



Eucc Coastal & Marine-News

No. 1 March 2009



This publication is supported
by the European Union

Eucc Coastal & Marine-News is the international newsletter of the Coastal & Marine 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: ING, IBAN-code: NL 85 INGB 0000 000 916, BIC Swift Code: INGBNL2A.

Contributions to the next issue due to: 15 April 2009. Please send to news@eucc.net

- CONTENTS -

- Eucc NEWS -

1. New name for the Eucc
2. Eucc creates Marine Team: Think-tank on EU marine policies
3. Vacancy pre-announcement: Coordinator Marine Management
4. Vacancy pre-announcement: Marine Natura 2000 Expert
5. BaltCICA Kick-Off in Tallinn, Estonia
6. EU kick-off conference on maritime spatial planning

- CLIMATE CHANGE -

7. Global warming is 'irreversible'
8. Acid oceans 'need urgent action'
9. Fish seen shifting 125 miles by 2050 due to warming
10. North Atlantic climate shift see-saws on South
11. EU action against climate change: Adaptation to Climate Change
12. The effect of climate change on marine species in the OSPAR Maritime Area

- BIODIVERSITY -

13. Natura 2000 network extended considerably
14. Google Earth dives under the sea
15. EU gives shark protection
16. Global map of human impacts on marine ecosystems

- FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE -

17. Climate change to hit Africa fisheries hard
18. Plenty more fish in the sea? think again
19. Fish Conservation
20. Iceland to allow whaling in 2009

-COASTAL MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH-

21. OURCOAST, a new EU ICZM initiative
22. UK government publishes vision on ICZM for England
23. Coastline Reports 12 (2009): Coastal Change in the southern Baltic Sea Region
24. UK report points to wind, tidal deployment

-MARITIME POLICY AND SPATIAL PLANNING-

25. Strategic goals for European maritime transport policy
26. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region
27. Planning sea wind parks takes little account of ecology

-EVENTS AGENDA-

- COLOPHON -

- EUCC NEWS -

1. New name for the EUCC

The EUCC International Office is pleased to announce that our name has changed, as per January 2009.

New contact details are:

Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)

PO Box 11232, 2301 EE Leiden, The Netherlands

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www.eucc.net



2. EUCC creates Marine Team: Think-tank on EU marine policies

The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) is creating a unique opportunity to share knowledge on the exciting challenges arising from the rapidly developing EU marine and maritime policies and programmes; an EUCC Marine Team is being established as a think-tank in the field of marine management and maritime planning. EUCC is closely involved in this in its capacity of Secretariat of the Venice Platform, in the process of the future European Maritime Stakeholders Platform, as member of the emerging European marine science forum, and through an involvement in various projects. The EUCC Marine Team will be supported by a coordinator marine management and a marine Natura 2000 officer (see vacancies below).

Marine experts will be admitted to the team on the basis of an endorsement of EUCC's mission and of the principles of sustainability. Team members are committed to a mutual exchange of experiences. The Team will aim to keep up-to-date on all major developments and initiatives, through the participation in events throughout Europe by its members, who share event related information as a team. Marine experts applying for membership of the team are requested to indicate the field(s) in which they work:

- ✓ the implementation of the Bird and Habitats Directive (Natura 2000) at sea;
- ✓ the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Good Environmental Status targets;
- ✓ the emerging Integrated Maritime Policy;
- ✓ the development Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP);
- ✓ sustainable fisheries in connection to the 2012 CFP Reform.

The members of the Marine Team will together determine the ways of internal communication.

Experts interested to join the EUCC Marine Team are encouraged to e-mail to Marijke Kooijman at EUCC International in Leiden (NL), e-mail: m.kooijman@eucc.net.

3. Vacancy pre-announcement: Coordinator Marine Management

EUCC is expecting to announce a position vacancy for a coordinator marine management. This staff member will be in charge of the coordination of EUCC's policies in relation to EU marine and maritime policies, For specific fields see the announcement on the EUCC Marine Team, above article 2. The staff member will be based at EUCC International in Leiden (NL).

Expected date of publication: May. Those who would like to be informed about the vacancy are invited to e-mail to EUCC's Head of General Affairs, Robert Steenbergen [r.steenbergen@eucc.net].

4. Vacancy pre-announcement: Marine Natura 2000 Expert

EUCC is expecting to announce a position vacancy for marine Natura 2000 Expert. This staff member will be involved in various projects in relation to the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directive in the marine environment. Activities may cover coordination or assistance in the field of: identification of marine sites, research, data exchange, communication and capacity building. The expert will be connected to EUCC International in Leiden (NL) or Mediterranean Centre EUCC in Barcelona (Spain), but s/he will be working in various European countries.

Expected date of publication: May. Those who would like to be informed about the vacancy are invited to e-mail to EUCC's Head of General Affairs, Robert Steenbergen [r.steenbergen@eucc.net].

5. BaltCICA Kick-Off in Tallinn, Estonia

The INTERREG IV-B Project BaltCICA started February 4-6 with the Kick-Off Meeting in Tallinn, Estonia. BaltCICA - Climate Change: Impacts, Costs and Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region is designed to focus on the most imminent problems that climate change will cause in the quite densely populated coastal zone. Changes in the occurrence of floods (river floods as well as storm surges) and sea level rise caused by climate change as well as impacts on water availability and quality can be expected. Not only the assessment of the impacts, but the development, appraisal and implementation of adaptation measures (structural ones as well as organizational and institutional measures) must be promoted. BaltCICA is coordinated by the Geological Survey of Finland (GTK) and 24 member institutions from Finland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway. To achieve the above goals a multi-level transnational approach will be applied. Concrete adaptation measures will be tested and implemented in at least one case study and later on transferred and tested in other case studies dealing with similar adaptation questions. On a pan-Baltic level the costs of higher sea level and increased flood risk will be assessed. A concept for process management on climate change adaptation and mitigation will be developed supported by a meta-evaluation and conceptualization of case study results. Furthermore joint concepts of adaptation will be applied in a number of case studies. Based on the experience and knowledge of the project participants, applicable approaches will be offered to other interested parties with the support of the Union of the Baltic Cities. Thereby BaltCICA is based on results of the previous projects SEAREG and ASTRA. Within the project the Eucc Germany is an independent partner and involved in the implementation of climate change adaptation measures, particularly in an implementation project regarding tourism and beach management along the German coast (Mecklenburg - Western Pommern). Based on the scientific results of the project partner IOW (Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemuende) adaptation measures concerted with stakeholders will be developed and implemented for regional impacts of climate change due to changing water qualities in coastal waters (<http://www.baltcica.org/>).

6. EU kick-off conference on maritime spatial planning

At the invitation of the European Commission, an Eucc delegation participated in a kick-off conference on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), hosted by DG MARE on 26 February in Brussels. The conference focused on the principles of MSP and proved to be very useful to its participants. The conference has been held within the framework of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy. It was opened by the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Joe Borg. One of the speakers was Eucc's President Prof. Johan Vande Lanotte, who highlighted the role and importance of stakeholders, illustrated with many examples from the years in which he was (the first) Minister for the North Sea of Belgium. On 25 November 2008, the European Commission adopted the Communication "Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU". This Communication has the aim of facilitating the development of MSP by Member States and encouraging its implementation at national and European level. Three more workshops will be held during 2009, at JRC in Ispra, Italy (April), in S. Miguel, Azores (July) and in Stockholm (September). The Commission will publish a summary report of the workshop series in early 2010.

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- CLIMATE CHANGE -

7. Global warming is 'irreversible'

A team of environmental researchers in the US has warned many effects of climate change are irreversible. The scientists concluded global temperatures could remain high for 1,000 years, even if carbon emissions can somehow be halted. Their report was sponsored by the US Department of Energy and comes as President Obama announces a review of vehicle emission standards. It appears in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The scientists have been researching global warming and the consequences for policymakers. The team warned that, if carbon levels in the atmosphere continued to rise, there would be less rainfall in already dry areas of southern Europe, North America, parts of Africa and Australia. The scientists say the oceans are currently slowing down global warming by absorbing heat, but they will eventually release that heat back into the air. They say politicians must now offset environmental damage already done by man-made pollution. "People have imagined that if we stopped emitting carbon dioxide the climate would go back to normal in 100 years, 200 year - that's not true," said researcher Susan Solomon, the lead author of the report.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7852628.stm>
www.pnas.org/

8. Acid oceans 'need urgent action'

The world's marine ecosystems risk being severely damaged by ocean acidification unless there are dramatic cuts in CO₂ emissions, warn scientists. More than 150 top marine researchers have voiced their concerns through the "Monaco Declaration", which warns that changes in acidity are accelerating. The declaration, supported by Prince Albert II of Monaco, builds on findings from an earlier international summit, The Ocean in a High CO₂ World symposium, held in October 2008. It says pH levels are changing 100 times faster than natural variability. It calls on policymakers to stabilise CO₂ emissions "at a safe level to avoid not only dangerous climate change but also dangerous ocean acidification". The researchers warn that ocean acidification, which they refer to as "the other CO₂ problem", could make most regions of the ocean inhospitable to coral reefs by 2050, if atmospheric CO₂ levels continue to increase. They also say that it could lead to substantial changes in commercial fish stocks, threatening food security for millions of people.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7860350.stm>

9. Fish seen shifting 125 miles by 2050 due to warming

Global warming will push fish stocks more than 200 km (125 miles) toward the poles by mid-century in a dislocation of ocean life, a study of more than 1,000 marine species projected. Tropical nations were likely to suffer most as commercial fish stocks swam north or south to escape warming waters, the report said. Alaska, Greenland and Nordic nations would be among those to benefit from more fish. In the North Sea, a northward shift of cod could cut numbers by 20 percent. At the same time, North Sea stocks of the more southerly European plaice might rise by more than 10 percent. And some cod populations off the east coast of the United States might decline by half by 2050, the report said. The study made computer models for the movements of 1,066 species - 836 types of fish and 230 invertebrates, such as crabs and lobsters. Some species could die off, such as fish that thrive in cold waters and would have nowhere to go if the oceans warmed.

www.planetark.com/enviro-news/item/51590

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7887536.stm>

10. North Atlantic climate shift see-saws on South

Any abrupt climate changes in the North Atlantic region have a quick see-saw effect on the South Atlantic and affect weather around the globe rather than just locally.

A study of ocean sediments from the last Ice Age in the South Atlantic backed theories that a sudden cooling or warming of the Northern Hemisphere causes an opposite effect in the south, they said. Until now, scientists studying rapid temperature swings, caused by natural variations during the Ice Age that ended 10,000 years ago, lacked clear evidence of the see-saw link. Study of the chemical makeup of ocean sediments helped reconstruct ancient temperatures. "It confirms predictions that abrupt climate change is global in nature," said Stephen Barker of Cardiff University, who was lead author of the paper in the journal Nature along with other experts in Britain and the United States. The report could help understand risks, for instance, of a slowdown of the Gulf Stream current that keeps northern Europe warm. Any breakdown of the Gulf Stream could bring a sharp cooling to northern Europe and a warming in the Southern Hemisphere. Barker said the Gulf Stream carried warm waters north in what he called "heat piracy" from the south. A slowdown would mean more heat stayed in the Southern Hemisphere -- cooling the north and warming the south. Under a northern cooling, areas of warm water would spread southwards with possible impacts ranging from disruptions to fisheries to the ocean's ability to soak up greenhouse gases, he said.

<http://www.planetark.com/enviro-news/item/51783>

www.nature.com/nature/journal/v457/n7233/abs/nature07770.html (Abstract article)

11. EU action against climate change: Adaptation to Climate Change

After the brochure *EU action against Climate Change: Leading global action to 2020 and beyond* – regarding the urgency of a rapid transition to a low-carbon economy, as the 1st priority of the EU's global strategy for controlling climate change

(http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/pdf/eu_action_against_climate_change.pdf),

the 2nd priority comes in the form of adaptation to a already changing system, addressed in the EU brochure *EU action against climate change: Adaptation to Climate Change (2008)*. This publication is available online, in 6 languages (ES, DE, EN, FR, IT and PL) through

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm

The English version can be downloaded through

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/pdf/brochures/adapting_en.pdf

12. The effect of climate change on marine species in the OSPAR Maritime Area

ICES Cooperative Research Report No. 293, November 2008

This report examines the evidence of the effect of climate change on the distribution and abundance of marine species in the OSPAR Commission Maritime Area (OSPAR Maritime Area). It focuses primarily on effects that may be linked to changes in sea surface temperatures. The main conclusions are that oceanographic conditions do influence the marine biota in the OSPAR Maritime Area, and that oceanographic conditions are changing. There was evidence to support this in both the narrative and the

analytical information examined by ICES throughout the OSPAR Maritime Area. Effects on climate change varied from weak to very strong, particularly when environmental conditions were exceptionally cold or warm.

By Mark L. Tasker (ed.) (2008, 45 pp.) International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 Dk-1553 Copenhagen V Denmark, Tel. (+45) 33386700, Fax (+45) 3393 4215, Website www.ices.dk, Email info@ices.dk ISBN 978-87-7482-039-0 ISSN 1017-6195

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- BIODIVERSITY -

13. Natura 2000 network extended considerably

The European Commission is in the process of adopting eight decisions that considerably extend the Natura 2000 network – adding **769** new sites of Community importance and a total area of 95,522 km² (about the size of Portugal). The Black Sea (Bulgaria and Romania) and Steppic (Romania) biogeographical regions are new additions to the Natura 2000 network, as the first contributions of these new Member States. The Black Sea region takes in the Danube delta, which is one of the largest wetlands in Europe and a biodiversity hotspot. The decisions also extend the Natura 2000 in the other biogeographical regions, except the Macaronesian region: Alpine, Atlantic, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, and Pannonian. The extended list of sites of Community importance includes 36 new marine sites with a total area of 6031 km² added to the Natura 2000 network. The Commission is planning a further update of the EU lists by the end of 2009.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1956&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

For full details of the updated lists see:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/natura_2000/library?!=/candidate_importance/biogeographical&vm=detailed&sb=Title

14. Google Earth dives under the sea

Google has lifted the lid on its first major upgrade to its global mapping software, Google Earth. Google Ocean expands this map to include large swathes of the ocean floor and abyssal plain. Users can dive beneath a dynamic water surface to explore the 3D sea floor terrain.

The map also includes 20 content layers, containing information from the world's leading scientists, researchers, and ocean explorers. Google Ocean aims to let users visit some of the more interesting locations, including underwater volcanoes, as well as running videos on marine life, shipwrecks and clips of favourite surf and dive spots. Conservation organisations hope the tool will improve awareness of issues facing undersea life.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/7865407.stm>

<http://earth.google.com/>

15. EU gives shark protection

The European Commission has unveiled measures on February 5 aimed at protecting sharks, many of which are in sharp decline. The proposals would close loopholes in current shark finning regulations, cut catches of endangered species and set quotas according to scientific advice. About half of ocean-going shark species are threatened with extinction. The regulations will also apply to sharks' close relatives, skates and rays. Conservation groups have given a mixed reaction to the commission's proposals, which now go to the European Parliament and Council of Ministers for approval.

The most concrete of the commission's proposals concerns the regulations on finning. European vessels are not allowed to remove fins from sharks and dump the carcasses in the water - a practice that used to be rife as fishermen sought to supply fins to the lucrative East Asian market with the minimum bother. Instead they have to land detached fins and carcasses in a ratio of weights that is supposed to ensure that everything makes it to port - one carcass for every fin. Other elements of the proposals include:

- for commercially targeted species, setting catch limits in line with scientific advice
- banning fishing in areas important for reproduction and rearing, and on threatened species
- placing observers on boats reporting large amounts of bycatch ("accidental" catches)
- collecting more data through the supply chain applying these restrictions to all EU-registered vessels, wherever they operate

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7872032.stm>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/220&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

16. Global map of human impacts on marine ecosystems

An ecosystem-specific, multi-scale spatial model has been developed to synthesize 17 global datasets of anthropogenic drivers of ecological change for 20 marine ecosystems. The analysis indicates that no area is unaffected by human influence and that a large fraction (41%) is strongly affected by multiple drivers. However, large areas of relatively little human impact remain, particularly near the poles. <http://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/GlobalMarine>

Full article free download in *Science* magazine 15th February 2008 - Halpern et al. , pp. 948 - 952

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/319/5865/948?ijkey=.QBRU7cadgPCc&keytype=ref&siteid=sci>

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE -

17. Climate change to hit Africa fisheries hard

African nations will be the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change on fisheries, ranging from damage to coral reefs to more severe river floods, according to a study published in the latest issue of the *Journal Fish and Fisheries*. Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo were most at risk, according to the report which said it was the first to rank nations by their ability to adapt economically to projected impacts of global warming on fisheries. Two-thirds of a group of 33 countries judged "highly vulnerable" were in Africa with most others in Asia and Latin America. Russia, with heavy reliance on fisheries, was the main exception in third place in the ranking. Shifts could include damage to corals, which are nurseries for many fish. Inland, droughts or floods can disrupt fish supplies in lakes or rivers. Those most at risk included Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone and landlocked Mali in Africa, Peru and Colombia in South America and Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam in Asia.

www.planetark.com/enviro-news/item/51491

The abstract of the paper can be read at

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/121681399/abstract>

18. Plenty more fish in the sea? think again

The world's waters were once seen as a boundless source of fish for humans to eat, but over-fishing and aquaculture have depleted some species and left others famished and weak. Two recent reports found that climate change is expected to add more stress for fish populations, forcing warm-water species further toward the poles, changing marine and freshwater food webs and habitats.

The big fish most likely to appear on rich countries' dinner plates - like salmon and tuna - have already been over-fished, the non-profit environmental group Oceana reported in the study *When fish stocks decline*. That poses a potential problem for humans, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization also reports in a report on the state of the world's fisheries and aquaculture.

www.planetark.com/enviro-news/item/51850

www.oceana.org/

www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0250e/i0250e00.htm

19. Fish Conservation

Guide to Understanding and Restoring Global Aquatic Biodiversity and Fishery Resources.

This book contains a global approach to marine and freshwater fish diversity and fishery resource issues. It brings together information on the decline and restoration of marine and freshwater fishes, providing answers as well as to fishery management problems at the subsistence recreational, and commercial levels.

By Gene S. Helfman (2007, 584 pp.). Published Island Press. Distributed by The Eurospan Group, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU UK. Fax +20 7379 33139. ISBN 978 1 55963 596 7. Price UK £ 68.75.

20. Iceland to allow whaling in 2009

Iceland's interim government said on Wednesday it would allow whale hunting to go ahead this year but left in doubt whether the practice would be allowed to continue beyond 2009. Fishermen will be allowed to catch 100 minke whales and 150 fin whales during 2009, a decision that will upset environmental groups and many in the international community. Fisheries Minister Steingrímur Sigfússon said hunters should not take it for granted that whaling would be permitted over the following four years, as proposed by the previous government. The decision to resume whaling was taken despite international pressure and a promise by the new government of Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir to review a decision by the previous administration to set new five-year quotas. The United States, Germany, Britain, France, Finland and Sweden have called on Sigurðardóttir to drop the whaling plans.

www.planetark.com/enviro-news/item/51685

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

-COASTAL MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH-

21. OURCOAST, a new EU ICZM initiative

Proper exchange of experiences and access to outstanding studies and best practices being produced in many Coastal Member States at different authority level has been lacking. This is why General Directorate (DG) Environment of the European Commission tendered the OURCOAST project that has started in January 2009.



The overall goal of OURCOAST is to create an information base and groundwork that will further support implementation of ICZM in coastal areas by the establishment of long-lasting information mechanisms that will promote the sharing of experiences and practices throughout Europe. This will be achieved by the establishment of a multi-lingual database of Europe-wide ICZM practices in the form of case studies that will be freely searchable with the help of a user-friendly mechanism.

OURCOAST project is implemented by a consortium led by ARCADIS, The Netherlands, (including expert staff of ARCADIS companies of Belgium and Germany) and its sub-contractor the Coastal & Marine Union (Eucc). For more information please visit: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/ourcoast.htm>

22. UK government publishes vision on ICZM for England

The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has published the ICZM Strategy for England: *'A strategy for promoting an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas in England'* - sets out the British Government's vision for the process of coastal management, objectives and future actions to achieve the vision, and briefly explains how all the changes currently being taken forward will work together in coastal areas. It explains the holistic approach that will be taken across the government. A pdf of the document is available at

www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/environment/iczm/iczm-strategy-england.pdf

www.defra.gov.uk/marine/environment/iczm.htm

23. Coastline Reports 12 (2009): Coastal Change in the southern Baltic Sea Region



Coastline Reports 12 (2009): Coastal Change in the southern Baltic Sea Region ICZM is a management process of the coast using an integrated approach, regarding all aspects of the coastal zone, including geographical and political boundaries to achieve sustainability. The ICZM Oder project is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and focuses on the Oder estuary region of Germany and Poland. The goal of ICZM Oder is to further German and Polish cooperation, and to locally utilize Integrated Coastal Zone Management practically and sustainably. Existing ICZM relevant activities and structures should be supported and put to use. By promoting a dialogue between all stakeholders to combine existing approaches, a collective vision and strategy for regional ICZM will be developed. ICZM Oder is also being applied to the development of a German national ICZM strategy. The current Coastline Reports 12 (2009): Coastal Change in the southern Baltic Sea Region deals with interim scientific research into the fundamental questions of ICZM not only for

the cross-border region of the Oder estuary as some articles deal with ICZM along other German coastal regions. The Volume is written mostly in German with English abstracts and will be soon available online under http://www.eucc-d.de/plugins/coastline_reports/coastline_reports.php. Furthermore it is possible to order previous and current Volumes. The price is 25 € for non-members and 15 € for members.

Please contact eucc@eucc-d.de.

24. UK report points to wind, tidal deployment

Britain removed a key obstacle to installing up to 7,000 wind turbines in the North Sea, and narrowed a shortlist of projects for generating up to 9 Gigawatts of tidal power. Together the new offshore wind and tidal power plans could generate power equivalent to more than half the country's capacity now, exploiting Britain's extensive coasts, but they are a decade or more from completion. The energy and climate change ministry said wind power developments should minimize wider impacts, for example on the tourism and fishing industries, by installing new turbines at least 22 kilometers from the coast. UK energy regulator Ofgem last week appointed advisers to aid a competitive bidding process to build the necessary grid to connect such offshore wind power, in contracts worth more than 10 billion pounds (\$13.81 billion). Separately, Britain announced five possible projects to generate power from a large tidal area in south-west England, called the Severn estuary, subject to a final decision in 2010. The largest of the projects could generate 8.6 Gigawatts of tidal power, and would cost an estimated 21 billion pounds. www.planetark.com/enviro-news/item/51356

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

-MARITIME POLICY AND SPATIAL PLANNING-

25. Strategic goals for European maritime transport policy

The European Commission presented a comprehensive ten year strategy plan to promote safe, secure, clean and efficient shipping. The long-term competitiveness of European shipping and related maritime industries in world markets, and the adaptation of the entire seaborne transport system to the challenges of the 21st century are at the heart of this strategy plan. The proposed strategic options are built on a all-inclusive approach, which are at the basis of the new European Integrated Maritime Policy, and reflect the core principles of sustainable development, economic growth and open markets in fair competition and high environmental and social standards.

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/whatsnew_en.html

The full text of the Policy Strategy will be made available as soon as possible via:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/maritime/policy/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/maritime/studies/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/index_en.html

26. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region

On February 6th, Commissioner Joe Borg addressed the importance of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region at the end of the 2nd Stakeholder Conference on Baltic Sea Region (Rostok, Germany), which brought the official consultation process to a close.

The Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region comes in line with the Integrated Maritime Policy endorsed a year ago by the European Council, which addresses maritime related issues facing the Baltic Region through its cross-cutting approach, focusing on the sustainable development of maritime activities and the competitiveness of the maritime economy. Mr. Borg referred to the Action Plan as a mean to deliver that policy and the importance of its application at a regional level. In this context, the Commissioner believes that the Baltic Sea Strategy is thus not only the most appropriate vehicle for the implementation of the EU maritime policy in the Baltic but also constitutes an innovative approach to having integrated development strategies in a regional context, representing a first example of an integrated maritime strategy at a sea-basin level and providing valuable experience and serving as a model for other maritime regions. Further considerations were made regarding the adequate use of some cross-cutting governance tools, such as maritime spatial planning and surveillance but also important issues such as the serious situation of the Baltic fish stocks and the urgency of an ecosystem-based approach to their management (Green Paper to be published in April, launching a debate on the 2012 CFP).

The Commission will soon start bilateral meetings with the Member States involved, as it believes the Baltic Sea Strategy will benefit from identifying lead partners for each of its flagship actions and its success dependent on the strong ownership and involvement of all the actors concerned.

Full speech:

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/speeches/speech060209_en.html

27. Planning sea wind parks takes little account of ecology

The planning and building of wind parks at sea falls short at taking on the effects on the marine ecosystem and can have severe consequences for sea mammals and birds. This is the opinion of the Dutch professor Han Lindeboom at the research institute Wageningen IMARES, Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies in the Netherlands, brought forward in a lecture at the Offshore Wind Power Conference in Den Helder on February 13. He pleads to make future construction much more environmental friendly and to take into account the effects wind parks have on surrounding ecosystems. Especially birds are highly vulnerable, in particular if the windmills are at short distance of each other or when the parks generally form a big barrier, frightening off birds to fly across or around them. At present, many new wind parks along the Dutch and Belgian coasts are planned so close to each other that mammals and birds may be forced to change their migration routes. Lindeboom pleads for construction of 'mill free' crossing paths or greater distance between individual windmills. Also the international coordination in the construction of the wind parks could be significantly improved. Furthermore, the sound effects of constructing wind parks should be taken into account; driving the windmills into the seabed has been shown to cause unbearable noise for sea creatures. Floating wind parks or sinking off the mills are much more friendly to the surrounding marine ecosystem.

www.wur.nl/NL/nieuwsagenda/nieuws/wind090216.htm (Dutch)

www.wewur.wur.nl/popups/vcard.aspx?id=LINDE028 Site Prof. Lindeboom (Dutch)

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

–EVENTS AGENDA–

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:

www.coastalguide.org/meetings

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 date: Late Registration Until 13th of March '09

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

May 19th – 20th, 2009, Rome, Italy

European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference

In 2009 the European Commission, in partnership with the Italian Government, will host a European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference in Rome, Italy.

Moreover, the EC invite all interested parties to organise their own events around May 20, either at any location across Europe or alongside the stakeholder conference in Rome.

A draft programme is now available online

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/pdf/programme.pdf>

Participation in the conference is free of charge

More information available at http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/index_en.html

August 10th-14th, 2009, OZEANEUM /DMM, Stralsund, Germany

2nd International Conference on Progress in Marine Conservation in Europe 2009

The conference covers current marine nature conservation issues in Europe aimed at a wide range of participants such as policy makers, conservation managers, scientists and inter- and non-governmental organizations. This 2nd conference is the continuation of the successful initial conference in 2006 and offers a regular international forum for in-depth discussion of new and emerging issues in this field.

Attendance is limited to 250 participants.

Invited presentations of scientists, conservation managers, policy makers, IGOs and NGOs will focus on:

- Reviewing the current status of the implementation of European marine protected area networks with regard to the 2010 marine conservation aims;
- Assessing progress, success and problems encountered in the management of anthropogenic impacts and climate change;
- Discussing the necessary first steps towards meeting the biodiversity aims of the new European Marine Strategy Directive.

More information on the conference will be posted in due course on our website: www.habitatmare.de

September 30th- 2nd October, 2009, Santa Catarina, Brazil

9th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management CoastGIS'09

CoastGIS 2009 is the second time the Symposium will be held in the southern hemisphere after Australia, and it is the first time it is being held in South America. As a major event, the CoastGIS series attracts an international audience of coastal researchers, managers and practitioners who use one or more of the geospatial technologies. CoastGIS 2009 is a jointly organization of the Universidade do Vale do Itajaí (UNIVALI), the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, the Fundação Universidade do Rio Grande, the Universidade de São Paulo and the Associação Brasileira de Oceanografia (AOCEANO) and will be held at the coastal city of Itajaí, in southern Brazil.

Important Dates:

Abstracts Submission Closes: 30th April 2009

Acceptance Notification: 30th May 2009

Early Bird Registration Closes: 15th June 2009

Author Registration Closes: 30th August 2009

More information on the conference available at <http://www.coastgis.com.br/index.php>

November 10th-14th, 2009, Sochi, Russia**9th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment - MEDCOAST 09**

The conference moves for the first time in the history of the series to the shores of the Black Sea, to a very attractive town located at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains.

Topics of MEDCOAST 2009:

- Coastal Systems, Ecosystems, Conservation Issues
- Integrated Coastal Management
- Coastal Management Issues
- Sustainable Development of Coastal Areas
- Coastal Engineering, Modelling, Decision
- Support Systems and Data Management

They should be limited to single-spaced one page at the maximum, and list the names, titles, affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers, and e-mail addresses of each author.

Important dates:

Abstract submission: April 20, 2009

Abstracts should be limited to single-spaced one page at the maximum, and list the names, titles, affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers, and e-mail addresses of each author.

Acceptance notification: May 11, 2009

Manuscript submission: September 14, 2009

More information on the conference available at <http://www.medcoast.org.tr/>

December 14th-18th, 2009, Montpellier, France**The 4th European Conference on Coastal Lagoon Research, Research and Management for the Conservation of Coastal Lagoon Ecosystems, South - North comparisons - ECoCLR**

This conference will report on advancements in many different thematic areas of coastal lagoon research, e.g., biodiversity in lagoon ecosystems, conservation and valorization of natural heritage, biological adaptations of species to the gradients and environmental fluctuations that are characteristic for these transitional water ecosystems and their implications in aquaculture, environmental and socio-economic impact of sea level rise, etc. Comparative studies in different regions are very instructive for learning about unifying concepts, common features and particularities of the different coastal lagoon ecosystems and their socioeconomic importance.

Important dates:

Second announcement with call for Abstracts: 15 April 2009

Deadline for Abstract submission and early registration: 15 June 2009

www.ecolag.univ-montp2.fr/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=205&Itemid=128&lang=en

[Back to: - CONTENTS -](#)

- COLOPHON -

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