

newsletter

Union Géographique Internationale
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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 are now well into the first year of our four year appointment (2009-2012) as a Commission of the International Geographical Union. The last four years have been a productive period for the Commission on Coastal Systems, and Doug Sherman, past chair, Norb Psuty, editor of the CCS newsletter, and the members of the commission are thanked for their significant efforts. Our continued success will, as always, depend upon the active participation of you, as a member of our commission. In particular, we request that you seek opportunities to develop and encourage international collaborative efforts that will lead to enhanced understanding of the natural and human components of coastal systems. This includes the organization of paper sessions, workshops, field trips and field symposia. It includes the production of edited books and special issues of journals. There is more than enough work for each of you to make a contribution. If you have an idea suitable for any of these outlets, please use the Newsletter as a means of seeking collaborators, organizing and or publicizing your project. And please make every effort to participate in the Regional Meeting of the International Congress of the IGU in Tel Aviv in 2010.

Edward ANTHONY

****COASTAL COMMISSION MEETING****

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

Preliminary information is posted at: <http://www.igu-ccs.org/>

net.org/uk/news_and_events/IGU_Conference_2010.pdf

Contact: Prof. Micha Klein, mklein@geo.haifa.ac.il

OTHER MEETINGS WITH COASTAL INTERESTS

JULY 7-12, 2009, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA International Geomorphology Conference

Information is available on the web at: <http://www.geomorphology2009.com>

Contact: Brian Finlayson
Associate Professor & Reader
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Victoria 3010
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JULY 19-23, 2009, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL ZONE '09 REVOLUTIONARY TIMES: CATCHING THE WAVE OF CHANGE

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2009, MALTA FIRTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES Water Resources Management 2009

The fifth International Conference on Water Resources Management will present the more recent technological and scientific developments associated with the management of surface and sub-surface water resources. Several water-related conferences organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology have been successfully held in many locations throughout the world. Water Resources Management is one of the most important conferences in the series. The importance of this meeting cannot be overemphasized as water increasingly becomes a precious resource on which the well-being of future generations depends. Issues of water quality, quantity, management and planning, as well as other related topics, are essential to the future of the world population. A session on coastal and estuarine problems is planned. Abstract submission form (as soon as possible) and registration information are on the website.

For further information visit www.wessex.ac.uk

OCTOBER 5-9, 2009, RABAT, MOROCCO

3RD ANNUAL MEETING OF IGCP526 PROJECT (RISKS, RESOURCES, RECORD OF THE PAST ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF)

Deadline for abstract submission: July 10, 2009

Information on meeting and registration at:

<http://igcp526.io.usp.br/>

Contact: Michel M. Mahiques: mahiques@usp.br

OCTOBER 8-21, 2009, PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

2009 GSA ANNUAL MEETING

FROM VOLCANOES TO VINEYARDS: LIVING WITH DYNAMIC LANDSCAPES

Dr. Alex Simms, Boone Pickens School of Geology at Oklahoma State University, invites members of IGCP495 to consider submitting an abstract to the following session:

T39. Methods of Reconstructing Quaternary Sea Levels

This session will review new and established methods for reconstructing Quaternary Sea Levels and address the methods of data analysis and hypothesis testing to determine driving mechanisms behind sea-level change.

The electronic abstracts submission form is now “live” and can be found at <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2009AM/cfp.epl>. Abstracts deadline is midnight, Eastern Time, 11 August, 2009.

OCTOBER 19–20, 2009, GIRONA, CATALONIA, SPAIN

“RESEARCHING COASTAL AND RESORT DESTINATION MANAGEMENT: CULTURES AND HISTORIES OF TOURISM”

This conference is organised by

Departament d'Organització d'Empreses, Facultat de Turisme

Universitat de Girona, Catalunya

<http://www.udg.edu/Default.aspx?alias=www.udg.edu/ft>

Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change

Leeds Metropolitan University, United Kingdom

<http://www.tourism-culture.com/>

Oficina de Turisme, Roses, Catalunya

www.roses.cat

European Union of Tourist Officers

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

If you wish to submit a paper proposal, please send a 300-word abstract with full address and institutional affiliation details as an electronic file to Dr. Philip Long p.e.long@leedsmet.ac.uk

The deadline for the reception of abstracts is 31st of July 2009.

Please find regularly updated information regarding this conference, registration procedures and (at a later stage) a full programme at

<http://www.udg.edu/jornades/EUTO2009/tabid/12969/Default.aspx>

or email to uto2009@udg.edu

DECEMBER 15-19, 2009, SAN FRANCISCO, USA

Upcoming AGU Fall Meeting

(<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm08/>).

The deadline for abstract submission is September 10.

OCTOBER 24-30, 2009, CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA

IGCP 495

The final international project meeting and fieldtrip for IGCP495 "Quaternary land-ocean interactions: driving mechanisms and coastal responses", will be hosted at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina, USA.

For details visit the IGCP495 website at:

<http://www.geography.dur.ac.uk/Projects/Default.aspx?alias=www.geography.dur.ac.uk/projects/igcp495>

or type "IGCP495 Durham" into Google and follow the link. Details of the project, previous meetings, future meetings plus other reports are available at this site.

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2010, MIAMI, USA

RIP CURRENT SYMPOSIUM

Florida International University, in partnership with Florida Sea Grant, is pleased to announce a call for papers for the Rip Current Symposium, to be held in Miami, Florida. Dr. Robert Brander of the University of New South Wales in Australia will be the international keynote speaker.

Deadline for Abstract Submission: August 17, 2009

Abstract Guidelines:

Submit abstract (please limit to 250 words) and contact information (name, affiliation, address, phone, and email) via email to Dr. Ivonne Schmid at ischmid@ishof.org.

Please contact Ms. Denise Dominguez at (305) 348-1339 or ddomingu@fiu.edu for further questions. More information will be forthcoming soon.

APRIL 11-17, 2010, ESTORIL, CASCAIS, PORTUGAL

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COASTAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

The New University of Lisbon, the Cascais Municipality, the Cascais Energy Agency, the Cascais Atlantic Agency and the Organizing Committee, are pleased to announce ICCCM2010.

Please find information at <http://icccm.dcea.fct.unl.pt>

For further questions, contact us icccm@cascaisenergia.org

JULY, 5-9, 2010, SANTA ROSA, ARGENTINA

International Conference on Aeolian Research ICARVII

you will find actualized information on:

- REGISTRATION: deadlines, fees, forms, payment systems
- ABSTRACTS: submission deadlines, format, evaluation systems
- TRANSPORT AND ACCOMODATION: A Word file provided by a local travel agency content details on transportation, accomodation, food, and touristic trips within Argentina,

web site (www.icarvii.com.ar)

Contact Daniel Buschiazzo buschiazzo@agro.unlpam.edu.ar

ICARVII Chair

Grist and Grains

The IGU Commission on Coastal Systems (CCS) has a 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.

Cutter Cleveland (Boston University) announces the launch of the [Climate Change Collection](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Climate_Change_%28collection%29) in the [Encyclopedia of Earth](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Climate_Change_%28collection%29): http://www.eoearth.org/article/Climate_Change_%28collection%29

The Collection is anchored by an electronic version of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Nobel Prize-winning reports](#). It also includes articles by climate experts, biographies of individuals who have made important contributions to climate science and policy, a timeline of key events in the history of climate science and policy, a climate glossary, and much more. Scientists, educators, environmental professionals and concerned citizens should find the Collection to be an invaluable resource.

The Collection seeks to expand with articles on a wide range of climate-related topics and written for a large and diverse global audience, and encourages potential contributors to contact Cutter Cleveland.

The Geográfica Acadêmica is an electronic journal from Geology and Physical Geography Laboratory of Institute Studies Social-Environment in Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG) - BRAZIL. It aims at publications in geomorphology, pedology, biogeography, urban geography, climatology, rural geography, environment education, geography of tourism, and cultural geography.

Web address: <http://geograficaacademica.webng.com/ingles/index.html>

You are invited to make a contribution.

For further information, contact: Thiago Morato de Carvalho

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Roger Longhorn provides the following information on the **Caribbean Marine Atlas**

A number of Caribbean countries are embarking on an initiative to develop a **Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA)**. The purpose of the CMA is to identify, collect and organize available geo-spatial datasets into an atlas of environmental themes for the Caribbean region, under the sponsorship of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's (IOC) International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Programmes. The CMA will include geo-spatial data from national and regional projects and programmes, related to the sustainable development and integrated management of marine and coastal areas in the region.

While these areas and their associated living resources are of major importance for the sustainable development of the Caribbean, they are under increasing pressure from a combination of anthropogenic and natural threats. A major constraint to effective integrated management of these areas has been limited availability of data and information as well as of appropriate data and information tools.

A prototype version of the Caribbean Marine Atlas will be prepared by nine participating countries (Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago and Turks & Caicos). It is expected the prototype Atlas will be released in October 2008. It is planned to extend the Atlas to include other countries in the region. Environmental datasets from organizations in the contributing countries will be collected for presentation in the Atlas.

Data Layers.

The data layers for the Atlas will be:

- Regional Scale Data Layers - These layers cover the complete Atlas area of interest.
- National/Local Scale Data Layers - These layers cover specific countries in the Caribbean. It will be the responsibility of the participating countries to collect and organize data. Some of the data themes that will be included will be provided as "virtual" datasets.
- Virtual Data Layers - These layers will be provided as links to online web map servers (WMS) or web feature servers (WFS) that produce dynamic maps that can be integrated into the Atlas.

Features of the Atlas.

The CMA will be a digital atlas comprising easily downloadable data on various key themes relevant to the marine and coastal environment of the Caribbean. Among these themes are coastal habitats, fisheries, environmental quality, climate change and sea level rise, oceanography, as well as socio-economic aspects. The Atlas will also contain dataset descriptions (metadata) and links to the source data. It is intended both to provide necessary datasets directly to concerned scientists, coastal zone management practitioners, and natural resource managers, and will set the stage for the development of decision-makers' toolkits that rely on geo-spatial information.

The CMA will play an important role in informing decision-makers on issues relating to the marine and coastal environment and it is envisaged the Atlas will become the main entry point for anyone interested in finding information on the coastal and marine environment of the Caribbean.

The development of the CMA will also provide a tool to assist community building and collaboration in the region. It will draw on national human resources to identify issues of concern, define appropriate indicators and locate datasets that can be used in the atlas. In addition, data gaps that require additional resources will be identified. As part of the Atlas development, the IODE programme will provide the necessary training to the relevant persons from each country. The CMA will be built using open source technologies and will be based on international standards to enable the sharing of technological knowledge and resources. The Atlas will encourage the wide dissemination of key datasets by providing access and visualization of these data.

A CMA training workshop was held within the IOC-IODE's Ocean Teacher programme at the IODE Project Office in Oostende, Belgium, in February 2008. Videos of all lectures from the 6 day programme can be downloaded from <http://www.oceanteacher.org/CMA%201.html>.

Contact:

Peter Pissierssens, IODE Project Office for IOC (of UNESCO)

email: p.pissierssens@unesco.org ; j.barbriere@unesco.org

URL: <http://www.iode.org/cma>

ODINAFRICA, for Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (Réseau d'Echanges de Données et d'Information Océanographiques pour l'Afrique), runs a newsletter on coastal and oceanographic data, events and developments in Africa, edited by Professor Adoté Blivi, CCS board member. See <http://www.nodc-togo.org>

- The Coastal and Marine Wiki

The Coastal and Marine Wiki, is a spin-off from a European Community project “ENCORA”, which aimed to improve sharing of coastal knowledge and experience within Europe. The design of ENCORA is set to help overcome the fragmentation of coastal expertise. In all European coastal states, many institutions are engaged in coastal and marine studies related to science, practice or policy. Together these institutions constitute a huge resource of knowledge and experience. However, the resource is not fully exploited, because of the lack of a rapid and easy means of communication.

The transfer of scientific knowledge occurs mainly among fellow experts; scientific publications focus on specific disciplinary aspects and are almost inaccessible to non-expert coastal and marine professionals. Existing publications are not always appropriate for passing on new insight to management practice.

The Coastal and Marine Wiki is an Internet encyclopaedia, which so far has 1200 information pages written for and by coastal professionals providing up-to-date high quality Coastal and Marine information. The Wiki can be accessed @ http://www.encora.eu/coastalwiki/Main_Page.

Note that the Coastal and Marine Wiki does not follow exactly the same concepts as the Wikipedia. An important difference is that it is not possible to edit anonymously. All contributors have an identity, allowing discussion to take place between those submitting articles on similar subjects. This also promotes informed debate, should differences occur in the interpretation of information. Another difference is that in the Coastal Wiki, terms are defined in separate, individual definition-pages.

Those who attended the International Sand Dune conference “Changing Perspectives in Coastal Dune Management”, 31st March - 3rd April 2008, Liverpool, UK received a copy of a revised “Sand Dune Inventory of Europe” on CD. However, it became clear that there was great scope for the individual country reports to be improved. Several people suggested importing individual chapters into the ‘Coastal Wiki’. This would allow individuals to add to, revise and update the contributions on an ongoing basis.

As a result, Pat Doody has begun the process of importing country reports to the Coastal Wiki. It is hoped this example will encourage others to use the functionality of the web site to share a wide range of information on our coasts.

Please email pat.doody@ntlworld.com with any queries or comments.

The ENCORA project has been initiated to improve sharing of knowledge and experience within Europe, in two respects:

- Overcome existing fragmentation of coastal expertise. In all European coastal states many institutions are engaged in coastal and marine studies related to science, practice or policy. Together these institutions constitute a huge resource of knowledge and experience. However, as much work is done in isolation, this resource is not fully exploited.
- Better exploit scientific knowledge in practice. Scientific knowledge is communicated mainly among fellow experts; scientific publications focus on specific disciplinary aspects and are almost inaccessible to non-expert coastal and marine professionals. Existing publication practices are not appropriate for passing on new insight to practice.

Therefore ENCORA organises a number of services enabling coastal professionals to take better advantage of existing knowledge resources in Europe, for tackling the challenges posed by the future of our coasts. These services are being implemented by Coordination Offices, which have been established in 18 European countries and rely on National Networks, Thematic Networks and Affiliated Networks. Visit ENCORA at: <http://www.encora.eu/>

The following information is taken from the very informative Newsletter compiled by Claudette LeBlanc, the ACZISC Secretariat. The full version is available at: <http://aczisc.dal.ca>

- COASTAL ACTIVITIES IN ATLANTIC CANADA

A report of Coastal Activities in Atlantic Canada, based on discussions at the ACZISC Meeting held on 23-24 January 2008 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is available at <http://aczisc.dal.ca/docs.htm#ACZISC>.

- BACKGROUND REPORT FOR THE FUNDY TIDAL ENERGY SEA

"Background Report for the Fundy Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment". The report provides information on the biophysical and socio-economic environment in the Bay of Fundy region, marine renewable technologies, and potential interactions between the two. It was commissioned jointly by OEER and the New Brunswick Department of Energy. The report is available at

<http://www.offshoreenergyresearch.ca/OEER/StrategicEnvironmentalAssessment/BackgroundreportfortheFundyTidalEnergySEA/tabid/280/Default.aspx>.

- NEW GENERATION OF SATELLITE ORTHOIMAGERY ON GEOBASE

GeoBase is a federal, provincial and territorial government initiative to ensure the provision of, and access to, a common, up-to-date and maintained base of geospatial data for all of Canada. A new generation of satellite orthoimagery is now available on the GeoBase website at

<http://www.geobase.ca/geobase/en/data/imagery/imr/description.html>. The first 1000 of the SPOT 4 and 5 derived orthoimagery have been released. 5000 images will be acquired between 2005 and 2010.

- COASTAL MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES IN THE US

The report entitled "Strengthening the Application of Science in Coastal Decision Making" has identified land use, habitat, and coastal hazards as the top three priorities for coastal resource managers. It is based on multiple surveys, focus groups, and workshops conducted in coastal regions around the United States. The report is available at

http://ciceet.unh.edu/news/releases/cso_report/index.html.

- ICZM PROTOCOL

In conformity with the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region

of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, the ICZM Protocol signed in Madrid in January 2008 aims at establishing a common framework for the integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zone and to take the necessary measures to strengthen regional co-operation for this purpose. The protocol is available at

http://www.pap-thecoastcentre.org/about.php?blob_id=56&lang=en#publications.

- COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT RULES - NEW JERSEY, USA

The Coastal Zone Management rules address a wide range of land and water types (locations), present and potential land and water uses, and natural, cultural, social and economic resources in the coastal zone. The rules are used primarily in reviewing permit applications and also provide a basis for recommendations on applications for riparian grants, leases and licenses. They are available at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/landuse/7-7e.pdf>.

- LINKING COASTAL AND RIVER MANAGEMENT

The document entitled "The Benefits of Inter-linking Coastal and River Management" includes twenty case studies world-wide. It looks in detail at a number of specific river systems to identify opportunities and constraint, to identify the major issues that a linked management program needs to deal with and the socio-economic implications of these issues, and to highlight the benefits of linked management and why the resolution of those issues is important. The document is available at http://eucc-d.de/plugins/coastline_reports/coastline_reports10.php.

- MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT

MEAM, a quarterly information service on marine ecosystem-based management, is published by Marine Affairs Research and Education, in association with the University of Washington School of Marine Affairs in Seattle, Washington. 'Issues of Scale: Ensuring that Ecosystem-based Management Works at All Levels, from Local to National and Beyond' is the theme of the current edition (Vol. 1, No. 2) - <http://www.meam.net>.

- The first image for a time series of satellite maps of the Arctic has been produced as part of Canada's contribution to International Polar Year (IPY) activities. The map was produced using new Canadian technology that can provide rich spectral information on a day-to-day basis -

http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/2008/02_artic.asp.

- "**Hot Properties**" provides an analysis of how global warming will affect British Columbia's real estate sector. The climate change impacts include: extreme storm events; coastal storm surges; sea level rise; spring flooding; and stormwater flows. The report finds that changes in purchasing behavior, government regulations, building standards and the way in which insurers calculate risks are either already underway or imminent - http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Publications/hot_properties.asp.

- The USGS report entitled "**Potential for Shoreline Changes Due to Sea-Level Rise Along the US Mid-Atlantic Region**" summarizes a committee-based assessment of the state of knowledge of the possible future impacts of accelerated sea-level rise on the US mid-Atlantic coast and describes potential coastal responses to four different sea-level rise scenarios -

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1278/>. The report supports USGS participation in the development of **US Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.1, Coastal Elevations and Sensitivity to Sea-Level Rise** - <http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/sap/sap4-1/default.php>.

- The 2007-2008 report card of the UK's Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) highlights how climate change has affected the United Kingdom's marine environment and what the future impacts may be - <http://www.mccip.org.uk/arc/2007/default.htm>.

- The UK Coastal and Marine Resource Atlas contains environmental and other resource datasets covering the UK coastline and marine areas of the Continental Shelf. The Atlas is designed as a web-based tool to access a wide range of information on coastal and marine resources -

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/camra.html>.

- FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 479 entitled "**Disaster response and risk management in the fisheries sector**" is available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1217e/a1217e00.htm>. One of the main purposes of this document is to support policy- and decision-makers involved in

disaster response and disaster risk management by increasing their effectiveness in addressing the needs of fishers and coastal communities in relation to disasters.

- SALT MARSHES IN THE GULF OF MAINE

The booklet entitled "Salt Marshes in the Gulf of Maine: Human Impacts, Habitat Restoration, and Long-term Change Analysis" provides an overview of the ecological functions of healthy salt marshes, human impacts on salt marshes, methods for restoring salt marsh habitats, and the need for a regional salt marsh monitoring program. To obtain a copy of the booklet in digital and hard-copy formats, access <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/saltmarsh>.

- INDICATOR DEVELOPMENT FOR ESTUARIES

This Manual, developed by the US EPA National Estuary Program, provides a logical, stepwise process in developing and implementing indicators for the estuarine environment. It focuses on planning the program; conceptual models development; indicator specification; monitoring plan development and

modification; indicator implementation; and indicator reassessment. The Manual also includes case studies and references - <http://www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/indicators/index.html>.

- DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

The guide book focuses on risks associated with natural hazards of hydro-meteorological (floods, tropical storms, droughts) and geological (earthquake, tsunami, volcanic activity) origin. It provides a set of tools

to assess existing structures and capacities of national, district and local institutions with responsibilities for disaster risk management - http://www.fao.org/nr/clim/abst/clim_080302_en.htm.

- HAZARD EDUCATION AND AWARENESS TOOL

NOAA's Pacific Services Center has developed the Hazard Education and Awareness Tool (HEAT) to help prepare communities for natural disasters. HEAT is an easy-to-use, no-cost tool which merges Google Maps technology with spatial-hazards data to display detailed maps of hazard risks, and provide local information on hazard awareness. Hawaii is the current pilot site for the tool - http://www.csc.noaa.gov/psc/project_pages/HEAT.html.

- The proceedings of the "**4th Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands: Advancing Ecosystem Management and Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management in the Context of Climate Change**", held on 7-11 April 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam, can be viewed at <http://www.thew2o.net/goc2008/> and <http://www.youtube.com/globaloceans2008>.

- The **Revised Draft Framework for Developing the National System of Marine Protected Areas** for the US outlines a collaborative processes for MPA programs at all levels of government to work together at regional, national and international levels, with public participation, to achieve common conservation objectives - <http://mpa.gov>.

- Researchers with the US National Estuarine Research Reserve have applied system-wide monitoring data to priority coastal management issues in four regions: the Pacific Coast, Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, and the Northeast. Results from the studies enhanced the toolkit used to manage and analyze vast quantities of environmental data on the reserves, provided assessments of regional water quality and habitat trends, and clarified the impacts of natural processes and human activities on coastal ecosystems. The study reports are available at http://ciceet.unh.edu/news/releases/swmp_report/swmp_report.html.

- CHARACTERIZING MARINE AND COASTAL AREAS

The guide entitled "**Seascapes: Getting to Know the Sea Around Us. A Guide to**

Characterizing Marine and Coastal Areas" describes how to develop a compendium of basic information about any coastal marine area in the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine. It answers questions such as: How does one go about characterizing a marine area in a meaningful way? What information is needed? How should the information be obtained and organized? How can the findings be communicated so they are useful? The guide is available at <http://www.qlf.org/publications/seascapes.html>.

- STEMMING DECLINE OF THE COASTAL OCEAN: RETHINKING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

A Policy Brief from the International Network on Water, Environment and Health of the United Nations University identifies three critical needs to improve the management of coastal environments: improve the integration of management, both geographically, and across administrative departments and

management targets; build a better understanding of the true value of the goods and services provided by sustainably managed coastal environments, and promulgate knowledge of this value so that communities recognize what is at stake when their coastal ecosystems become degraded; and tackle the many

reasons for failure of management effort due to 'lack of political will' -

<http://www.inweh.unu.edu/inweh/Coastal/index.htm>.

- SIGNIFICANCE OF ECOLOGICAL THRESHOLDS IN COASTAL AREAS

This report provides an overview of the results from an international survey on the perceived significance of ecological thresholds in coastal areas. The purpose of the survey was to explore different framings and expert opinions concerning ecological thresholds and to highlight issues that may be of particular importance in developing policy relevant knowledge, especially from the point of view of coastal management - <http://www.environment.fi/download.asp?contentid=87169&lan=en>.

- TOOLKIT: LEASING AND OWNERSHIP WITHIN OCEAN AND COASTAL WATERS

"**Leasing and Ownership within Ocean and Coastal Waters - A Conservation Practitioner's Toolkit**" has been developed by the Nature Conservancy in collaboration with several partners. The toolkit is designed to help conservation organizations determine: what conservation leasing and

ownership is; when leasing and ownership can help abate threats to ocean and coastal species, habitats, and ecosystems; and how to plan and proceed with leasing and ownership projects. The toolkit is available at <http://www.leaseown.org>.

- HANDBOOK ON INTEGRATED MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

The aim of the EU-sponsored PlanCoast project was to develop tools and capacities for effective integrated planning in coastal zones and maritime areas in the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea regions. The **PlanCoast Handbook on Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning** (IMSP) documents: recommendations to decision-makers for creating an IMSP framework; recommendations to planners on how to tackle problems; a structured approach to planning and implementing IMSP; tools; and case studies from the PlanCoast pilot projects. The Handbook is available at http://www.plancoast.eu/files/handbook_web.pdf.

- GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS

The aim of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) is to provide the most authoritative publicly-available bathymetry of the world's oceans. Products include a world map; a one minute grid; a global set of digital bathymetric contours; the Gazetteer of Undersea Feature Names; and the GEBCO

Digital Atlas. GEBCO operates under the joint auspices of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the International Hydrographic Organization - <http://www.gebco.net>.

- The "**Planner's Guide to Wetland Buffers for Local Governments**" was a project of the Environmental Law Institute. The Guide compiles the scientific literature on wetland buffers (the lands adjacent to wetland areas) and identifies the techniques used and legislative choices made by local governments across the United States to protect these lands - http://www.elistore.org/reports_detail.asp?ID=11272.

- The 2008 edition of "**Understanding and Responding to Climate Change**," is a booklet released by the US National Academies designed to provide the public with a comprehensive and easy-to-read analysis of findings and recommendations from the Academies' reports on climate change -

<http://nationalacademies.org/morenews/20080519.html>.

- A map produced by NASA shows global patterns of changes in sea level measured by satellite-based altimeters from 1993 through the end of 2007 -

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.php3?img_id=18075.

- **"The Caribbean and Climate Change: The Costs of Inaction"**, a study commissioned by the Environmental Defense Fund, provides a detailed analysis of the potential economic effects of continued climate change for the entire Caribbean region. The report focuses on three categories of effects: hurricane damages, loss of tourism revenue, and infrastructure damage due to sea-level rise - <http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/CaribbeanClimate.html>.

- **"Coastal Capital: Economic Valuation of Coral Reefs in Tobago and St. Lucia"** highlights the results from the economic valuation of coral reefs in St. Lucia and Tobago and features several maps illustrating the findings - <http://www.wri.org/stories/2008/06/coastal-capital-putting-a-value-the-caribbeans-coral-reefs>.

- The book entitled **"Mapping the Seafloor for Habitat Characterization"**, published by the Geological Association of Canada, is based on the papers and posters presented at GeoHab conferences (<http://www.geohab.org>). The papers in the book focus on marine benthic habitat mapping, characterization and application. Purchase information is available at

http://www.gac.ca/publications/view_pub.php?id=190.

- **"Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction"** is available on the NOAA Coastal Services Center website: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/newsletter/2008/issue04.pdf>

IN MEMORIAM

Orson van de Plassche

On Monday May 4 Orson van de Plassche passed away after a long struggle with cancer. He was a great and unique sea-level scientist – incredibly meticulous, highly original, persistent, positively stubborn, and always moving boundaries. Orson had been involved with IGCP since its very beginnings and he was the leader of Project 274. To his many students he was a tremendous source of inspiration and a shining example of mentorship. Colleagues will also remember him as a wonderful man, who was exceptionally engaging and brightened up any meeting that he attended. We all learned from him and we will all miss him.

Orson was devoted to his work until the very end and had planned to attend the South Carolina IGCP meeting in October. There, in a coastal area that was close to his heart, we hope to pay tribute to a great man and friend. Our thoughts are with Els.

Roland Gehrels, Cecile Baeteman, Antony Long

Dirk Beets

Dirk Beets passed away Wednesday June 3. He was one of the best sedimentologists of our time, a true field geologist with a sharp eye for detail and the skill to interpret small sedimentary structures and place them in the larger context, more often than not through persuasive debate with colleagues. In the 1990s Dirk mostly worked in Holocene sedimentary coastal environments in the southern North Sea and produced numerous important and influential publications that inspired and motivated many coastal scientists. With his critical analytical presence he enlightened many field meetings of the INQUA Shoreline and Sea Level Subcommittee (currently the North and West Europe Working Group of CMP). A great master has gone; we shall miss him.

Cecile Baeteman

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<http://www.igu-ccs.org/>

Please note that the website is being updated over the next few days. Contact information for CCS Officers and Steering Committee members can be found on the website along with past and present newsletters. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CCS, an on-line membership form is available.

Mike Meadows, Professor at the Department of Environmental & Geographical Science, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Vice-President of the International Geographical Union, is our liaison with the executive committee of the IGU: mmeadows@mweb.co.za

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Thank you for your cooperation. NORB PSUTY

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