



# Eucc Coastal & Marine-News

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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.

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### 1. DANCORE - New Danish Branch of the Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)

DANCORE was created in 2006 as a national network for coastal research under the EU supported FP6 Coordination Action ENCORA. During the 3-year project, ENCORA managed to initiate 18 new national networks all with the purpose of strengthening collaboration and knowledge sharing between professionals working with issues related to the coastal zone. ENCORA has come to an end but DANCORE continues under the umbrella of the Coastal & Marine Union.

DANCORE is a national network for professionals working with issues related to the coastal and marine environments. The purpose of the network is to share knowledge and strengthen collaboration between scientists, environmentalists, site managers and planners. DANCORE has got 170 members from a broad range of institutions, agencies, universities and private companies.

DANCORE focuses on four themes, i.e. coastal processes, marine biology, oceanography & marine environment and ICZM & shoreline management.

DANCORE looks forward to a fruitful collaboration with the Coastal & Marine Union!

For more information visit our website at [www.dancore.dk](http://www.dancore.dk)

### 2. EUCC Centre for the Black Sea

In mid February 2009, the Black Sea Coastal Centre - BSCC was legally established in Constanta, Romania acting as a regional office for Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) in the Black Sea region. The main objective of the BSCC is to promote the marine and coastal policy in the Black Sea region, as an instrument to achieve sustainable development. The Centre will support the EUCC's activities in the Black Sea Region as well as developing new initiatives in cooperation with other environmental NGO's, research and academic organisations and governmental agencies. BSCC will play an important role in the Black Sea region in conducting research projects and studies and opening a wide range dialogue with the coastal and marine stakeholders for developing and implementing of the EU environmental marine policy. Moreover the BSCC will play an important role in public awareness and environmental education by disseminating useful and significant information about marine and coastal environment.

For more information contact Claudia Coman - Black Sea Coastal Centre at [ccblacksea@gmail.com](mailto:ccblacksea@gmail.com)

### 3. CAP Nador project reaches a successful end

CAP Nador partners and stakeholders met 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009 for the finalisation of the project at the tourist complex Mont Vert, Nador, Morocco. The Integrated Coastal Action Plans were presented to a wide audience, most of which already familiar with the project since they have been actively involved in the development of the integrated plans.

The CAP Nador project objectives have been fully achieved. Four ICZM action plans (one for each pilot site, and a general one addressing governance and strategic territorial vision) have been established and approved by major stakeholders, and some actions have already started to be implemented. One of the major successes of the project, together with the Province of Nador and the Ministry of Environment, has been to set a provincial Coastal Partnership (in French, Cellule du Littoral), which will coordinate the implementation of the action plans and generally promote ICZM in the Province of Nador. This structure gathers coastal related administrations, as well as representatives of the civil society and research organizations.

The action plans relate to several fields: traditional fisheries, conservation of the natural and cultural heritage, solid waste management, wastewater treatment, sustainable tourism, reinforcement of the agriculture sector, and coastal governance. The responsibility to implement the actions decided by a wide representation of stakeholders is now in the local actors' hands. However, the seed has been planted, some actions are already in the pipeline and there is a strong collective commitment.

After presenting the project results, attendants enjoyed the closing party with Moroccan food, theatre and music.

On behalf of the CAP Nador partnership we acknowledge the efforts and positive achievements of the project and wish all the best with the challenges of the future implementation phase!

The full document with the ICZM Action Plans and the executive summary of the Action Plans is available at: [www.eucc.net/en/capnador/index.htm](http://www.eucc.net/en/capnador/index.htm)

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## - CLIMATE CHANGE -

### **4. Adapting to Climate Change – the EU is preparing for the impact to come**

In early April 2009 the European Commission presented a White Paper which presents the framework for adaptation measures and policies to reduce the European Union's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

Decisions on how best to adapt to climate change must be based on solid scientific and economic analysis. It is therefore important to increase the understanding of climate change and the impacts it will have. The White Paper outlines the need to create a Clearing House Mechanism by 2011 where information on climate change risks, impacts and best practices would be exchanged between governments, agencies, and organisations working on adaptation policies.

Since the impacts of climate change will vary by region - with coastal and mountain areas and flood plains particularly vulnerable – many of the adaptation measures will need to be carried out nationally or regionally. The role of the European Union will be to support and complement these efforts through an integrated and coordinated approach, particularly in cross-border issues and policies which are highly integrated at EU level.

Adapting to climate change will be integrated into all EU policies and will feature prominently in the Union's external policies to assist those countries most affected.

[EC EU Climate Adaptation Paper](#)

### **5. Climate scenarios 'being realised'**

The worst-case scenarios on climate change envisaged by the UN two years ago are already being realised, said scientists at an international meeting at Copenhagen March 10-12. In a statement, they gave six key messages to political leaders, saying there is an increasing risk of abrupt or irreversible climate shifts. Even modest temperature rises will affect millions of people, particularly in the developing world, they warn. But, they say, most tools needed to cut carbon dioxide emissions already exist. More than 2,500 researchers and economists attended this meeting designed to update the world on the state of climate research ahead of key political negotiations set for December this year. New data was presented in Copenhagen on sea level rise, which indicated that the best estimates of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made two years ago were woefully out of date. Scientists heard that waters could rise by over a metre across the world with huge impacts for hundreds of millions of people. The scientists hope that their conclusions will remove any excuses from the political process.

[BBC Science & Environment News March 12 2009](#)

### **6. EU: Earth not to warm above 2°C**

Officials from 175 nations met in Bonn, Germany, for 11 days of negotiations lasting until April 8 on a new U.N. climate treaty due to be agreed in December. The European Union, many developing nations and environmental groups say 2°C above pre-industrial levels is the maximum to avoid the worst of rising sea levels, floods, droughts or heat waves. Temperatures are already up 0.7°C.

An alliance of 43 small island developing states, who fear being swamped, want temperatures limited to an even tougher goal of below 1.5°C. They say rich nations should sharply cut greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from burning fossil fuels. Removal of manmade sun-blocking smoke under clean air laws may add a 1°C rise while oceans will warm further under a lag effect, underscoring how near the 2°C limit is already.

Global warming is likely to overshoot a 2°C rise seen by the European Union and many developing nations as a trigger for "dangerous" change, a Reuters poll of scientists showed on April 7. Nine of 11 experts, who were among authors of the final summary by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2007 (IPCC), also said the evidence that mankind was to blame for climate change had grown stronger in the past two years. Giving personal views of recent research, most projected on average a faster melt of summer ice in the Arctic and a quicker rise in sea levels than estimated in the 2007 report, the most authoritative overview to date drawing on work by 2,500 experts.

[Planet Ark World Environment News April 8 2009](#)

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## - BIODIVERSITY -

### 7. Tidal wave of trash threatens world oceans

A tidal wave of man-made rubbish is threatening world oceans, damaging wildlife, tourism and seafood industries and piling additional stress on seas already hit by climate change, conservationists said on March 10. A report by U.S.-based Ocean Conservancy detailed what it called a "global snapshot of marine debris" based on itemized records of rubbish collected by nearly 400,000 volunteers in 104 countries and places in a single day in September 2008. Close to 3.2 million kg of trash was collected from oceans, lakes, rivers and waterways in the 2008 cleanup, the group said in its report *A Rising Tide of Ocean Debris and What We Can Do About It*.

It warned of a "tidal wave of ocean debris," calling it a major pollution problem of the 21st century. Thousands of animals, including marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds and others, choked or were poisoned each year by eating rubbish, or drowned when they became entangled in bags, ropes and old fishing gear. Ocean Conservancy said its next International Coastal Cleanup would be held around the world on September 19.

[Planet Ark World Environment News March 11 2009](#)

The report on [www.oceanconservancy.org/pdf/A\\_Rising\\_Tide\\_full\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/pdf/A_Rising_Tide_full_lowres.pdf)

### 8. 'Coral lab' offers acidity insight

Carbon dioxide emissions from human activities are acidifying the oceans and threaten a mass extinction of sea life, a top ocean scientist warns. Dr Carol Turley from Plymouth Marine Laboratory says it is impossible to know how marine life will cope, but she fears many species will not survive. Since the Industrial Revolution, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have already turned the sea about 30% more acidic, say researchers. It is more acidic now than it has been for at least 500,000 years, they add. The problem is set to worsen as emissions of the greenhouse gas increase through the 21st Century. The problem is most acute for creatures which make calcified shells. Laboratory tests suggest starfish may be wiped out before the end of the century if current emissions trends continue. Scientists fear mussels may not be able to cope, either. Oysters may be less vulnerable, and farmed oysters may fare better than wild oysters.

However, Professor Andy Watson, an ocean biologist from the University of East Anglia, believes climate change and over fishing may ruin the seas before acidification does. He condemns increases in CO<sub>2</sub> from human activities, but points out that ocean acidity also fluctuates naturally. He also wonders if some creatures might adapt to the changes over time.

[BBC Science & Environment News March 11 2009](#)

### 9. Publication: State of the World's Oceans

This book provides a contemporary overview of the world's oceans. It identifies and describes the various problems which continue to threaten environmental quality and biodiversity, ranging from overfishing to the complex changes which could take place as a result of global climate change. The book is based upon the latest published scientific information and draws upon the considerable experience of Greenpeace. It also outlines the ways in which the foundations and building blocks for clean, healthy and bio-diverse seas can be provided, especially through the development of a global network of marine reserves.

By Michelle Allsopp et al (2009, 256 pp.). Springer-Verlag, P.O. Box 105280, 69042, Heidelberg, Germany. Fax: +49 6221/345-4229. Web: [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com) Email: [SCSC-books@springer.com](mailto:SCSC-books@springer.com) . ISBN 978 1 4020 9115 5. Price: 56.66 euro.

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## - FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE -

### 10. European Commission urges fishing cuts

The EU has far too many fishing boats, and major cuts are needed to make fishing sustainable, according to the European Commission.

The commission's green paper on Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform published on April 22 also says fishermen should be given more responsibility for managing stocks.

The report states 30% of EU fish stocks are beyond safe limits. It says member states "micro-manage" decisions for political reasons. Despite major reforms in 2002, it concludes, the reality for EU fish and fishermen consists of "over fishing, fleet overcapacity, heavy subsidies, low economic resilience and decline in the volume of fish caught". Eighty-eight percent of EU stocks are fished beyond their maximum sustainable yield - the highest catch that can be maintained over an indefinite period - and for some, such as North Sea cod, the vast majority of fish are caught before they have reproduced.

[BBC Science & Environment News 21 April 2009](#)  
[Green Paper on Common Fisheries Policy Reform](#)

### 11. Deep water fish decline concerns

Deep sea fishing in the north east Atlantic could be harming fish stocks below the reach of the deepest nets, a long-term study has revealed. It showed a decline in fish numbers as deep as 2,500m, almost a kilometre below the reach of the deepest commercial nets. Researchers from Glasgow University said it could be that young fish living in shallower water were being caught. This could be having a knock-on affect on adult populations, they said. The scientists were surprised to discover that fish numbers had declined as deep as 2,500m when commercial trawling usually extends to only 1,600m.

[BBC Science & Environment News April 11 2009](#)  
[Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences March 11 2009](#) Abstract

### 12. Over fishing to wipe out bluefin tuna: WWF

Over fishing will wipe out the breeding population of Atlantic bluefin tuna, one of the ocean's largest and fastest predators, in three years unless catches are dramatically reduced, WWF said on April 14. As European fishing fleets prepare to begin the two-month Mediterranean fishing season, WWF said its analysis showed the bluefin tuna that spawn - those aged four years and older - will have disappeared by 2012 at current rates. Environmental groups condemned an agreement signed in November by states setting bluefin quotas - a body dominated by EU members. The groups called it "a disaster" and "a disgrace," saying the states again chose to ignore their own scientists and set quotas 47 percent higher than recommended. Growing numbers of restaurants and retailers including Carrefour's Italian supermarkets are boycotting it. WWF said that analysis of official data showed the average size of mature tunas had more than halved since the 1990s and that this has had a disproportionately high impact since bigger fish produced many more offspring. The bluefin can only be saved by a complete halt to fishing in May and June as the fish rush through the Straits of Gibraltar to spawn in the Mediterranean.

[Planet Ark World Environment News April 14 2009](#)

### 13. Shark fins protection EU welcomed

European Plans for new curbs on the practice of removing fins from live sharks have been welcomed by wildlife campaigners. EU countries are the main exporter of shark fins to China, where they are used to make shark-fin soup. An EU Council of Ministers meeting in Brussels on April 23 drew up an action plan on "finning" - cutting fins off the living shark and dumping the low-value carcass at sea - which results in the deaths of the sharks. UK Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead said the to the BBC plans for Scottish waters went further, only giving permission for shark finning in exceptional circumstances. In Scotland, fishermen now can still apply for a special permit, which allows them to catch the fish, cut off their fins while they're conscious, and then throw the carcass, which is worth next to nothing, back into the ocean. Environment groups claimed current legislation on finning was not strict enough.

#### Shark Fins

[BBC Science & Environment News April 26 2009](#)  
[Council Conclusions on proposed EU Action plan for Conservation and Management of Sharks](#)

### 14. EU reaches Baltic fishing deal with Russia

European fishing fleets will gain new access to Russia's Baltic Sea waters and vice-versa after the EU signed a six-year fisheries deal with Moscow on April 28, the Czech presidency announced. The accord also aims to protect fish stocks in the Baltic, where EU vessels bring in around €500m/yr. The restrictions rule out fishing in some areas, limit fishing fleets' days at sea and define the mesh-size of nets to avoid gathering fish unfit for eating.

[Planet Ark World Environment News April 29 2009](#)

## **-COASTAL MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH-**

### **15. CONSCIENCE expertise at the Rossbeigh sand spit**

The CONSCIENCE project – Concepts and Science for coastal erosion management has reached another important milestone in its lifetime. At the occasion of its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual workshop the project team joined together in Cork (Ireland) to share and report the latest developments and research findings. They actively participated in a field trip to the Kerry Coast, in particular to the recently affected by storm sand spit at Rossbeigh and the Inch beach, the Irish study site of the project. The Rossbeigh sand spit, has now a breach that has widened up to 500m from December when the two-mile spit first split at its tip and a new island created. The CONSCIENCE group of experts have visited the area, learned about the situation, discussed it and advised the Kerry Council engineer Éamon Scanlon. In conclusion what is happening in this sand spit is a natural process and if measures are to be taken the options of sand beach nourishment and preservation of the sand dune belt should be considered above all other structural defences.

Further developments of the project will soon be made available at the project website [www.conscience-eu.net/](http://www.conscience-eu.net/) , which is being updated.

Finally, a final public event of the project, including the participation of end-users is being planned to take place in 8th -12th February 2010, in Las Palmas, Canary Island. Further details will be provided in due time.

### **16.COASTAL WIKI – your information gateway online**

The Coastal Wiki - short name for Coastal and Marine Wikipedia - is an Internet encyclopaedia providing up-to-date high quality information for coastal professionals, which is continuously improved, complemented and updated by expert users. The Coastal Wiki is an excellent place to share your ideas and learn from others. Need to find specific coastal and marine related information? If you want to learn about the most recent additions to the Wiki, please check "This month's featured article". Have a look at [www.coastalwiki.org/](http://www.coastalwiki.org/)

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## **-MARITIME POLICY AND SPATIAL PLANNING-**

### **17.Energy, pollution at heart of EU's Baltic Sea plan**

Countries around the Baltic Sea could one day be linked by huge power cables, guarded by integrated border police, with coordinated fishing fleets overseen by a Baltic Coastguard, a draft document shows. The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will be launched in June and will be a priority for Sweden, which will take the helm of the EU's rotating presidency from July. Among its many challenges are the heavy pollution of the Baltic by fertilisers and human waste, its isolation from European energy supplies and the huge disparity between rich countries like Sweden and Denmark and neighbours to the east. At the heart of the Baltic's problems are its stagnant waters, often uninhabitable for fish due to the rampant growth of algae, nourished on detergents, poorly treated sewage and fertiliser run-off from farms. Many of the projects will be covered by existing funding, such as a €4 billion plan agreed this month to bolster the EU's energy interconnections from 2010. Sweden estimates the benefits from tackling nutrient pollution could reach €2 billion a year due to improved fishing and tourism. European Commission experts are in the early stages of developing a series of measures to tackle the problem. [Planet Ark World Environment News March 30 2009](#)

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## –EVENTS AGENDA–

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

### **May 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.

The rich programme of the conference joins high level political participation with workshops with a high level of stakeholder involvement. The full programme is available online at

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

Participation in the conference is free of charge. Registration online at

### **June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, Brussels, Belgium**

#### **Green Week Conference 2009 – Climate Change: act and adapt**

Green Week 2009 is structured on four themes: EU climate policies, International dimension, Living with climate change and, 2050 Vision: a carbon-free society. There will be eight sessions on each theme. The sessions are numbered by theme. During the conference all sessions will be streamed live on the conference site.

The full programme is available online at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html>

### **July 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, S. Miguel, Azores (Portugal)**

#### **Workshop on key principles for maritime spatial planning**

Organised in close cooperation with the University of the Azores and OSPAR and supported by the Regional government of the Azores as well as other European Regional Sea Conventions.

Key principles to be discussed as follows: cross-border cooperation (in eco-region), incorporating monitoring and evaluation; strong data and knowledge base; coordination within Member States - simplifying decision processes; developing MSP in a transparent manner.

This workshop will also discuss the interrelations between Maritime Spatial Planning and the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Registration for the workshop is only possible through a specific website set up by University of the Azores. Please note that registration is obligatory.

[http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/msp/020709/programme\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/msp/020709/programme_en.pdf)

### **July 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Amsterdam**

#### **People and the Sea V: 'Living with uncertainty and adapting to change'**

The 2009 conference is the fifth in the series and builds on previous conference outcomes that have clearly placed the capabilities of social sciences on the agenda of wider maritime interests. This conference bridges several debates on coastal change and questions how people, around the globe, are tackling the challenge of living with uncertain futures and adapting, or not, to a myriad of changes. In recent years, the inclusion of a specially organized policy day as part of the conference has facilitated even greater influence on maritime policy at an international level.

Programme available online at [www.marecentre.nl/people\\_and\\_the\\_sea\\_5/index.html](http://www.marecentre.nl/people_and_the_sea_5/index.html)

### **September 24<sup>th</sup> –25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Palma de Mallorca (Balearic Islands, Spain)CONFERENCE**

**ECOMEDITERRÁNEA: Towards A Sustainable Management of Mediterranean Sea**, This conference is organized by Conselleria of Environment of the Illes Balears, will address key topics related to Mediterranean Sea such as the management of the sea and the coastal areas, the water, the residuals, the tourism and the urban development, the energy, the climatic change, governance, among others.

Organization contacts: Instituto para la Sostenibilidad de los Recursos (ISR)

e-mail: [secretaria.actos@isrcer.org](mailto:secretaria.actos@isrcer.org) ; [www.isrcer.org](http://www.isrcer.org)

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Hammamet, Tunisia**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Coastal & Maritime Mediterranean Conference**

This special conference is a follow up of the Journées Nationales de Génie Côtier – Génie Civil planned by the Centre Français du Littoral, but with a stress on corporation activity and intended for both French-speaking and non French speaking Mediterranean countries.

**Important Date:**

Registration deadline: May 15 2009

[www.paralia.fr/tempor/Hammamet2009-n1-english.pdf](http://www.paralia.fr/tempor/Hammamet2009-n1-english.pdf) (in English)

[www.paralia.fr/conference\\_mediterraneenne\\_cotiere\\_et\\_maritime\\_828.htm](http://www.paralia.fr/conference_mediterraneenne_cotiere_et_maritime_828.htm) (in French)

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**- COLOPHON -**

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