

EUCC Coastal News

No 5
May – June 2005

EUCC Coastal News is a monthly newsletter published by EUCC - The Coastal Union for its members and for the press. Readers and Network members (only entitled to newsletters) are encouraged to join the EUCC as a Private or Professional member. Members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in www.eucc.net/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions, please contact: news at coastalguide.org (apologies for anti-spam code).

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Network Members and readers who now pay their fees for 5 years (total of € 20) will be provided membership discounts to EUCC conferences and events also in 2006.

Please use the attached [Response and Payment Form](#).

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– **EUCC News** –

1. The first international conference on Nature Restoration Practices in European coastal habitats: 'Dunes & Estuaries 2005'

For those who haven't registered yet for 'Dunes & Estuaries 2005', it is becoming high tide! Participants should be registered prior to 30 June 2005. EUCC members will get a reduction on the registration costs. Meanwhile the organizers are glad to experience a wide interest for the programme of this unique European conference and are working hard to complete an abstract book and full proceedings at the start of the event in September.

The number of nature restoration- and development initiatives in dunes, estuaries and beaches along Europe's coasts is rising, ranging from small isolated projects to large-scale integrated programmes. The way the plans are conceived, scientifically underpinned, carried out and monitored varies enormously. Planners, managers, scientists and the final users of these nature restoration projects all have every reason to learn from each other and exchange ideas and practical experience. In order to achieve this, the Nature Division of the Ministry of the Flemish Community (AMINAL-Nature Division), the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), the municipality of Koksijde and the Coastal Union (EUCC) organize the international conference 'Dunes & Estuaries 2005' at Koksijde (Belgium) from 19 till 23 September 2005. In order to maximize contact between participants and the exchange of practical information, the conference includes two half-day excursions and two blocks of three (parallel) thematic, besides a wide spectrum of invited papers, plenary oral presentations and poster presentations. More information: <http://www.vliz.be/de2005>.

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2. Constraints to the Implementation of IMCAM (ICZM) and How They Can be Overcome.

The EUCC has written a paper on the constraints to the implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management and how they may be overcome. It is to be presented to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal in July. The paper, prepared under the aegis of the CBD and the Coastal Zone Management Centre, Netherlands, makes several recommendations for implementation which would help overcome some of the six major groups of impediments generally recognised. The paper uses four case studies from Tanzania, Sri Lanka, the UK and Belize as examples. The work was funded by DG – Water. A fuller report will follow after the meeting has taken place.

For more information, please contact Alan Pickaver (a.pickaver at eucc.net) , but please note that the text of the document cannot, at this time, be circulated.

3. EUCC Joins Forces with the Coastal Resources Centre, Rhode Island, to Deliver an ICARM Marker Set for UNEP.

Following on from the successful development of an Indicator Set to measure the implementation of ICZM¹, the EUCC has teamed up with the Coastal Resources Centre, Rhode Is. to produce a Marker Set to measure the progress in the implementation of Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management for UNEP's Global Plan of Action.

In Rhode Island, the methodology developed by Stephen Olsen² to measure four Orders of Outcomes as a means of measuring progress in implementing ICZM was successfully combined with the methodology developed by EUCC³. The resulting Marker Set for measuring the implementation of River Basin Management will be presented⁴ to the inaugural LOICZ Open Science Meeting (Egmond, Netherlands, June 27-29). It will be further discussed at the UNEP/GPA ICARM Group of Experts Meeting on June 30th. This work is part of a larger project sponsored by UNEP/GPA in which EUCC is supporting their programme to promote the management link of river basins and adjacent coastal areas. EUCC will also produce a Case Book consisting of a series (up to 25) of case studies demonstrating issues, benefits and

¹ The EUCC in conjunction with ETC-TE under the auspices of the EU's Working Group on Indicators and Data.

² S Olsen Frameworks and Indicators for assessing progress in integrated coastal management initiatives. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 2003; 46; 347-361.

³ A. H. Pickaver, C. Gilbert & F. Breton. An indicator set to measure the progress in the implementation of integrated coastal zone management in Europe. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 2004; 47; 449-462.

⁴ A.H.Pickaver, S. Olsen, E. Torrell and G. Ricci. A Marker Set to Measure the Progress in the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Area & River Basin Management (ICARM).

problems of an integrated approach. It is intended that EUCC will present these results at the 2nd inter-governmental review in Beijing in November 2006.

More information is available from Alan Pickaver, a.pickaver at eucc.net (Marker Set) and Dianeetha Sadacharan, d.sadacharan at eucc.net (case studies), although text, at this time, cannot be distributed.

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4. English Spam Campaign Irritation to EUCC and EUROCOAST Members

Probably thousands of EUCC and EUROCOAST members have been receiving e-mails from an English coastal network urging them to become their member instead. Many of them were not pleased, especially those that were approached twice. Albert Salman, who also received the mail twice - as did several EUCC-staff members, summarises the complaints: "This reminds many people to the time when EUROCOAST and EUCC were involved in a silly rivalry, preventing engineers from talking to ecologists. Everybody is happy that the two European networks are now collaborating in the interest of the whole coastal community. If we tell coastal stakeholders that they should all collaborate and join an ICZM approach, how can people create new competition between networks and preach like vicars?" People also consider the mails as spam, no wonder since we are all overwhelmed with commercial people selling pills, videos and software...

Needless to say that EUCC rejects spamming. EUCC investigates how the English network collected the e-mail addresses and whether spamming in England is allowed. Albert Salman: "According to EUCC's privacy policy we do not disseminate members' information nor send e-mails to non-members to sell or recruit new members. People should simply join a network because it provides real services to members, not by aggressive campaigns. Moreover, spam is considered illegal in the Netherlands. It is a pity that this is still possible in England".

5. E-mail Newsletters in Other Languages? Other Membership Services? Please Tell Us!

As from June it will be possible for you to only receive the Contents of EUCC Coastal News in an e-mail whilst the newsletter can be downloaded from our website. If you prefer this option please use the attached [Response and Payment Form](#).

EUCC is also evaluating the interest for electronic newsletters in other languages, in addition to our editions in English, French, German, Polish, Spanish and Dutch. If you would be interested please let us know through the attached Response and Payment Form.

Any other suggestions for membership services or facilities are also welcome!

– Coastal & Climate Change –

6. Coupled Ocean Atmospheric Processes and European Climate

There was a final meeting and presentation of results on May 24th and May 25th, 2005 at Regent's College, London on the Coupled Ocean Atmospheric Processes and European Climate (COAPEC). This meeting marked the end of the COAPEC science programme funded by the UK Natural Environment Research Council, and a presentation of the main findings of the research. This research is relevant as research and modelling on natural climate variability in coastal and marine areas of Europe, this preliminary understanding being necessary to further understand the additional anthropogenic impact of climate change upon Europe. The programme of the meeting, including speakers and presentations, as well as underlying research is available from the COAPEC website <http://www.soc.soton.ac.uk/coapec/>.

By: *Magdalena Ariadne Kim Muir*

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7. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was initiated under the United Nations, involved over 1,360 scientists from 95 countries, and assesses the consequences of ecosystem change for human well being, and to establish a scientific basis for actions required to enhance conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems. The Biodiversity Synthesis was just released, and is a synthesis and integration of findings on biodiversity under 4 working groups (Conditions and Trends, Scenarios, Responses, and Sub-global Assessments).

The Millennium Assessment developed four plausible future scenarios, and under these scenarios found rates of biodiversity change are projected to continue or accelerate. There were a number of key messages from the Biodiversity Synthesis, some of which have direct impact for the coastal zone and climate change. The most important direct drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem change are habitat change (such as physical modifications or water withdrawal from rivers, lost of coral reefs, damage to sea floors due to trawling), climate change, invasive species, overexploitation and pollution.

For anthropogenic climate change, observed recent changes in climate already have had significant impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, including causing changes in species distribution, population sizes, the time of reproduction or migration events, and increase in frequency of pest and disease outbreaks. Coral reefs are discussed in the synthesis as one example as an ecosystem that have

undergone major, though partially reversible, bleaching when local sea surface temperatures increased by .5 to 1 degree C above the average of the hottest month.

The Millennium Assessment found that the balance of scientific evidence suggests that there will be significant net harmful impact on ecosystems and the services they provide if the global mean surface temperature increases more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, or at rates greater than 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade. By the end of the 21Cth, climate change and its impacts might be the dominant driver of biodiversity loss and change in ecosystems and their services.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well Being- Biodiversity Synthesis World Resources Institute, Washington, D.C.

By: *Magdalena Ariadne Kim Muir*

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8. Warmer Waters 'Drive Fish North'

Many fish species in the North Sea are steadily moving northwards to escape warming waters, researchers report. Commercially important fish such as cod, whiting and anglerfish have shifted significantly north, while some other species moved to colder depths. Scientists warn in Science magazine that some fish may disappear from the North Sea by 2050. They say commercial fisheries will have to take account of global warming as well as dwindling fish stocks. "Some of these species are already depleted and this is yet another challenge that they face," Allison Perry, of the University of East Anglia, told the BBC News website. Dr Perry and her team have studied data on 36 species of fish going back to the 1970s. Of those species, 21 have moved northwards, some by hundreds of kilometres. Since the 70s, the average winter temperature at the bottom of the North Sea has risen by around one degree Celsius, and the researchers believe that rise, which they say is attributable to global warming, is forcing populations to shift. In some cases, this relocation might be a mere inconvenience for fishermen, but in others it could prove very dangerous for the fish. The main problem is that marine species are shifting at different rates. So some predatory fish might be migrating north, while their prey stay put; and likewise other species might be unable to move even though their habitat is becoming more and more unsuitable for them.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4541429.stm>

9. Climate Change Could Crowd Middle of Europe

The middle of Europe could become crowded by "climate change refugees" escaping a thawing Arctic and Mediterranean droughts, the Head of the European Environment Agency (EEA) said recently.

Indigenous peoples in the Arctic say global warming is a threat to their culture because it melts the ice on which their hunts of seals or polar bears depend. And some scientific models indicate southern Europe may get drier. "I do see even within the confines of Europe from the Mediterranean to the Arctic there is enough momentum to consider we will have 'climate change refugees'," said Jacqueline McGlade, executive director of the EEA, an arm of the European Union. "The difficulties are going to be when the northern people are moving away because permafrost (hard-frozen ground) is melting and southern people are moving up because of drought. They (are) all going to end up in the middle," she told a news conference. The panel of scientists that advises the United Nations projects world temperatures are likely to rise by 1.4 to 5.8C by 2100, triggering more frequent floods, droughts, melting icecaps and driving thousands of species to extinction.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30908/story.htm>

10. Coastal Cities May be Abandoned as Salt Water Invades

The water supplies of dozens of major cities around the world are at risk from a previously ignored aspect of global warming. Within the next few decades rising sea levels will pollute underground water reserves with salt. Long before the rising tides flood coastal cities, salt water will invade the porous rocks that hold fresh water. Underground water is the largest reserve of fresh water on the planet; more than 2 billion people depend on it, including the world's rural poor and many of the world's mega cities, including Mumbai, Bangkok, Jakarta, and Karachi. Salt water is already invading these supplies. As sea levels rise, the invasion will accelerate leaving some cities "at risk of abandonment, according to the International Association of Hydro-geologists, which organised a meeting at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK. The conference highlighted that the fate of underground water was one of the least-studied effects of climate change.

Source: New Scientist, 16 April 2005

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11. Oceans Are Hiding Climate Time Bomb

The Earth is storing up trouble by absorbing more energy from the sun than it is emitting back into space. And most of this excess energy input is warming the oceans. That is the conclusion of Jim Hansen, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, which developed a computer model of the energy imbalance in the Earth's atmosphere. This imbalance is mainly down to greenhouse gases building up in the atmosphere which trap infrared radiation and prevent it from dissipating into space.

Regardless whether more greenhouse gases are added to the atmosphere or not, Hansen's calculations show that the Earth is due for about 0.6° C of global warming. Any global warming in excess of 1° C could trigger runaway melting of the world's ice sheets and sea levels rising by many metres. The Earth already has more than half that amount of warming "in the pipeline", even if we stop emitting greenhouse gases today.

Source: New Scientist, 7 May 2005

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12. China Warns of Danger of Melting Everest Glaciers

Global warming is shrinking glaciers on the Tibet side of Mount Everest faster than ever, putting world water supplies at risk. Chinese scientists researching the world's tallest peak, which China refers to by its Tibetan name, "Qomolangma", had found clear evidence of increasing glacial melting. Around 75 percent of the world's fresh water is stored in glacial ice, much of it in mountain areas, allowing for heavy winter rain and snowfall to be released gradually into river networks throughout the summer or dry months. The Chinese scientists had found the melting point of one Everest glacier had risen around 50 metres (165 ft) in just two years, more than twice as fast as normal, while a huge, high-altitude ice cliff seen in 2002 had apparently disappeared, it said. Scientists say global warming could drive the average global temperature up by 1.4-5.8 degrees Celsius over the next 100 years, which would cause glaciers to retreat and oceans to rise and swamp low-lying areas around the world.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30845/story.htm>

– Ecological Networks – EECNET –

13. Whales 'Led Astray by Magnetism'

Increased solar activity causing disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field may cause whales to run aground in the North Sea, researchers suggest. Analysis of whales stranded between 1712 and 2003 shows that more are stranded when solar activity is high. Writing in the Journal of Sea Research, scientists propose that whales use the Earth's magnetic field to assist navigation like homing pigeons do. As the Sun disrupts the magnetic field whales can become confused, they say. The Sun goes through a cycle with an average length of about 11 years, though individual cycle lengths have ranged from eight to 17 years. Some evidence exists to suggest that shorter cycles produce a higher flux of radiation from the Sun. Dr Klaus Vanselow and colleagues from the University of Kiel have analysed the lengths of solar cycles and have found that 87 of the 97 reported sperm whale strandings over the past 300 years in the North Sea region occurred when the length of the Sun's activity cycle was below average. They argue that whales may be like pigeons and dolphins in having a magnetic sense based on small crystals of magnetite found in certain cells. Pigeons use such cells to sense the Earth's magnetic field to help in their navigation. Pigeon enthusiasts are well aware that the birds can go astray during times of high solar activity, when disturbances in the magnetic field confuse them.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4538959.stm>

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14. Australia Rallies to the Defence of its Humpbacks in the Face of Japanese Cull

The first humpbacks of the season could be seen frolicking off a Sydney beach this week, but if Japan gets its way, the whales could soon be slaughtered for "scientific" reasons. Tokyo wants to add 50 humpbacks a year to its harvest, and is lobbying members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ahead of a meeting in South Korea in June 2005. The species is considered endangered, and is on a list of protected whales. Thousands of humpbacks and southern right whales migrate up Australia's east coast from Antarctica during the southern hemisphere winter, heading for warm waters off Queensland where they breed. Whale watching is popular among locals and tourists, and tabloid newspapers have condemned Japan for targeting "Aussie whales". The Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, took the unusual step this week of intervening personally in a dispute that threatens to affect diplomatic relations. He wrote to his Japanese counterpart, Junichiro Koizumi, urging him to abandon plans to double the nation's catch of minke whales as well as adding two new species to its shopping list: humpbacks and fin whales. Mr Koizumi has yet to reply, but senior Japanese officials made clear he has no intention of bowing to foreign pressure. Jiro Kodera, deputy chief of mission at the Japanese embassy in Canberra, said in an interview: "there is no such thing as an Australian whale". Joji Marishita, Japan's head of whaling negotiations, accused Mr Howard of being ill-informed about the science of whaling. "The only way to solve this difficult issue is not to inflate the emotional side," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "We should look at science and international law." Mr Morishita said Australians would object to being ordered to stop eating kangaroo, which some outside the country might consider "barbaric".

The IWC imposed a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986, but Japan circumvents it by claiming that its annual hunt - in which 400 minke whales are killed - is conducted for scientific purposes. The whale meat, considered a delicacy in Japan, ends up in shops and gourmet restaurants. The Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, told parliament this week that the government would enlist support from

anti-whaling countries before the IWC meeting. "While [whale] stock numbers remain under threat, it's clear Japan's whaling programme cannot be described as science," he said. Japan, which is Australia's largest export destination, has been lobbying small IWC nations such as the Solomon Islands in an effort to secure support.

http://www.ezilon.com/information/article_4967.shtml

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15. Dolphins and Whale Killed by Driftnet off Greek Coast

Fishermen off Greece's Aegean island of Samothraki have recently found 13 dead dolphins and a small whale in an illegal driftnet. The 1 km (0.6 mile) net was pulled into the island's port because of fears it could damage ships' propellers. "There were 13 dead dolphins, a shark, a whale and some tuna that had been caught in the net which some fisherman irresponsibly just dumped in the sea. Island authorities believe the net was abandoned by Turkish fishermen and have launched an investigation.

Driftnets, also known as "walls of death" because of their size and their indiscriminate catch of small and large fish, have been banned by the European Union. Samothraki lies only a few kilometres off the western Turkish coast. Authorities said they believed the net was Turkish because its floaters contained Turkish batteries not sold in Greece.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30910/story.htm>

16. Salmon Farm Escapees Threaten Wild Cousins

A quarter of salmon in seas off Norway are escapees from fish farms, threatening the survival of their wild cousins in a cautionary tale for fish farmers worldwide. About half of all wild Atlantic salmon are born in Norwegian rivers, with lesser populations of the prized fish from Scotland to the United States. Fish farm breakouts in recent years are adding to threats ranging from pollution to dams. Around half a million farmed fish, both salmon and trout, escape from fish farms in Norway every year. Fugitive farmed fish, which make up about a quarter of salmon caught in seas off Norway and 9 of 10 in some fjords, compete for food and can spread parasites to wild fish. When farmed fish mate with wild cousins, the hybrids dilute the genetic pool of up to 400 races of salmon in Norway's rivers. In turn, that could make the overall species less resistant to disease

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30767/story.htm>

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17. Up to 5% of Farmed Salmon Deformed

Up to five percent of farmed Atlantic salmon in the world's top producer Norway suffer deformities perhaps linked to growing too fast or pollution. Deformities - often a curved spine because young farmed fishes' flesh can grow too fast for their skeletons- also affect fish in other nations and other farmed species like rainbow trout or sea bream in pens from Norway to Chile. Reasons for the deformities were unknown but could include an imbalance of minerals in feed, polluted water, cramped pens or the wrong temperatures for water. In some tanks for young fish, water is kept warmer than in the sea to promote faster muscle growth than in the wild as part of a bid to shorten the time to slaughter. With abundant food, the warm water may contribute to a bent spine as the pink flesh grows faster than the bones.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30743/story.htm>

Another EECNET related item in this newsletter: **Warmer Waters 'Drive Fish North'** (item 5)

– EU News and Initiatives –

18. EU Lawmakers Want 2011 Deadline for Cleaner Beaches

Europe should clean up beaches and apply tougher water pollution checks by 2011, a European Parliament committee said at the end of April, bringing forward the proposed deadline by four years. The initiative is part of an EU drive to raise water quality standards and reduce the risk of swimmers catching stomach bugs or respiratory illnesses from bathing in water polluted with human sewage and animal waste. EU lawmakers are also urging the 25-nation bloc to devise an emergency plan to clean up after major pollution accidents. Several EU governments want to keep the original 2015 date for meeting the higher water standards.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30749/story.htm>

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19. EU Bathing Water: Coastal Water Quality Better than Inland

The Commission recently presented its annual report on the quality of bathing water. The report offers information about the quality of water millions of Europeans swim in each summer. Last year the vast majority of bathing sites were deemed safe by virtue of complying with the standards of the 1976 Bathing Water Directive. However, inland waters did not fare so well. While 96.7% of coastal sites met the standards, compliance at inland bathing sites such as lakes and rivers has worsened, with one in ten not up to standard. For more information visit:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/614&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The EU Bathing Water Directive[1] lays down two sets of bathing water quality standards: minimum imperative values, with which compliance is mandatory, and stricter guide values, with which compliance is desirable but not obligatory. Member States are required to monitor the water quality in their designated bathing areas through regular sampling during the season and to report the results to the European Commission. An overview of the situation in individual Member States during the 2004 season can be found at:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/05/175&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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20. EU Urges Tougher Penalties for Illegal Fishing

Fines for illegal fishing in Europe are a drop in the ocean, the European Union's executive Commission said, urging states to punish those who flout the rules by suspending their fishing licences instead. Fishermen paid 28.7 million euros in penalties for breaking the law and over-fishing in 2003, the Commission said. But fines represented just 0.004 percent of the value of fish landed at ports in 2002, it added. The EU sets annual fishing quotas in a bid to protect endangered species such as cod but also to ensure the survival of the fishing industry. There were 9,502 breaches of EU fishing rules in 2003, the European Commission said in its annual report, up approximately 41 percent from the previous year. But the Commission said these figures should be treated with caution given the sketchy data provided by EU governments. Spain, Italy and Portugal, which have the bloc's largest fleets, reported the most breaches of fishing law in 2003. Fines for illegal fishing vary hugely across the 25-nation bloc, from 375 euros in Belgium to 19,255 euros in Britain.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/31029/story.htm>

21. EC Launches a 5-Year Work Programme to Reinforce Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The EC proposes that a precise timetable should be agreed in 2006 with Mediterranean Partners on the adoption of measures leading to a thorough de-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by 2020. The Communication to the Council and Parliament includes also a review of the Barcelona Process (including SMAP).

http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/barcelona_10/docs/10th_comm_en.pdf

22. Commission Proposes New Resources for Combating Pollution at Sea

The European Commission has proposed a financial package of €154 million over a period of seven years for the European Maritime Safety Agency to allow it to combat pollution caused by ships. The funds will enable the Agency to make specialised anti-pollution vessels available to Member States to recover pollutants and develop satellite images to detect pollution in good time. Jacques Barrot, Vice-President responsible for Transport said: "We must have a European system to combat pollution at sea in order to protect our coasts." He added: "The Maritime Safety Agency needs adequate funding to help it combat pollution at sea".

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/603&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

– International News in Brief –

23. World Needs More than Sea Walls to Stop Floods

Building higher and stronger dykes will not be enough to protect the world's low-lying areas against rising sea levels and global warming, a conference heard on Wednesday. Countries should also develop disaster management to raise safety and awareness, officials told an international conference on flood defences in the Netherlands, one of the world's lowest-lying countries. Many scientists fear rising temperatures, blamed mainly on heat-trapping gases from burning fossil fuels, will melt ice caps, raise sea levels by almost a metre (three feet) by the end of this century and bring more floods, droughts and storms. "It is time for us to say goodbye to the traditional approach of higher and higher dykes and more and more powerful pumps," said Melanie Schultz van Haegen, Dutch State Secretary for Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/30979/story.htm>

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24. World's First Wave Power Plant Set for Portuguese Coast

The world's first commercial wave-farm - to generate renewable electricity from ocean waves - is in the works. Ocean Power Delivery, a company based in Edinburgh, Scotland, recently signed a contract with a Portuguese consortium to build the first phase of the project. The initial phase will consist of three Pelamis P-750 Wave Energy Converters located five kilometers off Portugal's northern coast, near Póvoa

de Varzim. Pelamis Wave Energy Converters take the movement of the ocean and convert it into electricity. The €8 million project will have an installed capacity of 2.25MW, and is expected to meet the average electricity demand of more than 1,500 Portuguese households while displacing more than 6,000 metric tons per year of carbon dioxide emissions from conventional generating plant.

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2005/2005-05-24-04.asp>

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25. Sea Birds Might Pay the Price for Green Electricity

Wind farms could damage the populations of some bird species if they are not carefully sited. Among the worst affected are waders and ducks around wind farms on estuaries and in shallow coastal waters. "Compared with past assaults, such as organochlorine pesticides, loss of hedgerows, illegal persecution of birds of prey, and intensive agriculture, wind farms should be low down on the scale of threats", says Mark Avery, director of conservation at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). "However, if we put them all in the wrong places, then that picture would be very different. Yet when it comes to offshore wind farms, we do not even know what the wrong places are, because so few impact studies have been done". "Better understanding is needed of the cumulative impact of more and more wind farms", says Avery. "We will object to any wind farms that seriously threaten important populations of birds".

Source: New Scientist 7 May 2005

26. "King of the Seas Keeps Reefs in Order"

Sharks are vital for the health of coral reefs, a model of the food web in a Caribbean reef suggests. According to the model, created by Enric Sala of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California, and colleagues, the removal of top predators allows lesser predators such as groupers to thrive, leading to a reduction in the number of algal feeders such as parrotfish. That makes reefs more vulnerable to disturbances that kill corals, such as disease, pollution and global warming (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol 102, p 5443).

<http://www.africanconservation.org/dcforum/DCForumID33/348.html>

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27. LIBERTAS MARI

In April 2005 the final report of LIBERTAS MARI was presented, titled; "Protection of Seamount and Cold-water Coral Ecosystems in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction". LIBERTAS MARI (Freedom for the Sea) is a multidisciplinary and multinational group of six students, who have been conducting a research project as a part of the curriculum of the European Postgraduate Course in Environmental Management (EPCEM). The report proposes an international legal and managerial framework to tackle problems of loss of biodiversity in deep-sea areas beyond national jurisdiction as a result of bottom trawling. This report has been produced for the Dutch National Institute of Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ), and focuses on the implementation of two measures, namely: activity-based measures, such as a moratorium on bottom trawling and declaring bottom-trawling unregulated (short-term measures), and area-based measures, such as marine protected areas (MPAs, long-term measures). The short-term measures are designed to be implemented until an effective comprehensive legislative, institutional and enforcement framework is developed. Based on several multidisciplinary analysis it is recommended that for the purpose of activity-based measures, the UN should adopt a resolution declaring bottom trawling unregulated. This would at the same time stress the role of States and regional fisheries management organisations in undertaking steps towards preserving the above mentioned ecosystems. For the area-based measure, Libertas Mari proposes to develop the general long-term framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with the medium-term supporting efforts focusing on building and strengthening the existing system. This arrangement would give time to draft the Protocol to the CBD to co-ordinate establishment and management of high seas MPAs between the different sectors, and time for the fisheries to propose areas for protection of their fish stocks.

The full report can be downloaded at www.leidenuniv.nl/cml/ssp/index.html under "Our marine research".

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- Publications -

Küsten Newsletter 3/2005

This year's third issue of EUCC Germany's newsletter has been issued (in German). If you wish to subscribe to this newsletter please send an email to: newsletter@eucc-d.de. The newsletter can be found at: <http://www.eucc-d.de>

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Wader and Waterbird Census at the Banc d'Arguin, Mauretania, January 2000

By Ward Hagemeijer et al. (2004, 146 pp.), Foundation Working Group International Waterbird and Wetland Research (WIWO), Rijksweg 178, 6573 DG Beek-Ubbergen, The Netherlands, Web www.wiwo.org, Price 12 Euro.

The Banc d'Arguin is one of the key wintering-areas for waders and other waterbirds in the world. Despite its relatively modest size it supports higher numbers of wintering waders than any other site on the East Atlantic flyway. It holds the highest densities of wintering waders known from Europe and Africa. Since 1973 only 4 more or less complete counts have been carried out in the area during the wintering period of northern birds (in 1979, 1980, 1990-94 and 1997). The more recent counts show that important changes in bird numbers have occurred. These changes, as well as the high international value of the Banc d'Arguin, justify more frequent monitoring. In January 2000 the Parc National Banc d'Arguin, has been visited in order to carry out a count of all waders and waterbirds in the area. In total over more than 2,480,000 waterbirds were counted, including 2,350,000 waders. This WIWO-report 81 balances the results.

Waders and waterbirds in the floodplains of the Logone Cameroon and Chad, February 2000

By Wim Ganzevles et al. (2005, 51 pp.) Foundation Working Group International Waterbird and Wetland Research (WIWO), Rijksweg 178, 6573 DG Beek-Ubbergen, Web www.wiwo.org

Since 1991 several ornithological surveys and studies have been carried out in the Waza-Logone floodplain. A total of 346 bird species has been recorded since 1991. The February 2000 census presented in this report counted nearly 230,000 waterbirds and waders in the floodplains on both sides of the Logone river in Cameroon and Chad. Waterbird numbers in the Lake Chad Basin Area have been increasing since 1995, indicating that the floodplain restoration of the Waza-Logone Project has a positive effect on waterbird habitat quality.

Publication - European swallows *Hirundo rustica* and other songbirds of wetlands in Ghana, December 1997

By S.B. Deuzeman et al. (2004, 60 pp.), Foundation Working Group International Waterbird and Wetland Research (WIWO), Rijksweg 178, 6573 DG Beek-Ubbergen, The Netherlands, Web www.wiwo.org, The situation of the European swallow wintering in Ghana has been investigated by this WIWO-team and its findings publicised in the WIWO-report 80, 2004. A rather technical publication, with lots of numbers, graphs and drawings.

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Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) Scientific Report: Chapters Available Online

Prior to the print publication of the scientific report, several science chapters of the ACIA Scientific Report have just been released as PDF files on the ACIA website at <http://www.acia.uaf.edu>. The published chapters do not differ in technical content from the pre-released chapters. The following chapters are currently available online:

Chapter 1: Introduction to the ACIA

Chapter 2: Arctic Climate - Past and Present

Chapter 2 Commentary: Arctic Temperature Change

Chapter 3: Changing Arctic: Indigenous Perspectives

Chapter 4: Future Climate Change: Modeling and Scenarios

Chapter 5: Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation

Chapter 6: Cryosphere and Hydrology

Chapter 10: Principles of Conserving the Arctic's Biodiversity

Chapter 11: Management and Conservation of Wildlife in a Changing Arctic Environment

Chapter 12: Hunting, Herding, Fishing and Gathering: Indigenous Peoples and Renewable Resource Use in the Arctic

Chapter 15: Human Health

Chapter 16: Infrastructure: Buildings, Support Systems, and Industrial Facilities

Many of these chapters have coastal and climatic implications. For example, Chapter 6 addresses impacts on all waters; Chapter 10 discusses conserving terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity in light of arctic climate change, and has Michael Usher as a lead author (who has also written on climatic impacts on European biodiversity); Chapters 11 and 12 address fish and marine mammals from a management and indigenous perspective; and Chapter 16 addresses coastal erosion.

– Newsletters and new Websites –

Marine Safety

Given the importance of maritime safety to coastal regions, a number of Interreg IIIB Programmes have been brought together under the Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation. The Operation provides a 'transprogramme' enhancement which links and focuses the work of the Interreg IIIB projects addressing maritime safety issues (prevention, response, preparedness and integration) and related projects (e.g. coastal zone management, coastal protection, sea area / ocean spatial planning, etc.). It is the intention of the Umbrella Operation to actively seek links with initiatives being undertaken by projects within the North Sea, North West Europe, Northern Periphery, Atlantic and Baltic Sea Region Interreg IIIB Programme Areas. Projects from other programmes are expected to join later.

<http://www.interregnorthsea.org/index.asp?id=96>

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– Events and training, 1st Announcements –

This list only includes the 1st Announcements of conferences and training courses.
For a complete overview of conferences please visit: <http://www.coastalguide.org/meetings>
EUCC related conferences are added in boxes.

June 8, 2005 – All over the world

World Ocean Day

<http://www.theoceanproject.org/news/oceanday.html>

July 11-13, 2005 – Darwin, Australia

Conference: Discovering And Protecting Our Oceans' Bounty

<http://www.amsa.asn.au/conference>

July 21-23, 2005 – Aberdeen, Scotland

6th International Symposium: Computer Mapping and GIS for Coastal Zone Management, Defining and building a Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure

www.coastgis2005.org.uk

August 5-9, 2005 – Trondheim, Norway

Aquaculture Europe 2005 Conference

<http://www.easonline.org>

August 9-12, 2005 - Trondheim, Norway

AquNor 2005 Exhibition

<http://www.easonline.org>

August 24–28, 2005 - Ceará, Brazil

First Brazilian Symposium on Dune Systems

<http://aoceano.org.br/dune/index.php>

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October 5-8, 2005 – Stepnica, Odra Delta, Poland

CoPraNet workshop and Opening of the "EECONET Park" of EUCC Poland

October 6:

Workshop: Network of Natura 2000 in Poland with special attention to the coast

Workshop: Policy of the Polish Government in Natura 2000 network implementation

Workshop: Financing of Natura 2000 in Poland

Workshop: Remarks from the Polish practitioners: Maritime Office, Local Communities and Authorities, individual farmers, NGOs working for nature

Workshop: Particular local examples in Europe (fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, coastal defence)

CoPraNet Business Meeting

October 7:

Workshop: European experiences in Natura 2000 implementation (stakeholders involvements, identification of sites, financing, conflicts identification, benefits, threats)

October 7 pm:

Opening Event of the Odra Delta Nature Park: the "EECONET Park"

October 8:

Seminar & Workshop: ODNP example of NATURA 2000 site implementation

CoPraNet Seminar conclusion, closing session and field trip to the EECONET Park (EUCC-Poland).

October 9

Field trip to Podgrodzie wetlands and visitor centre (EUCC-Poland)

November 27-29, 2005 – Dubai, United Arab Emirates

1st International Conference on Coastal Zone Management and Engineering in the Middle East

<http://www.arabiancoast.com/>

January 23-27, 2005 – Paris, France

Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands

Moving the Global Oceans Forward

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

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– Colophon –

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Please note that back issues will be transferred to <http://www.eucc.net>

EUCC Coastal News Editorial Team: Miranda Wien, Ben Spaans, Arnoud van der Meulen, Albert Salman, Marleen Smallegange, Renée Versteegen. Special Editors:
Magdalena Ariadne Kim Muir (EUCC Advisory Board Member): Climate Change.
Bart van Engeldorp Gastelaars and Cora Seip (Centre for Environmental Science, University of Leiden): Marine conservation and management.

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 2005/06 : 24 June 2005.

Established in 1989, EUCC - the Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2700 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel.: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>



The European
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This publication has received funding from the European Community. Sole responsibility of this publication lies with the authors; the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information herein.

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