

EUCC Coastal News

No 1
30 January 2004

EUCC Coastal News is a monthly newsletter published by EUCC - The Coastal Union for its members. 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.nl/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions to this newsletter, please contact news@coastalguide.org.

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1. "Littoral 2004": Join the Coastal Event of the Year!

Following the tremendous success of the Littoral 2002 Conference in Porto "Littoral 2004" (20th-22nd September 2004, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Scotland, UK) will again be the joint conference of EUROCOAST and EUCC - The Coastal Union. "Littoral 2004" will be the major European event attracting an world wide audience of coastal researchers, managers, practitioners, and industry. The theme of this year is "Delivering Sustainable Coasts: Connecting Science and Policy". All coastal professionals are invited to register for the conference. **Abstracts for paper presentations should be submitted no later than 20 February 2004.** The three day programme of scientific paper sessions will be complemented by: a Pre-conference Field Symposium on Cliffs; Platforms and Sea Lochs (Inverness, 16-19 Sept); a Technology Exhibition; Poster sessions; Mini-Conferences: "InfoCoast '04" and "FutureCoast '04"; Workshops: CoAstal Practice Network (COPRANET, EUCC), Developing Coastal Networks (CoastNET), SeaZone (Metoc), Wave data (ARGOSS); Site Visits: The BP HIVE, OceanLab, Torry Marine Laboratory; Conference Dinner; Accompanying Persons Programme; Post-conference Field Visits: Excursions along the north east coastline of Scotland.

The full conference announcement can be downloaded as a PDF from the Littoral website: www.littoral2004.org/docs/Littoral2004_Jan_Update.pdf

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2. Coastal News subscribers become EUCC Network Members

At their meeting on 28 November 2003 in Barcelona, the EUCC Executive Committee decided that EUCC electronic newsletters (including EUCC Coastal News, KustMail and *IKZM Aktuell*) should be disseminated to EUCC Network Members only. The implication of this decision is that all subscribers to EUCC Coastal News will automatically become EUCC Network Members unless they unsubscribe. Network Members will not be subject to a minimum fee, but unlike other member categories, they are not entitled to other EUCC services such as discounts on publications or conference fees either.

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- Friends of the Coast News -

3. Campaign "Prevent another Prestige disaster"

In November 2003, a year after the Prestige sank, the Spanish government proclaimed that it has made no mistakes and that it would act the same way if a similar situation occurred again. The sinking of the Prestige caused a disaster of an enormity previously unknown to Europe. The Dutch NGO "Kust en Zee" (Coast and Sea), of which the EUCC is one of the founding members), reacted with the campaign "Stop the Rustbuckets". The Spanish government claims that towing an oil tanker in trouble towards open sea is the right way to deal with such a situation, while in fact it increases the risk of polluting large coastal stretches with oil. Many experts and NGO's are alarmed by the attitude of the Spanish government. They are convinced that ships in trouble should be towed to a "safe place" (preferably a harbor), where it can be isolated. Consequently, five NGO's (including the EUCC) have started the campaign "Prevent another Prestige disaster", as part of the larger "Friends of the Coast" campaign. They aim to convince coastal states, the European Commission and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) of the necessity to adopt additional measures to prevent Prestige-like catastrophes in the future. Many people already supported this campaign by becoming a Friend of the Coast. Within the next months we will present our demands together with the support declarations to several governments. If you agree with the necessity of additional measures, please read our demands at the website mentioned below and become a Friend of the Coast by filling in the support form at www.friendsofthecoast.net/support/index.htm. We would also appreciate it if you drew the attention of your colleagues, friends and acquaintances to this campaign.

Stimulated by the declining polar ice, Norway and Russia will increase their oil production in the Northern Ice Sea on short term. This makes your support for prevention of oil disasters even more urgent!

More information: www.friendsofthecoast.net,
www.stopherustbuckets.info/engels/index.html

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- European Union: news and initiatives -

4. Progress of the Marine Expert Group

The Marine Expert Group was established under the Habitats Committee, by the European Commission, because the application of the Nature Directives to the marine environment is more challenging than expected. The main objective of the Marine Expert Group is to develop a common understanding of the provisions of NATURA 2000 relating to the marine environment in order to facilitate the designation and future management of these areas by the Member States. The Marine Expert Group will deliver a "guidance document" on the implementation of the Nature Directives in the marine environment. During the first meeting of the Expert Group, on 15 March 2003, three sub working groups were established. The first sub working group will propose new habitat types and species (Habitats and Birds Directive) for which offshore marine NATURA 2000 sites should be considered and precise the existing definitions of marine habitats. The second sub working group will propose means to locate and assess these habitat types and species and propose site selection rationale(s). The third sub working group will consider management measures for site protection and alternative/complementary conservation measures for wide ranging species. Draft lists and documents have been elaborated by the sub working groups and have been discussed during the second meeting of the expert group on 17-18 November 2003. In Spring 2004 the first draft guidelines document will be discussed and the final document is expected by the end of 2004 or the start of 2005.

This short article is based on a presentation of Mr Placido Hernandez Aquilar at the Paralia Nature Workshop "Marine Protected Areas" (see item 7 in this newsletter).

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5. Major industrial accidents: Commission takes legal action against Spain

The European Commission sent a final written warning to Spain urging it to correctly transpose into national legislation the EU law on the control of major industrial accidents involving dangerous substances. This EU law is known as the Seveso II Directive and aims to avoid or minimise the consequences of major industrial accidents through a variety of preventive measures. The Commission considers that Spanish legislation is not offering adequate protection for the public and the environment. Notably, it fails to meet the requirements of the Directive in relation to emergency plans, land-use planning, public information and inspections. In the absence of a satisfactory response to its letter, the Commission may refer Spain to the European Court of Justice. In 1998 a major industrial accident caused an environmental disaster in the Coto Doñana National Park in Spain.

More information:

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/04/5|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

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6. Kyoto: EU struggles to meet targets while Russia moves towards ratification

On 2 December 2003, the European Commission adopted a progress report that concludes that the European Union will miss its emission targets under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, unless EU Member States implement additional measures and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The report states that the decreasing emission trend since 1990 has been reversed in 2000 and 2001. In letters to all 15 Ministers for Environment of the Member States, Margot Wallström, Commissioner for Environment, urges the Member States to identify additional measures that are needed to meet the Kyoto targets. In addition the Member States should fully and speedily implement the measures adopted by the European Union. At the same date 2003 Andrej Illarjonov, economic advisor of the Russian president Vladimir Putin, declared that Russia would not ratify the Kyoto Protocol. On 3 December the

Russian Deputy Economic and Trade Minister Mukhamed Tsikanov indicated Moscow was moving toward ratification of the treaty and may submit it to the Russian State Duma for approval in 2004. Under the rules of the Protocol and following the decision of the United States not to ratify, the Protocol will only enter into force if Russia ratifies. In the meantime 120 parties, representing two-thirds of the world population, have ratified. The 9th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Milan on 12 December 2003 marking another step in the international climate change process. It reached agreement on a number of further operational rules for implementing the Kyoto Protocol and on further work. It confirmed that measures are taken world-wide to implement the Kyoto Protocol. This encouraged the European Commission to continue the support of the Kyoto Protocol as the only international framework to combat climate change.

More information: www.bellona.no/en/energy/31916.html (Confusion reigns in Russian government over signing of Kyoto Protocol);

europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1637|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display (More action required from Member States to cut greenhouse gas emissions);

europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1747|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display (European Commission stands behind the Kyoto Protocol);

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7. Paralia Nature Workshop "Marine Protected Areas"

On 7 January 2004 the Institute for Infrastructure, Environment and Innovation (IMI, Brussels) organised the Paralia Nature Workshop "Marine Protected Areas" (MPAs) in Brussels. Paralia Nature is an informal cooperation project focussed on improving the implementation of Articles 6.3 and 6.4 (concerning assessment and restrictions for activities that are likely to have effects on special areas of conservation) of the Habitats Directive for plans and projects related to port extensions in estuaries protected under European or national schemes. The aim of the workshop was to exchange experiences gained in different EU countries on marine reserves, and to discuss common problems with respect to the management of MPAs. Highlights were the presentation of the cases of Port-Cros in France and MPAs in the Schleswig-Holstein National Park Wadden Sea in Germany, an overview of the socio-economic structure of the EU fisheries supply chain and the presentation of the work of the mid term review and working program of the Marine Expert Group of the Habitats Committee (see item 4 in this newsletter). Another location where a MPA is being developed is Darwin Mounds, where deep water trawling has been banned to protect a coral formation. The UK plans to designate the Mounds as a special conservation area under the EC Habitats Directive.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/3167635.stm>

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8. 6th Framework Programme: ICZM calls still unclear

At the meeting of the Programme Committee of the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme on 14 January, five countries opposed the present Commission draft proposals on ICZM and none of the countries supported them. The accession countries took the common position that area III and area V ICZM calls should be merged and that the best instrument might be a Coordinated Action (CA) instead of an Integrated Project (IP) or a Network of Excellence (NoE). The Programme Committee will receive the next proposal from the Commission some time before the upcoming meeting beginning of March. There are indications that the Commission might be willing to support the idea of a CA, if supported by other countries. A CA on ICZM 1) may support coordination among a large number of partners without the strong integration of institutes required for a NoE or an IP; 2) may include more disciplines than a NoE or an IP, and 3) provides opportunities for the preparation of follow-up proposals to be submitted to the 7th Framework Programme. **EUCC Coastal News readers are encouraged to contact their national delegates at the Programme Committee with the request to support an ICZM call providing the possibility of simultaneous funding for on the one hand a CA and on the other hand an IP/NoE.**

More information: EUCC - The Coastal Union, Maria Ferreira, maria@coastalguide.org

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– ICZM / Integrated Coastal Policies –

9. Challenges to the Wadden Sea Area

Publication edited by Wim J. Wolff et al (2003, 272 pp.). Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Dep. of marine biology, University of Groningen, P.O.Box 30032, 9700 RM Groningen, the Netherlands. Fax +50 5992399. Web: www.minlnv.nl. ISBN 90 367 1765 5. In these proceedings of the 10th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (Groningen, 2000) the question is been addressed whether and how ecology and economy can be integrated in a way that is profitable to both nature and the inhabitants of the area. As specific cases, shellfish fisheries, sea level rise, agriculture and tourism are been elaborated. Finally the future policy, management aspects, legal international framework, the role of the EU Directives and a legal status for the international Wadden Sea are been covered.

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10. Coastal-Marine Conservation: Science and Policy

Publication by G. Carleton Ray and Jerry McCormick-Ray (2004, 327 pp.). Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF, U.K. Fax +1865 791347. www.blackwellpublishing.com. ISBN 0 632 05537 5. Price \$34.99. This book provides a window into the complex world of coastal conservation science and policy. It deals with conservation issues and mechanisms, characterization of the coastal-marine realm and a review of natural history concepts, illustrated by three cases. An analysis of effects of human activities on coastal-marine ecosystems shows increasing rates of change and fragmented governance. The book concludes with a synthesis of the major challenges for conservation and strategies for the future.

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– Water Management and Policies –

11. Loan to Russia to upgrade Baltic water quality

The European Investment Bank will give a 25 million loan to a wastewater treatment plant run by the St. Petersburg water company Vodokanal. This is the first project in Russia to receive funding from the EIB under the bank's resolution to support environmental projects in the Baltic Sea Rim of Russia. The Bank says its investment will go towards improving wastewater services for over 720,000 citizens in the city and will contribute to upgrading the water quality in the Baltic Sea.

More information:

www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=left_frame.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7921.cfm

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12. 2004 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award

Former Minister for Trade Leif Pagrotsky founded the Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award in 1999. The award is presented by Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs to recognize direct and practical efforts that improve water quality in the Baltic Sea. The award is an appreciation for what different actors within the industry and public service sectors, among others, have done individually or collectively to improve the Baltic Sea's water environment. The winner receives 100,000 sek along with a sculpture, diploma, and travel and accommodation to participate in the 2004 World Water Week in Stockholm in August. The nomination deadline for the Award is April 30th. To read about nomination criteria and procedure, please visit Stockholm International Water Institute on line at www.siwi.org

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– Industrial Sectors –

13. Fishermen and environmentalists not pleased with EU fishery agreement

The Council of fisheries ministers has adopted long-term recovery plans for endangered fish stocks on 19 December 2003. According to the European Commission the plans are a

balanced compromise. The Commission claims that it takes account of the social aspects, i.e. fishermen will be able to continue fishing at a reduced level and will not have to stop altogether; but at the same time the compromise is also justifiable in biological terms since long-term recovery plans will be in force for the first time for endangered stocks such as cod, hake and plaice. According to environmental organizations (like WWF and the Dutch North Sea Foundation) the measures are to week to safe the fish stocks. At the same time the Scottish fishermen are furious because the agreement restricts them to 15 days at sea per month.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3333395.stm>

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/press/inf03_61_en.htm

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=10301

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14. Salmon farming in the news again

Since the magazine Science published a paper on high levels of organochlorine contamination in farmed European salmon early January, the issue of salmon farming is back in the news. The authors of the Science paper concluded that in particular Scottish fish bears such high levels of pollution, that people should limit their monthly intake. However, this recommendation is based on the health standards of the US Environmental Protection Agency, while European or WHO standards are not surpassed. In any case, the British news magazine The Economist of January 17 predicts bleak times for salmon farming in Europe. Supply has been growing faster than demand, production prices have risen and wholesale prices have fallen lately. The first small fish farms in Northern Scotland had to close while the whole industry is likely to consolidate and to shrink. Consolidation – meaning bigger although fewer fish farms – might increase the local environmental impact of salmon farming even more.

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15. UK Government body approves plans for new offshore developments.

In December the Crown Estate, the body which leases the seabed around the UK, announced plans for 15 new offshore wind farms in sites around the UK coastline. The sites will be built in three strategic areas of shallow sea: the Thames Estuary; Greater Wash; and the North West. The world's largest proposed offshore wind farm, in the Greater Wash area, could have up to 250 or more turbines, and provide up to 1.2 GW of generating capacity. More information: www.ethicalcorp.com/content.asp?ContentID=1492, www.crownestate.co.uk

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16. Estonia and Finland to open wind energy park on Pakri Peninsula

As part of Finland's plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions as required by the Kyoto Protocol, Finnish and Estonian environmental ministers signed an agreement to install eight new wind power generators on the Parki Peninsula 50 kilometres from Tallinn. In a second stage of the plan, 22 more generators will be added. The completed project of 30 generators will produce 2.5 percent of Estonia's total electricity consumption. Under the deal with Estonia, Finland will gain 500,000 tons worth of emissions reductions between 2004 and 2012.

Source: The Baltic Times, 1/15-21/04

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17. EU attorney general concludes on Dutch cockle fishery

In the previous issue of [EUCC Coastal News](#) we discussed the Dutch shellfishery policy and the expected judgement of the European Court of Justice. On 29 January the attorney general of the European Court has concluded that the Dutch Government is only allowed to give permits for cockle fishery in the Wadden Sea, if there is no reasonable doubt that cockle fishery has no harmful consequences for the ecosystem. The judges of the European Court will judge the conclusion of the attorney general later this year. Their judgement is absolute. The Wadden Sea is designated as a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. Therefore two Dutch instituted legal proceedings against the permits for shellfishery. The Council of State, the highest Dutch administrative court, propounded the case to the European Court of Justice. In December 2003 the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture,

Nature and Food Quality published the scientific report of the evaluation of their shellfishery policy. One of the conclusions of this evaluation is that the cockle fishery is not solely responsible for the decline of the bird populations. In other words: it is at least partly responsible for this decline. The report claims that an other important factor, in the decline of the shellfish and consequently the bird populations, is the improvement of the water quality during the past decade. However, according to independent Dutch scientists that attended a conference on this subject on 29 January, this is not true, leaving cockle fishery as the most important cause of the decline of the bird populations.

Sources: De Volkskrant, 29-01-2004; NRC Handelsblad, 29-01-2004 (Dutch newspapers)

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18. Freighter capsizes off west coast of Norway

On Monday, January 19, a freighter carrying a load of stone bound for Germany along with heavy oil, diesel fuel and lubricating oil capsized in an inlet near Bergen. Of the thirty crew on board, 18 are presumed dead. Crews are working to search for the remaining bodies and to contain the oil and fuel leaks. Containment booms were placed around the wreck to prevent the oil from spreading, but some oil has reached the shoreline near homes outside Bergen. Hundreds of sea birds have already been killed or contaminated. The cause of the accident is unknown, but a large gash in the hull indicates that the ship may have tore open its ballast tanks on rocks, causing it to become unstable.

Source: AP World news 22-01-2004

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- Nature and Biodiversity -

19. Biodiversity indicators: an important issue for the CBD meeting

Instruments are needed to monitor the results of the efforts of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) to stop the decline of biodiversity. Therefore the CBD secretariat has asked the Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP) to develop indicators. MNP proposed a set of about ten indicators. During the meeting of the Scientific Body of the CBD this proposal was discussed. As it was feared that the complete list would be rejected by some parties a selection of five indicators was made to be proposed at the next CDB Conference of Parties (COP 7, 9 to 20 February 2004). These are the remaining surface area of nature areas, the number of characteristic sets of species, the surface area of protected nature areas, the number of species on red lists and the genetic variation in crops and livestock. The remaining indicators will be held in consideration. In the UK the Department for Environment

Food and Rural Affairs published their first annual stock take of the national biodiversity and a new set of national biodiversity indicators on 1 December 2003.

More information: www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/indicators/;

www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/indicators/documents.asp

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/ewd/biostrat/index.htm

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20. Climate risk 'to million species'

Climate change could drive a million of the world's species to extinction as soon as 2050. This is the conclusion of a model calculation of an international team of nineteen ecologists, published in the journal Nature.

news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3375447.stm

www.edie.net/gf.cfm?L=left_frame.html&R=http://www.edie.net/news/Archive/7888.cfm

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- Site Management -

21. Natuurmonumenten donates cows for the Oder Delta

Natuurmonumenten, the oldest Nature Conservation NGO in Netherlands has recently donated 20 Scottish Highland Cows to EUCC - Poland. The cattle were transported from the Natuurmonumenten reserve of Tiengemeten to Czarnocin, at the Oder Delta, Poland, during

the first days of the year. The cows is already grazing at the EUCC Poland terrains, after the due quarantine. Scottish Highlanders are a very strong race that can adapt to the extreme weather conditions in Poland. Natuurmonumenten is supporting and working in partnership with EUCC and EUCC - Poland for well over five years. This donation is done in the framework of the Pin Matra project to establish the first privately protected area in Poland, the Oder Delta Nature Park (ca. 1000 ha owned by EUCC Poland). The Park will be inaugurated in 2005, the year of the centenary of Natuurmonumenten.



More information: EUCC – The Coastal Union, Carolina Pérez, carolina@eucc.nl

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- Information management, Training and Events -

22. Coastal and Marine Geo-Information Systems

Publication by David R. Green and Stephen D. King (2003, 596 pp. Kluwer Academic Publishers, P.O.Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, the Netherlands. Fax +78 6392 254. Web: <http://www.wkap.nl>. ISBN 0 7923 5686 1. Price 185 euro.

This volume deals with the application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, cartography, visualisation and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to coastal and marine environments around the world. It provides an up-to-date examination of the application of geo-information and spatial technologies to a wide range of topics such as fisheries, coastal geomorphology, the use of remotely sensed imagery, coastal vegetation mapping, coastal pollution, landscape ecology, and decision support systems (DSS).

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23. New on the Coastal Guide list of events

March 16 – 19, 2004

Oceanology International 2004. Various associated meetings and conferences will also take place, such as Marine GIS Conference and the AMRS Conference 2004 Operational Oceanography and Remote Sensing. London, UK. Info: www.oceanologyinternational.com

March 16 – 19, 2004

AMRS Conference: Operational Oceanography and Remote Sensing. London, UK. Info: www.waterobserver.org/event-2004-03

April 26 – 28, 2004

COASTWETCHANGE 2004, Lagoons and Coastal Wetlands in the Global Change Context: Impacts and Management Issues, CORILA and UNESCO-ROSTE, Venice, Italy. Info: venezia@corila.it, www.corila.it/CoastWetchange/

April 26 – 28, 2004

Coastal Environment 2004: Fifth International Conference on Environmental Problems in Coastal Regions, Alicante, Spain. Info: www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2004/coastalenvironment04/

May 10 – 13, 2004

EurOCEAN 2004 European Conference on Marine Science & Ocean Technology, Galway, Ireland. An Irish EU Presidency Event. Info: www.eurocean2004.com/

June 27-30, 2004

Coastal Zone Canada 2004: All Within One Ocean: Co-operation in Sustainable Coastal & Ocean Management, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Info: czc2004@mun.ca, www.czca-azcc.org/

Sept 6 – 10, 2004

2004 ENVISAT & ERS Symposium. ESA. Salzburg, Austria. Info: www.congrex.nl/04a06/

March 17 – 20, 2005

III PLANKTON SYMPOSIUM, Figueira da Foz, Portugal, 2005. Info :
www.planktonsymposium3.net

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24. Training and Courses

May 10 - 17, 2004

Adaptive Strategies of Benthic Animals in Tidal and Non-tidal Systems, Gdansk, Poland.
Info: University of Gdansk, www.ocean.univ.gda.pl/estuaria/BalticCourse

Aug 31 – 14 Sept, 2004

MEDCOAST INSTITUTE 2004. Integrated Coastal Management in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The Seventh International Training Programme. Dalyan – the Aegean coast – TURKEY. The last date for submitting an application is **31 May 2004**. Info:
www.medcoast.org.tr/mci2004/index.htm

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– Colophon –

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Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 2, 2004: 23 February 2004

Established in 1989, EUCC - the Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 750 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.nl>



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.