

Newsletter MCCIP

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1. Environment Agency's national report on the State of the Environment 2005

The Environment Agency have published 'The State of the Environment 2005', which is an overview how the English and Welsh environment has changed since 2000. The report is divided into different sections and addresses whether situations have changed for the better and what is required for the future. The sections are:

- where we live
- wildlife
- air quality
- water
- land
- waste and resources
- climate change
- flooding

Although some aspects have improved, others have deteriorated and therefore the Environment Agency urges people to 'all do our bit' to work towards a better environment.

More information:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yourenv/1088978/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4075140.stm>

2. UNEP Atlas of Environmental Change

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has produced 'One Planet Many People: Atlas of Our Changing Environment'. This atlas compares satellite pictures taken in the past with recent ones, and highlights the environmental changes due to human and natural impacts.

The atlas was produced by UNEP in collaboration with other agencies and released on World Environment Day 2005 (celebrated each year on the 5th June).

More information:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=434&ArticleID=4806&l=en>

<http://www.na.unep.net/OnePlanetManyPeople/index.php>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4607053.stm>

3. Northerly movement of North Sea fish species

A new study in Science shows that the distribution of North Sea fishes have moved northerly in the past 25 years due to sea water warming. The North Sea has warmed by about 0.6 °C in the past 40 years.

Climate change has likely caused the fish to move, and commercial fishing can enhance these adverse effects and have dramatic impacts on the ecosystem.

More information:

http://npg.nature.com/news/2005/050509/pf/050509-11_pf.html

<http://www.sciencexpress.org> (doi: 10.1126/science.1111322)

4. Demise of Sand Eels

Europe intends to ban fishing for sand eels this year as their numbers plummet. Scientists believe climate change, particularly the rising sea temperature, to be the cause of their decline. This also impacts on the seabird populations that feed on sand eels, who will not have enough food to raise their chicks. It will probably take years to reverse these changes.

More information:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/policy/marine/fisheries/sandeelban.asp>

<http://news.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/06/09/neels09.xml&sSheet=/news/2005/06/09/ixhome.html>

5. World Maritime Technology Conference

The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) will be hosting the second World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC) in March 2006, in partnership with 25 of the world's leading maritime associations. WMTC takes as its theme Maritime Innovation delivering global solutions and will promote integrated solutions to industry-wide issues while assessing the impact on global economies now and in the future.

More information:

<http://www.wmtc2006.com/welcome/>

6. Summary of WWF Workshop- Vulnerability analysis of the North East Atlantic Shelf Marine Ecoregion to climate change

WWF organised a workshop on the vulnerabilities of the North East Atlantic Shelf Marine Ecoregion (NEAME) to climate change, in London 16-17 January 2005. A series of presentations was given on many aspects of the marine ecosystem, especially those vulnerable to climate changes. Among the topics covered were: sea surface temperature rise; sea level rise and storm surges; North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO); CO₂ adsorption/emission and acidification; extension of the growing season of plankton; species distributions and methane hydrates.

Scientists were invited to predict (express their expert views on) how they expected these chemical and physical factors to impact the marine ecosystem by 2080. Also, the vulnerability of the ecosystem in three different divisions (marine mammals, fish and plankton) was rated, as well as the potential synergies of all these.

The workshop collated best knowledge of the main impacts, their relative ecological importance and a measure of their uncertainty. A report on the outcomes of the workshop is currently being drafted by WWF and will be available later in the year.

More information:

Scoping exercise for the workshop available at:

http://www.ngo.grida.no/wwfneap/Projects/Reports/Climate_change_vulnerability

Or contact Ms Emily Lewis-Brown: ELBrown@wwf.org.uk

<http://www.wwf.org.uk/researcher/issues/livingseas/index.asp>

If you have a contribution for our newsletter, please contact the MCCIP Secretariat, Miss Astrid Fischer, e-mail: mccip@sahfos.ac.uk

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