

newsletter

Union Géographique Internationale
International Geographical Union
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Norbert P. Psuty, Editor

Objectives: The Commission on Coastal Systems encourages the study of coastal systems throughout the world. The Commission sponsors and supports activities leading to the exchange of information regarding coastal systems among our members and throughout the IGU at large. The focus of attention is on interactive systems, both human and physical, and the areas of inquiry include issues such as sea-level rise, land-use changes, estuarine resources, coastal tourism and shoreline development, coastal recreation, and coastal zone management. The Commission will make concerted efforts to emphasize issues of Global Change. Copies of our Newsletter and announcements are on our website: <http://www.igu-ccs.org/>

Message from the Chair

We enter the last third of 2007 with much to look forward to. In the Northern Hemisphere we are welcoming students back for another academic year and sketching agenda for the next year or so. To our southern colleagues – best wishes for a glorious springtime! For all of you, a reminder of upcoming CCS activities that will only succeed to the extent that you participate. Aside from the many conferences and symposia described in the calendar below, there are two major events scheduled with the Commission on Coastal Systems as a foundational organizer: a collaborative meeting with the April 2008, Association of American Geographers Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts; and the XXXI International Geographical Union Congress in Tunis, Tunisia in August 2008.

The CCS sessions at the Boston meetings will be held in conjunction with the AAG's Coastal and Marine Geography Specialty Group (COMA) (http://www.homestead.com/aag_coma/files/index.html).

Jean Ellis (Jean.Ellis-1@nasa.gov) has agreed to act on behalf of CCS to coordinate the development and scheduling of joint activities. If you are interested in organizing one or more paper sessions on any aspect of coastal geography that falls within the rubric of our organization, please contact her as soon as possible. One reason that this coordination is so important is that it will allow us to concentrate our sessions at the beginning or end of the meetings, and minimize potential scheduling conflicts. Note that COMA typically develops 8-12 paper sessions of its own, making coordination especially important. We would like to get at least four sessions on coastal geomorphology and a similar number for coastal remote sensing and GIS. **Will Heyman** has already begun organizing a set of paper sessions and panel discussions on the topic of *Marine Geomorphology as a Determinant for Essential Life Habitat: An Ecosystem Management Approach to Planning for Marine Reserve Networks*. He has provided a description of the aims of these sessions:

Marine resources are in decline throughout most of the world's oceans and traditional, species-specific and/or catch based means to manage these resources are failing and are instead turning to ecosystem-based approaches. As attractive as it sounds, the concept has not yet been effectively translated into action. The reauthorization of the Magnusson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act in 2006 provides renewed incentive for innovative ways to implement ecosystem-based management. The goal of these three sessions is to critically examine the growing body of data suggesting that the underlying geology and geomorphology of marine environments dictates the location of critical life habitat for a variety marine species. For example, it is becoming clearer that spawning aggregations of many species of commercially important reef fishes commonly occur at the windward edge of reef promontories that jut into deep water. As another example, seamounts serve as attractors for pelagic fishes. The broad implications of these findings suggest that geomorphology might be used as a proxy for (or at least help to identify) critical life habitat for marine species, and thus serve to advance the application of the ecosystem-based management and the design of marine reserve networks. Our goal is to bring together a group of experts who are examining this problem specifically, present papers, and publish them all together with a synthesis and policy statement, within a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal. In this way, we hope to advance collaboration between scientists from various disciplines and marine managers towards more efficient conservation and management of marine systems.

There are still places available for participation in this topic. If you are interested, please contact Will directly (wheyman@geog.tamu.edu).

Paul Gares is organizing a field trip to be scheduled before the meetings begin. He has provided a tentative itinerary:

Participants should arrive in Boston on Saturday, April 12, 2008. They will be picked up at Logan International Airport Saturday afternoon. We will then proceed to Cape Cod where we will spend the night. We will spend all day Sunday on the outer Cape... Stops will include the Nauset Spit area, the Marconi Station site, the Cape Cod dunes, Race Point, and the Park Service Visitors Centers at Salt Pond and Province Lands. We will also stop at one of the beaches (Fisher Beach or Duck Harbor Beach) on the west side of Cape Cod, facing Cape Cod Bay.

We spend Sunday night on Cape Cod at the same hotel probably in Hyannis. Monday morning we will get up and go to Sandy Neck. I am thinking about heading to Woods Hole for lunch that day. I thought it might be interesting to people to have a short visit at WHOI/USGS. From Woods Hole we head north towards Boston, with possible stops at Scituate and Nantasket during the afternoon to see these east facing populated barriers that face directly into the Atlantic and are often in the headlines when northeasters hit this coastline. We would spend Monday night north of Boston so we can get an early start the next day and avoid traffic commuting into the city.

On Tuesday we would visit north shore sites, with stops at Winthrop beach to see the breakwaters offshore, Revere to see recreational beach Mass. style and Nahant to see a rocky coast. We would also go to Marblehead to see the tombolo, Beverly to look at pocket beaches, and Gloucester to visit Wingersheek Beach.

Space for this trip will probably be limited to about 20. Please contact Paul directly if you are interested in attending (or helping lead!) (garesp@mail.ecu.edu). Further information, as it becomes available will be circulated on the CCS mailing list.

Registration for the symposium will be through the normal AAG conference registration process, as will the submissions of abstracts. Information detailing those processes may be found at <http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/2008/index.htm>. Please note, especially, the October 31, 2007

abstract deadline. As noted above, the organization of additional paper sessions is encouraged, as is the planning of panel sessions. Please coordinate your efforts with Jean Ellis (Jean.Ellis-1@nasa.gov).

In August, 2008, we will convene for the **XXXI International Geographical Union Congress** in Tunisia. We are not as far along in the planning process for this event, but it is important to get the congress on your calendars. A digital flyer, outlining many of the details of the Congress may be found at <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/tunis.pdf>. Note that there are already several session themes with a coastal flavor, and there is a coastally-oriented field trip planned. There soon will be a call for session proposal and abstracts, so please think about how you can participate in this major event. The Commission on Coastal System remains interested in proposals from the members for other activities, including, but not limited to, the development of special publications, organization of field symposia, and the organization or co-sponsorship of workshops and conferences. Please contact me if you have ideas on any of these activities, or if you would like to discuss some general thoughts on how you can participate.

DOUG SHERMAN

*****COASTAL COMMISSION MEETING*****

APRIL 15-19, 2008, BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS, USA
Coastal sessions, Association of American Geographers

Preliminary planning has begun to include sessions held in cooperation with the Coastal and Marine Specialty Group of the AAG covering a variety of topics in coastal systems. Potential participants are urged to contact Jean Ellis (Jean.Ellis-1@nasa.gov). Further information can be found in the communication from the chair, described above.

AUGUST 12-15, 2008, TUNIS, TUNISIA
31st International Geographical Congress

There will be sessions on coastal geomorphology and coastal information transfer at the Congress in Tunis, along with other topical sessions and several coastal field symposia. Our local contact will be **Ameur Ouestlati**. Any who are interested are encouraged to contact **Doug Sherman** and/or **Norb Psuty**.

There is a web site with additional information and an opportunity to file a statement of interest. It is <http://www.agt.org.tn/>. A digital flyer, outlining many of the details of the Congress may be found at <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/tunis.pdf>. In addition, there is a general statement about the Congress at: http://www.igu-net.org/uk/news_and_events/brochure_partie_anglaise.pdf

SUMMER 2010, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL
Regional Meeting, International Geographical Union

Preliminary information is posted at: http://www.igu-net.org/uk/news_and_events/IGU_Conference_2010.pdf

CCS CO-SPONSORED MEETINGS

OCTOBER 3-5 2007 SANTANDER, SPAIN **ICCD2007, International Conference on Management and Restoration of Coastal Dunes**

Original papers are invited on theory, measurements, analysis and practice for the following topics. Practical papers detailing the design, construction and performance of case studies on coastal dune restoration projects and management programs are encouraged. The central themes will include:

Physical processes

Wind transport, dune movement, dune erosion, stabilization.

Biological processes

Dune wildlife, vegetation establishment

Dune restoration

Design, construction, performance

Dune management

Management programs, access and services planning.

One area of presentation will consist of the Coastal Sand Dune Inventory of Europe (see special request for information below in this Newsletter).

For further information on ICCD-07 please see the website noted above or contact:

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iccd07@afidcongresos.com

www.afidcongresos.com

OCTOBER 8-10 2007 SANTANDER, SPAIN **CoastGIS 2007**

This conference focuses on GIS and computer mapping for coastal zone management. The website is at:

<http://www.coastgis07.com/>

Abstracts are to be submitted electronically by **March 31, 2007**.

Manuscripts of accepted papers are due by **June 30, 2007**.

For more information contact:

Maica Garriga,

Ocean and Coastal research Group,

University of Cantabria,

Santander, Spain.

garrigamc@unican.es

JANUARY 16-18, 2008, LILLE, FRANCE **The Littoral: Challenge, Dialogue, Action** **An International Multidisciplinary Conference**

The universities of northern France are organizing this conference to foster dialogue amongst the many researchers of the coastal zone. This international conference is open to all disciplines, such as geographers, sociologists, economists, ecologists, policy makers, and legal experts. The conference invites participation from all who are regularly confronted with the complexity of the littoral zone, including local and territorial authorities, economic stakeholders, and community/environmental associations.

The littoral is challenged by many adverse conditions: coastal erosion, marine pollution, the harmful effects of port industry, real-estate monetary increase, legal action stemming from the application of coastal law, as well as conflicting use interests. To meet these challenges of understanding, analysis, and organization requires dialogue. This dialogue will allow the different stakeholders to share their different visions of the littoral, the priorities they assign to it, and the future they imagine for it. Identifying, understanding, and analyzing the constraints and stakes involved implies a desire to act. But to take action, it is necessary to choose from the many possibilities those that will allow the littoral to be sustainably developed, managed, and preserved, adapting human activity so that both the littoral zone and the people flourish.

The conference announcement as well as the abstract form and instructions are posted at <http://www.ifresi.univ-lille1.fr>. Further information is available from: Littoral2008@ifresi-lille1.fr

REPORTS ON MEETINGS

Third International Conference and Field Meeting of IGCP Project 495 “Quaternary Land-Ocean Interactions: Driving Mechanisms and Coastal Responses”, Santa Catarina and Paraná, Brazil September 17-22nd 2006.

International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) Project 495 seeks to improve our understanding of Quaternary land-ocean interactions, with a particular focus on the driving mechanisms responsible for lateral and vertical changes in sea-level over a range of spatial and temporal scales. The project runs from 2004 to 2009 and, having held its first two international meetings in Maine (2004) and Indonesia (2005), converged on the coastal city of Balneário Camboriú, some 400 km south of Sao Paulo, for its third conference and field meeting.

The conference organisers, **Dr Rodolfo Angulo** and **Dr Maria Cristina de Souza** (Universidade Federal do Paraná) and **Dr Antonio Henrique Klein** (Universidade do Vale do Itajaí) are to be congratulated on all their efforts in welcoming over 30 colleagues from around the world to Brazil for two days' of academic papers followed by a three-day field trip to the spectacular coasts of Santa Catarina and Paraná.

The scientific paper session opened with two excellent overview papers of the Brazilian coast bays, estuaries and coastal barriers by **Dr Guilherme Lessa** and **Dr Rodolfo Angulo**. The coast of Brazil, like many others in the low latitudes, has experienced a fall in relative sea-level (RSL) since a mid-Holocene highstand. This quite modest fall in RSL, always less than about 3-4 m, resulted in major changes in coastal geomorphology and processes, most notably colossal coastal progradation with estuaries contracting in size and coastal barriers developing.



A three days field trip focused on the Santa Catarina and Parana coastal plain evolutions was developed. The extensive Holocene coastal plains of Santa Catarina and Paraná are locally backed by late Pleistocene barrier deposits of presumed MOI Stage 5e, although their exact age is yet to be determined. Infilling of the Paranaguá, Guaratuba and Tijucas all following a broadly similar pattern. During the rising limb of RSL in the early to mid Holocene, large volumes of sediment were transported into the tidal basins and the systems infilled. Uninterrupted longshore drift along the Santa Catarina and Paraná coasts was precluded by the numerous large tidal inlets and by the net transport of sediment into these systems by flood-dominated tidal channels. However, as RSL began to fall from its highstand so the estuaries infilled and a switch occurred from flood to ebb-dominance and large ebb tidal deltas formed. The infilling of the embayments provided the conditions for the establishment of a large south to north drift system that steadily depleted sediment from coasts to the south of Santa Catarina state, nourishing the prograding beach systems in the north.



Panoramic view from the Morro do Farol das Conchas, on the Ilha do Mel (R. Gehrels)

A programme and abstracts, as well as two field guides are available as pdf files on the IGCP 495 website listed below.

Further information on IGCP495 “Quaternary Land-Ocean Interactions: Driving Mechanisms and Coastal Responses” can be found from the UK National Correspondent, Dr Roland Gehrels (University of Plymouth, R.W.Gehrels@Plymouth.ac.uk) or the project web-site at:

http://www.geography.dur.ac.uk/research/IGCP_495/index.html

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OTHER MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 17-21, 2007, SHANGHAI, CHINA IMBER/LOICZ Continental Margins Open Sciences Conference

This conference will provide a discussion platform for highlighting the most recent advances in the field and try to identify emerging directions and future research challenges. The conference is open to all students and scientists involved in biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems in the continental margins. The Conference, while building on biogeochemical advances from international programs such as JGOFS and LOICZ, aims to take the next steps in:

1. linking the biogeochemical cycles of the coastal and open oceans,
2. linking organisms, including higher organisms, to biogeochemical processes,
3. moving past the present-day status and incorporating response/prediction to the global and local changes,
4. exploring the function and possible future changes of the continental shelf pump and the climate related biogeochemistry of continental margins, and
5. assessing the variability and sustainability of the continental margin ecosystems

More information is now available on the conference website

<http://www.confmanager.com/main.cfm?cid=792>

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2007, SAVONA, ITALY Climatic Change and Related Landscapes 12th Belgium-France-Italy-Romania Geomorphological Meeting

The meeting aims to discuss the existing relationships between climatic change and geomorphological environments. Particular focus will be given to morphological transformations induced by climatic change, of which they represent crucial indicators.

MEETING THEMES

Climatic change and:

- coastal landforms and processes
- gravitational landforms and processes
- glacial landforms and processes

The First Circular and Registration form are available on the homepage of the IAG website:

<http://www.geomorph.org/main.html>

Regular Registration and abstract submission should be submitted before May 15, 2007.

ITALY07

12th Belgium-France-Italy-Romania Geomorphological Meeting

The Organizer Prof. P.R.Federici

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SEPTEMBER 25-28, BREST, FRANCE

"INTERCOH'07", is the 9th International Conference on Nearshore and Estuarine Cohesive Sediment Transport Processes, information is available at: <http://www.ifremer.fr/intercoh2007/>

OCTOBER 24-27, 2007, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA

The annual conferences of the Ocean Management Research Network (OMRN) focus on the management of Canada's coasts and oceans by integrating research and policy, social science and natural science, and the human dimension. The 2007 Conference themes are: Ocean Agenda Implementation; Canada's North and the Arctic Ocean; Impacts and Adaptations of Coastal Communities; and Canada's Oceans and Climate Change - <http://www.omrn-rrgo.ca/index.php?action=conference.index>.

OCTOBER 27-30, 2007, SCIENCE CITY, KOLKATA, INDIA

Management of Coastal Ecosystem: Technological Advancement and Livelihood Security
Indian Society of Coastal Agricultural Research

Coastal resources exist in environments comprising complex dynamic geomorphological and ecological systems that are extremely sensitive to misuse. The use and management of such resources must be based on scientific knowledge of the interacting features and processes characteristic of coastal area. There is widespread evidence of damage impoverishment of coastal resources where this knowledge is lacking.

This symposium will address the following central topics:

1. Sustainable development of coastal areas through agriculture and allied activities
2. Wetland management, mangroves, and agro-forestry
3. Coastal disaster management for improved livelihood security
4. Oceanography, coastal energy, and information technology
5. Coastal policy

Further information regarding abstract submission, registration, conference housing, and field excursions is available on the Society's website: <http://www.iscar.org.in>

NOVEMBER 13-17, 2007 ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

Eight International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment - MEDCOAST 07 will be held at the Sheraton Montazah Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt. E-mail: medcoast@metu.edu.tr
Further information is available at: <http://www.medcoast.org.tr>

FEBRUARY 10-15, 2008 QUEENSTOWN, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA
13th Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group (ANZGG) conference

The major theme of the conference is: Ancient and modern: late Cainozoic modification of Australasia's relict landscapes. **Abstract and registration is due by November 30, 2007.**

Please VISIT the conference web page to download the first circular and expression of interest form.
http://www.anzgg.org/Tasmania_2008_home.htm

The contact for the Conference organising committee is:

Ian Houshold - Dept Primary Industries and Water, Tasmania
Ian.Houshold@dpiw.tas.gov.au
Phone (03) 6233 3868
Fax (03) 6233 3477

FEBRUARY 17-22, 2008, ESPERANCE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
International Symposium on the Interactions Between Sediments and Water

The International Association for Sediment Water Science (IASWS) seeks to promote, encourage and recognize excellence in scientific research related to sediments and their interactions with water and biota in fluvial, lacustrine and marine systems and with particular reference to problems of environmental concern. The association also brings together and fosters collaborative research and dialogue between earth scientists, biologists, chemists and environmental engineers whose interests pertain to sediment-water interactions in all aquatic systems.

More information is available at the conference website:
<http://www.whirligig.com.au/iasws/2008/IASWS2008FirstCircular.pdf>

MAY 23-2, 2008, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
COASTAL ZONE CANADA 2008

For information, email: **Kelly Francis** at: francisk@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Coastal Commission Cooperative Project
Special Request of the CCS Members

SAND DUNE INVENTORY OF EUROPE

1st Edition

The EUCC, the Coastal Union, and the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee originally published a sand dune inventory of Europe jointly in 1992. Staff of the EUCC secretariat in Leiden, the Netherlands provided help with the collection and collation of information.

The inventory was the product of a large number of individuals who wrote, helped to write, or contributed information to the country chapters. Finance for the publication was provided by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Department of Nature Conservation, Environmental Protection and Wildlife Management.

2nd Edition

The meeting 'Dunes and Estuaries' an International Conference on Nature Restoration Practices in European Coastal Habitats, held at Koksijde, Belgium, on the 19-23 September 2005 proved the stimulus for the production of a revised inventory (Doody 2005). The editor has now produced a first draft of this with redrawn figures and additional information added, including chapters for several additional countries omitted from the 1st Edition.

This note is a special request for further help and information from the members of the Coastal Commission. If you have maps or descriptions of major sand dune sites, country accounts or would be prepared to help with individual chapters please get in touch. The final revised version will be made available as a PDF file on CD. Copies will be sent on CD or via the Internet for a small charge of €15 to help defray production costs. It is intended to complete publication in time for the Dune Conference in Spain, scheduled for October 2007.

Ref: Doody, J. P., 2005. Sand dune inventory of Europe. In: Herrier J.-L., J. Mees, A. Salman, J. Seys, H. Van Nieuwenhuysse and I. Dobbelaere (Eds). *Proceedings 'Dunes and Estuaries 2005' – International Conference on Nature Restoration Practices in European Coastal Habitats*, Koksijde, Belgium, 19-23 September 2005 VLIZ Special Publication **19**, 45-54.

Dr J. Patrick Doody, Email pat.doody@ntlworld.com

Or write to: 5 Green Lane, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs., PE28 4RE, UK.

Grist and Grains

The IGU Commission on Coastal Systems (CCS) has a new web site which can be found at: <http://www.igu-ccs.org/> Contact information for CCS Officers and Steering Committee members can be found on the web site along with past and present newsletters. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CCS, an on-line membership form is available.

Claudette LeBlanc (CANADA) shares a wide variety of coastal information with us. His Newsletter is the source of the following information, it is available at: <http://www.dal.ca/aczisc/new>

- COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN IRELAND

The aim of the Irish Coastal Network (I-CoNet) is to promote good practice in coastal management by bringing together coastal practitioners, policy makers, researchers and the general public with an interest in the sustainable development of Ireland's coast. The 1st National I-CoNet Conference was held in April 2007 in Cork. The theme was 'Towards the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Coast'. The Conference report and presentations are available at <http://iconet.ucc.ie/pages/outputs.htm>.

- INDICATORS GUIDELINES – EVALUATING COASTAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The report contains the results from the Sustainable Development of European Coastal Zones project. It reviews the existing coastal policy framework in relation to the Indicators of Sustainable Development, the methodological tools, including GIS, and the practical utility of an indicators-based approach, especially for the decision-making process. It concludes with a list of recommendations for the proficient measurement of sustainable development in coastal zones. The report is available at

http://www.deduce.eu/PDF-NewsLetter/indicators_guidelines.pdf.

- GLOBAL MARINE ASSESSMENTS

The report, a joint publication of UNEP and IOC/UNESCO, identifies the components of an effective assessment and summarizes the key considerations for establishing an assessment process. It also includes the findings of a survey and an analysis of gaps and emerging issues. The report is available at <http://www.unep.org/dewa/assessments/Ecosystems/water/Survey07final.pdf>. It is supported by an interactive online database tool, available at <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/GRAMED>, which enables the user to search through the assessments and activities relating to the marine environment.

- IMPROVING COASTAL ACCESS IN THE UK

Natural England is a government agency that works to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. At the request of the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Natural England studied how to improve access to coastal land in England and undertook a detailed programme of research and investigation into the underlying facts. The findings are available at

http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Access/coastal_access/coastal_access_report.asp.

- COASTAL ISSUES WORKSHOP REPORTS

Two workshop reports available from the Ecology Action Centre website at

http://www.ecologyaction.ca/coastal_issues/coastal_publications.shtm are: - "Changing Climate, Changing Coasts", report from the Learning Circle on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Nova Scotia, held in June 2007.- "Six Years in the Mud. Restoring Maritime Salt Marshes: Lessons Learned and Moving Forward", a summary of the Salt Marsh Restoration Workshop, held on 1-2 February in Dartmouth Nova Scotia

- SALT MARSH RESTORATION IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE

The report entitled "Examining Community Adaptive Capacity to Address Climate Change, Sea-level Rise and Salt Marsh Restoration in Maritime Canada", submitted to the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, is available at

http://www.mta.ca/rstp/CCIAP_Project_A1106_Final_Report1.pdf. The report focuses on the ecologic, economic, social and policy conditions under which a community might employ dyke removal and salt marsh restoration as an adaptive response to future climate change and sea level rise.

- RADARSAT-2: SUPPORTING MARINE MANAGEMENT

The RADARSAT-2 satellite, to be launched later this year, will support marine operations and oil spill monitoring, ice services, agricultural and ecosystem monitoring, Arctic and remote-area surveillance emergency and disaster response. A RADARSAT-2 Symposium was held in September 2006 to review the satellite's technological advances and configuration, access to data, and industrial policy and markets. For information on obtaining the presentations, access

<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/events/2006/radarsat2.asp>.

- MARINE ECOREGIONS OF THE WORLD

A new study from The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) presents the first classification system of the world's coastal waters. The report classifies the habitats and species in the world's oceans by dividing coastal waters into 12 realms (e.g., Temperate Northern Atlantic); 62 provinces (e.g., Cold Temperate Northwest Atlantic); and 232 ecoregions (smaller and more homogenous units such as the Gulf of St. Lawrence-Eastern Scotian Shelf). For information and to download the report, access <http://www.nature.org/tncscience/news/meow.html>.

- 2007 REPORT OF THE ICES WORKING GROUP ON ICZM

The Working Group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) met on 17-20 April 2007 in Mallorca, Spain. The highlights from the meeting were: Spatial planning has become the dominant tool for coastal planning and integrated ecosystem management especially for the coastal zone; and indicators for ecosystem health or status are a primary link between science and policy for ICZM and should form the focal point for future research. The report is available at <http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/wgdetail.asp?wg=WGICZM>.

- EVALUATING ICZM IN EUROPE

A Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council in 2002 called on the Commission of European Communities to review the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in Europe and to provide an evaluation report. The Commission's report is available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/home.htm>. The Member States national reports, the European Environment Agency (EEA) state-of-the coast assessment and the external evaluation report which were the main sources for the Commission's report are also available.

- ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN EUROPE

The Green Paper on "Adapting to climate change in Europe - options for EU action", adopted by the European Commission, sets out priority actions to be considered. The Green Paper, including maps on climate conditions and impacts in Europe, is available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm.

- ADVANCING ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT: A DECISION SUPPORT TOOLKIT FOR MARINE MANAGERS

The aim of this toolkit is to guide managers and practitioners in the use of common tools for regional planning and to illustrate, through case studies, approaches to advance ecosystem-based management by jointly addressing multiple objectives in conservation, fisheries and coastal hazards. The toolkit provides guidance on some of the tools that help in the assessment of marine ecosystems and the identification of opportunities to enhance their conservation and management. The toolkit is available at <http://www.marineebm.org>.

= CLIMATE CHANGE 2007: MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Working Group III contribution to the Climate Change 2007 Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was presented on 4 May 2007 in Bangkok. This volume analyses mitigation options for the main economic sectors in the near-term. It provides information on long-term mitigation strategies for various stabilization levels, with a focus on the implications of different short-term strategies for achieving long-term goals. It also addresses the relationship between mitigation and sustainable development. The report, figures, video webcast, etc. are available at <http://www.ipcc.ch>.

- GEBCO BATHYMETRIC CHARTS OF THE OCEANS

The General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) aims to provide the most authoritative, publicly-available bathymetry datasets for the world's

oceans. GEBCO bathymetry is available in three forms: digital form, either on CDROM with a user-friendly interface or as a free downloadable 1 arc-minute grid, and in map form. For information, access <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gebco/gebco.html>.

- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being undertaken to enable a better understanding of the environmental impacts from wave and tidal energy development around the west coast of Scotland. The Environmental Report prepared for the SEA is available at <http://www.seaenergyscotland.co.uk>.

- The proceedings of the "1st International Marine Protected Areas Congress" held in October 2005 in Geelong, Australia are available at <http://www.impacongress.org>. The proceedings contain over 375 conference papers and summaries that are searchable using keywords or related topics.

- CANADA'S PROGRESS RE ICOM

A special issue of the Coastal Management journal (volume 35, issue 1) addresses the level of progress being made with regards to Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management in Canada. Each of the six articles addresses a separate issue and theme, all linked by reference to Canada's Oceans Act and the Oceans Action Plan. The article titles, list of authors and purchase information are available at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g764621988~db=all>.

- OCEAN TRACKING NETWORK

\$35 million has been awarded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for the creation of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN). Headquartered at Dalhousie University, the OTN will integrate research in 14 key regions of the world's oceans. Research will focus on five multidisciplinary themes: ocean physics and modeling; the biology and behaviour of highly migratory marine living resources; the impact of climate change; resource management; and the international social and legal framework for oceans. For information, access <http://www.innovation.ca/media/index.cfm?websiteid=487>.

- IPCC REPORT ON SCIENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

On 2 February, Working Group I of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) adopted the Summary for Policymakers of the first volume of "Climate Change 2007", also known as the Fourth Assessment Report. "Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis" assesses the current scientific knowledge of the natural and human drivers of climate change, observed changes in climate, the ability of science to attribute changes to different causes, and projections for future climate change. The report is available at <http://www.ipcc.ch>.

- MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

This report is a synthesis of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment on marine and coastal ecosystems. The report tries to provide answers to a series of questions that all stakeholders may ask: what is at stake, what is the current status of marine and coastal ecosystems, why should we care if we lose marine and coastal ecosystems, and what can be done to ensure that marine and coastal ecosystems and services are conserved? The report is available at http://www.unep.org/publications/search/pub_details_.asp?ID=3792.

- DYNAMICS OF INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The book entitled "Dynamics of Integrated Coastal Management: Practical Applications in the Sustainable Coastal Developments in East Asia" describes the rationale underlying the use of the integrated management approach, and the practices used to apply sustainable development principles and international environmental instruments when undertaking ICM programs. It also provides a basic

framework within which various problem-solving, management-oriented activities can be developed, and outlines the processes that can be used to guide their planning and implementation. Purchase information is available at

http://pemsea.org/media/e-updates/vol8/eup1_dynamics_icm_launch.htm.

- OCEAN SCIENCE IN THE US

The report entitled "Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States for the Next Decade: An Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy" outlines the national ocean research priorities for the US for the next ten years. The document represents the first national effort to identify research priorities that address key interactions between society and the ocean. The report is available at

http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/sup_jsost_prioritiesplan.html.

- The July 2007 edition of **Coastal Management News**, published by NOAA's Coastal Management Program, includes a special section on coastal managers adapting to climate change -

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/news/czmnewsletter.html>.

- **EUCC Coastal News** is the international newsletter of the Coastal Union (EUCC). The July 2007 issue is available at <http://www.eucc.net/en/news/CN07-04.pdf>.

- '**Sea Level Science**' is the theme of a free issue of a Royal Society journal -

<http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/index.cfm?page=1449>.

- **The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS)** has announced a pilot web-based Regional Habitat Monitoring Data System to enable sharing, integration, and use of coastal habitat monitoring data. The system, initially developed for salt marsh and seagrass vegetation data, ultimately will serve as a tool for other coastal habitat data - <http://www.gomoos.org/gomc/map>.

- **A US National Research Council report** concludes that new digital, high-resolution land elevation maps -- created using remote-sensing laser technology -- are needed to support the US Federal Emergency Management Agency's effort to modernize floodplain maps. The report, including a press release and the Executive Summary in PDF format, is available at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11829.html>.

- STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN TO IMPROVE HURRICANE WARNINGS

Highly accurate meteorological forecasts can be used to ensure that credible hurricane warnings are issued in a timely manner. The "Interagency Strategic Research Plan for Tropical Cyclones: The Way Ahead", developed by the US Joint Action Group for Tropical Cyclone Research, focuses on R&D and the transition of research to operations to meet the current and future operational needs of the forecast and warning centres. The Plan includes key findings and recommendations. It is available at

<http://www.ofcm.gov/p36-isrtc/fcm-p36.htm>.

- COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

The book entitled "Coastal Resource Management in the Wider Caribbean: Resilience, Adaptation, and Community Diversity" contains an examination of the analytical and methodological issues linked to community studies in Caribbean systems; presents comparative, thematically-oriented chapters detailing specific management issues at local levels; and, in the concluding section, questions the gap between theory and practice in coastal zone management. It is available online at

<http://www.idrc.ca/openebooks/223-6/>.

- PROTOTYPE GLOBAL SHORELINE DATA

The Office of Global Navigation of the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency has acquired a

prototype Global Shoreline Data set (satellite derived). The shoreline is an approximation of the High Water Line; it is not a Mean High Water Line since the source data have not been tide coordinated.

Segments of the prototype version (shapefiles) are available at

http://www.nga.mil/portal/site/nga01/index.jsp?epi_content=GENERIC&itemID=9328fbd8dcc4a010VgnVCMserver3c02010aRCRD&beanID=1629630080&viewID=Article.

- **A US National Research Council report** entitled "Analysis of Global Change Assessments: Lessons Learned" reviews lessons learned from past assessments, which are intended to inform policymakers about the scientific underpinnings of critical environmental issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and ozone depletion - <http://www.nas.edu/morenews/20070223.html>.

- **Two issues of the Marine Technology Society (MTS) Journal** have been devoted to the topic of coastal inundation in the US - the winter 2006/2007 issue (published) and the spring 2007 issue (upcoming). The Journal is available via membership in the Society - <http://www.mtsociety.org>.

- ESTABLISHING NETWORKS OF MPAs

The publication "Establishing Networks of Marine Protected Areas - Making It Happen" concludes that networks of marine reserves will make marine species and ecosystems more resistant to threats such as climate change, overfishing or pollution. It reviews the need for MPA networks, the ecological design criteria for the Networks, the broader considerations needed to ensure that they are set in context, and the key elements needed to make MPA Networks happen and achieve their goals. The report is available at <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/mpanetworks/networks.html>.

- COASTAL PLANNING AND PERMITTING FOR URBAN WATERFRONTS

The document "Urban Coastal Greenways Policy for the Metro Bay Region" describes a new regulatory approach toward coastal vegetative buffers for the urbanized environment of northern Narragansett Bay. Urban Coastal Greenways offer a mechanism to redevelop urban waterfronts in a manner that integrates economic development, expanded public access along and to the shoreline, and provides for the management, protection, and restoration of valuable coastal habitats. The document is available at <http://www.crmc.ri.gov/regulations/programs/UCG10oct06.pdf>.

- MITIGATING SHORE EROSION ALONG SHELTERED COASTS

This US National Research Council report calls for a regional management approach that considers the environmental impacts that could accumulate if hard structures are permitted on a site by site basis. The report also recommends changing the current permitting system to encourage the use of more ecologically beneficial erosion-control methods, such as planting of marshes. The report, including the Executive Summary in PDF format, is available at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11764.

- CLIMATE CHANGE 2007: IMPACTS, ADAPTATION AND VULNERABILITY

The Working Group II contribution to the "Climate Change 2007" Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was presented in Brussels on 6 April 2007. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of how climate change is affecting natural and human systems, what the impacts will be in the future and how far adaptation and mitigation can reduce these impacts. It also contains chapters on specific systems, sectors and regions. The report, figures, video webcast, etc. are available at <http://www.ipcc.ch>.

- **The Compendium of Sustainable Development Indicator Initiatives** provides information on initiatives carried out at international, national, provincial/territorial/state, regional, sectoral, ecosystem and local/community levels worldwide - <http://www.iisd.org/measure/compendium/>.

- ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE US

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in partnership with the Coastal States Organization, has begun to develop a set of core principles and specific options to consider in drafting a proposal for reauthorizing the US Coastal Zone Management Act. The initiative will be implemented in three phases: draft a discussion paper that identifies current issues, constraints and opportunities for coastal management; seek state coastal manager perspectives; and engage the broader community. For information and to download the discussion paper, access

http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/czma_vision.html.

- ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND HURRICANE PROTECTION IN LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Legislature has approved a plan for coastal restoration and hurricane protection. Entitled "Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Hurricane Protection: Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast", the plan is the first document to completely incorporate hurricane protection projects with projects aimed at rebuilding Louisiana's rapidly eroding coastal wetlands. The plan is available at <http://www.lacpra.org/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&nid=24&pnid=0&pid=28&fmid=0&catid=0&elid=0>.

- **The Gateway to Astronaut Photography of the Earth** provides access to an online collection of astronaut photographs of the Earth. In addition to digital images, the database includes the locations and supporting data - <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/sseop/clickmap/>.

- **GISFish** was developed by FAO and collaborators as a "one stop" website to solve problems in inland fisheries and aquaculture using GIS, remote sensing and mapping - <http://www.fao.org/fi/gisfish/index.jsp>.

- **The US National Estuary Program Coastal Condition Report** presents the condition of 28 estuaries covered by the National Estuary Program in the USA. The Report concludes that nationally, 37% of the NEP estuarine area is in poor overall condition. Regionally, 46% of the Northeast Coast, 46% of the Gulf Coast, 36% of the West Coast, and 23% of the Southeast Coast NEP estuaries are in poor overall condition. The Report is available at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/nepccr/index.html>.

- **The "IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management (2008-2011)"** is the draft version that will be submitted for approval to the 24th Session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Assembly on 19-28 June 2007 - http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=64.

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Contact information for CCS Officers and Steering Committee members can be found on the web site along with past and present newsletters. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CCS, an on-line membership form is available.

BECOME A CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE IGU COMMISSION ON COASTAL SYSTEMS

The membership dues consist of your involvement in the activities in the Commission and/or your contributions to the Newsletter. The absence of participation will cause your membership to lapse.

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Thank you for your cooperation. NORB PSUTY

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The International Geographical Union produces a Newsletter that is circulated to the general membership of the IGU. If you are interested in receiving this Newsletter, please send your full name and email address to Dawn Bissell: d.bissell@homeofgeography.org

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