of Zoology revealed the dolphins had been healthy, with no signs of illness or injury, officials said. The national co-ordinator from the British Divers Marine Life Rescue charity, Trevor Weeks, told Reuters the tests did not reveal any clues to the incident. "It was horrible," he said. "It was really distressing for some of the volunteers." He said it was the largest mass stranding in Britain since 1981 when pilot whales beached on the east coast. More tests have been carried out on the dead dolphins. Further, the Ministry of Defence stated however that the Royal had been conducting live-firing exercises off Cornwall just hours before 25 dolphins died by stranding themselves in a nearby river. Defence officials said the exercises were "highly unlikely" to have been the cause of the deaths.

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48725/newsDate/11-Jun-2008/story.htm

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/48742/newsDate/12-Jun-2008/story.htm

Study Shows Rise in Cornwall's cetacean deaths: Full paper at:

http://www.cwtstrandings.org/pdfs/Leeney_et_al_2008_strandings.pdf

There was also a mass stranding of whales in Madagascar in the same period, see

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7443559.stm>

24. Fast fall of Mediterranean sharks

Sharks in the Mediterranean Sea have undergone a massive decline over the last two centuries, scientists have discovered from historical records. Some species shrunk by more than 99% over the period, mainly due to fishing. Researchers used fishermen's notes and archive records to plot population trends of five top predatory sharks. The study, in the journal *Conservation Biology*, comes just weeks after a warning that half of the world's ocean-going sharks face extinction. Sharks and their close relatives, the rays, are particularly vulnerable to over-fishing as they grow and reproduce slowly. There are 47 species of shark found regularly in the Mediterranean, of which 20 are top predators.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7446112.stm>

www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2008.00938.x (Journal of Conservation Biology: Abstract report)

25. Fishing ban brings British seas to life

Five years without fishing around Lundy Island off the coast of Devon have brought a significant revival in sea life, scientists report. Lobsters are seven times more abundant within the protected zone than outside. The eastern coast of Lundy is the UK's only "no-take" zone, where fishing is completely prohibited. Conservation groups say UK seas need more of them, but the government's recent Marine Bill promises much vaguer "marine conservation zones". It is not clear what levels of protection these areas would have. The site wasn't only set up to protect lobsters - it's to protect the whole environment.

The Lundy zone was set up five years ago by Natural England and the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee, which administers fishing along the county's coasts, in partnership with local fishermen. Natural England scientists believe the zone should help Devon's lobster-potters by providing a refuge where young lobsters can grow to maturity, then migrate into areas where commercial fishing is permitted.

A ban on fishing in one of Britain's "richest" marine environments is also to be implemented to protect its wildlife and seascape. About 10% of Lyme Bay off Dorset and East Devon is to be permanently closed to scallop dredging and bottom trawling from July, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced. The bay's reefs are home to an abundance of sea life including rare sponges, corals and starfish. Conservation groups have welcomed the ban but some local fishermen are angry. The fishing ban will cover 60 square nautical miles of Lyme Bay, from West Bay in Dorset to Beer Head in Devon. The area will be off-limits to fishing boats which drag nets along the seabed. Wildlife groups had argued this was damaging the environment.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7508216.stm>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/7463421.stm

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- AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES -

26. Pirate fishing boats target Africa

There is a kind of theft that happens every day in a majority of the world's poor countries - and in many of the richer ones too. It usually happens out of sight, and most perpetrators get away with it. The monetary value of this theft is about \$15bn per year; the ecological cost can only be guessed at. Yet many people would turn their noses up if they chanced upon a trove of this treasure. Because these jewels are fish. "Those that are fishing illegally, they are paying nothing, so we are losing something from our country", says Mamadou Diallo, programme manager for the environmental group WWF's West Africa office, and a former fisheries officer. One of the biggest problems is identifying the owners, because many of these ships fly flags of convenience. The amount that Africa is losing, if new figures from David Agnew of Imperial College London are right, is about \$1bn per year - the cost of licences that illegal fishers should have paid to catch what they are catching. The ecological cost may, in the long run, be much higher. "The immediate ecological impact is damage to habitat, because they are using trawls, and trawls are not always good for the ecosystems - they damage habitat for fish," says Dr Diallo. "The second thing is pollution, because they are discharging at sea, and they can do anything they want." Precisely how much fish is removed illegally from West African waters is not known - apart from anything else, there is little good data on the state of stocks before the plunder began. Elsewhere, where ecosystems and commercial fish numbers have been studied for longer, it is clear that illegal fishing can help wreak major damage. In the Mediterranean Sea, where scientists estimate that illegal catches of bluefin tuna in recent years have almost matched legal catches in weight, changes are afoot.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7485839.stm>

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- PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES -

27. Coastline reports 2007-8 & 2007-9

2007-8: *Coastal Development: The Oder estuary and beyond*, by G. Schernewski, B. Glaeser, R. Scheibe, A. Sekścińska & R. Thamm, (ed.) (2007, 316 pp.), *The Coastal Union/Die Küsten Union Deutschland*, ISBN 978-3-9811839-0-0, ISSN 0928-2734, 30 articles, 14 in German only with English abstracts and one in Polish, with German extract

www.eucc-d.de/plugins/coastline_reports/coastline_reports9.php (E-version)

2007-9: *Von der Geoarchäologie über die Küstendynamik zum Küstenzonenmanagement*, by G. Gönnert, B. Pflüger & J.-A. Bremer (ed.) (2007, 221 pp.), *The Coastal Union/Die Küsten Union Deutschland*, ISBN 978-3-9811839-1-7, ISSN 0928-2734, 20 articles, 15 articles in German only with English abstracts

www.eucc-d.de/plugins/coastline_reports/coastline_reports8.php (E-version)

28. EUCC-UK Newsletter Online

The EUCC-UK branch newsletter is available online for all UK and EUCC news readers online at

http://www.eucc.nl/en/eucc/newsletter_jun2008.pdf

29. Fish Conservation

A guide to understanding and restoring global aquatic Biodiversity and Fishery Resources

Review by Alan Pickaver

"This is one of those books where the cover page alone is so attractive, and unusual, that it invites you to pick it up and explore further. Once you start leafing through the pages and reading the odd sentence, you become aware that you have a real treasure in your hands. You don't need to be a fisheries expert to either understand, or appreciate, the contents. If you are interested in ecology or biodiversity issues, this book will be a very valuable addition to your library. It covers, in depth, a large number of highly interesting fish-related subjects, not only marine species but also freshwater ones; not only the threats from commercial fisheries but also the trade in aquarium fishes - which usually get short shrift. The author is not afraid of using the personal pronoun "I" and giving his own opinions on a variety of subjects; a technique which brings a freshness and directness to the text. It is clear that Helfman loves his subject matter. He admits at the close that he is inwardly sceptical of our ability as a species to halt the decline in fish biodiversity but that outwardly he remains optimistic. I hope that his sanguinity is rewarded as he has written a book of which he can be proud and which deserves to be read by anyone with even a remote interest in the global sustainability of fish species."

By Gene S. Helfman, (2007, xiv, 584 p.) Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20009, USA, Email: info@islandpress.org, Website

www.islandpress.org/contact/index.php, ISBN 978-1-55963-595-0 (hardback), 978-1-55963-596-7 (paperback), Price \$170 (hardback) and \$85 (paperback)

30. The International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN)

A newly-founded informal group of organizations who have been meeting over the past two years to scope and implement data interoperability approaches to coastal web atlases (CWAs). The mission/strategic aim of ICAN is to share experiences and to find common solutions to CWA development (e.g., user and developer guides, handbooks and articles on best practices, information on standards and web services, expertise and technical support directories, education, outreach, and funding opportunities, etc.), while ensuring maximum relevance and added value for the end users. The long-term view is for global-level operational interoperability which will evolve as the ICAN community strives to increase awareness of the opportunities that exist for increased coastal and marine data sharing among policy makers and resource managers as strategic users of a CWA.

More information available at <http://ican.science.oregonstate.edu/ican>

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- 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>

August 28th, 2008, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

Wadden Sea Conference: Dune Management in the Wadden Sea,

Organized by Nationalpark Wadden Sea Lower Saxony & Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The conference has the aim to provide insights in recent research and management projects along the Wadden Sea coast and to discuss with scientist and managers how now challenges in dune management can be met. Invited are policy makers, conservation managers, scientists, and non-governmental organisations. The number of participants is limited to 90 persons.

Please confirm your attendance until 15 August 2008 by mail, e-mail or fax to:

Nationalparkverwaltung Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer

Virchowstr. 1, D-26382 Wilhelmshaven

Phone: +49 4421 911 296

Fax: +49 4421 911 280

Email: Norbert.Hecker@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de

September 8th –12th, 2008, Ghent, Belgium

6th European Conference on Ecological Restoration (Special topic: Natura 2000)

The conference entitled "Towards a sustainable future for European ecosystems - Providing restoration guidelines for Natura 2000 habitats and species" is supported by the European commission.

www.ser2008.be

September 25th –4th 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.

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

October 16th , 2008: Brest, FRANCE**ICZM - SPICOSA International Forum 2008**

The Forum will take place during the "SeaTechWeek" at the Brest conference centre, "Le Quartz", on October 15th-16th . It will offer the possibility for researchers and coastal managers to exchange views on the progress of ICZM public policies in Europe and to debate on the role of scientific knowledge. The Forum will present: (i) recent developments of coastal zone management policy at European, national and regional levels ; (ii) various European projects dealing with science & policy integration, and (iii) the experiences from SPICOSA, in particular the study sites applications. This event is organized by the University of Brest and IFREMER (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea).

Programme and registration available at : <http://www.spicosa.eu/enews/index.htm>

www.spicosa.eu

October 14th –18th, 2008, Akyaka, Turkey**MED & Black Sea ICM' 08 Second International Conference / Workshop on the State-of-the-Art of ICM in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: Immediate needs for Research, Education/Training & Implementation.**

For more information:

MEDCOAST Secretariat c/o Middle East Technical University 06531 Ankara - Turkey

Telephone: 90 - 312 - 210 54 29

Facsimile: 90 - 312 - 210 79 87

E-mail: medcoast@metu.edu.tr

http: www.medcoast.org.tr

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.

Free registration for Eucc Members!

www.biomarine.org

November 3rd-5th , 2008, Stralsund, Germany**BfN Conference on Marine Natura 2000 sites and fisheries management: The results of the EMPAS project**

The Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN www.bfn.de) has the pleasure to announce and invite to the above mentioned conference, which will take place in the new premises of the German Oceanographic Museum (DMM) in Stralsund. At the conference the process and final results of the BfN/ICES research project "Environmentally Sound Fisheries Management in Marine Protected Areas, EMPAS" will be presented and the consequences discussed in the European context.

Contact Christian Pusch (christian.pusch@bfn-vilm.de) for more information

November 17th –20th , 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, nongovernmental organization, citizens and natural and social scientists to consider the values and vulnerabilities of coastal regions around the globe.

www.coastalcities.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:

Camera-ready final papers due: 5th September 2008

Early registration deadline: 5th September 2008

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

and/or contact: littoral2008@corila.it

April 13th-18th , 2009, Lisbon, Portugal**10th International Coastal Symposium, ICS 2009**

The ICS 2009 will be held in Lisbon (Portugal) from 13th to 18th April 2009, a joint organization of the e-Geo - Geography and Regional Planning Research Centre of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa and the Coastal Education & Research Foundation . All papers accepted, after being peer-reviewed, will be published in a Special Issue of the Journal of Coastal Research , one of the leading journals in the field of coastal research. The conference themes are: Acoustic Remote Sensing, Barrier Islands, Beach Processes, Climate Change, Coastal Dunes, Coastal Ecosystems, Coastal Engineering, Coastal Evolution, Coastal Geomorphology, Coastal Hazards and Pollution, Coastal Modelling, Coastal Restoration & Mitigation, Coastal Tourism, Coastal Zone Management, Delta Plain Management, Estuarine & Wetland Restoration, GIS and Remote Sensing Applications, Impact of Extreme Storms, Integrated Catchment and Coastal Zone Management

Important dates: Abstract submission - 5th September 2008

For more information please visit <http://e-geo.fcsb.unl.pt/ICS2009/index.html>

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- 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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