

EUCC Coastal News

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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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The following keywords are applied:

EU policies, ICZM, international conventions, biodiversity, coastal defence, climate change, water (management and policies), marine environment, fisheries and aquaculture, energy, transport, pollution, tourism, health

– International news in brief –

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13. New plant species will proliferate through climate change

Keywords: biodiversity, climate change

A proliferation of invading plant species is threatening as a result of climate change. Trees and plants are marching from south to north without taking their natural enemies like soil fungus and little eels with them, causing strong proliferation. Prof. Dr. Ir. Wim van der Putten concluded this after research on the absence of soil diseases with the American Bird Cherry in the Dutch dunes and forests, imported from America. Van der Putten therefore stresses the importance of healthy soil ecosystems as a condition for the introduction of new plant species. Prof. Van der Putten stated this in his inauguration speech as extraordinary professor functional biodiversity at Wageningen University.

<http://www.wau.nl/pers/04/046wu.html> (in Dutch)

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14. Historic Galway Declaration on Europe's Oceans

Keywords: EU policies, marine environment

Over 500 leading marine scientists, policy makers, and representatives of the marine sector from all corners of the European Union endorsed the Galway Declaration on the Ocean at the EurOCEAN Conference on Marine Science and Ocean Technology held in Galway, Ireland on May 13, 2004.

The Galway Declaration aims to ensure that recognition is taken at Member State and European Community Level of:

- The crucial role of the oceans in climate, carbon cycle and Life on Earth
- The Major contribution maritime industries can make to the achievement of the objectives outlined in the Lisbon Agenda
- The essential role of marine science and technology in generating the knowledge needed to fuel this economic achievement in harmony with the environment.
- The critical role the European Research Area/7th Framework Programme must play in supporting world-class excellence in marine science and technology.

The objective of the conference was to determine how marine science and technology can contribute to the achievement of European Union objectives stated in the Lisbon, Gothenburg and Barcelona Declaration. Namely, to make the European Union the most competitive knowledge based economy in the world based on the application of science and technology and the principles of sustainable development. The full Galway Declaration and further information on EurOcean2004 can be found at:

<http://www.eurocean2004.com/>

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15. Sea level rise partially caused by earthquakes

Keywords: climate change

Big earthquakes were responsible for about 10 percent of the sea level rise measured in the last century. That is the conclusion of research done by five Italian Geophysicians and a physician, published in Geophysical Research Letters 5 May. Temperature risings are thus responsible for 10% less rise in sea level than has been hitherto thought. The investigation concerns the correction of a measure error. Earthquakes are concentrated near prescribed zones. The measuring stations that measure the sea level fluctuations to investigate the effects of a changing climate are also not arbitrarily spread over the earth, but their positions are mainly prescribed by logistical considerations. That turns out to have an unexpected effect: there are (by 'coincidence') more stations that measure a sea level rise as a result of earthquakes than stations that register descend.

Dutch Paper NRC Handelsblad, 22 May 2004

<http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2004/2003GL019347.shtml>

16. No more cod in 15 years

Keywords: biodiversity, fisheries and aquaculture, marine environment, climate change

A new WWF report shows that global cod catch has suffered a 70 per cent drop over the last 30 years, and if this trend continues, the world's cod stocks will disappear in 15 years. The report shows that threats to the Barents Sea cod stock are increasing with the expansion of industrial development, such as petroleum exploration and shipping activities. WWF also fears that the growing cod farming industry could result in disease transfer to wild cod or genetic interbreeding with escaped farm fish. Climate change could also add further pressure on fish stocks in the Arctic, including cod.

13, May 2004

http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/press_releases/news.cfm?uNewsID=13051

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