

Newsletter MCCIP

1. Conference: 'Paleoclimate Change: High-latitudes & Ocean Circulation'
2. Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System
3. Climateprediction.net
4. Conference: Marine and Freshwater Microbial Biodiversity (M&FMB)
5. ERSC Seminar 'Human Development and the UK's Marine Environment' - Global change

1. Conference: 'Paleoclimate Change: High-latitudes & Ocean Circulation'

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June 2005

The Geological Society of London, Burlington House

The aim of the meeting is to bring together the UK and European Consortium for Ocean Drilling (ECORD) community in the broad field of Palaeoceanography & Palaeoclimate Change to discuss exciting new results emerging from recent initiatives (e.g. Integrated Ocean Drilling Program drilling in the Arctic, Rapid Climate Change Programme) aimed at improving our understanding of extreme and rapid changes in Earth's past climate, with special emphasis on the high latitudes and ocean circulation.

More information:

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/earthsci/iodpconference.shtml>

2. Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System

Over 150 delegates from 99 governments met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6-8 April to consider the IPCC/TEAP report on 'Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System'. The report was prepared by Working Group I and Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in collaboration with the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) of the Montreal Protocol.

The full report runs to around 350 pages, has been in preparation for over 2 years, and is the work of 145 experts from 35 countries from around the world. The report went through extensive review by hundreds of experts and governments in line with the IPCC Principles and Procedures. After line-by-line consideration, the governments unanimously approved the Summary for Policymakers of the report and accepted the full report. The full report will be published in mid-2005 by Cambridge University Press.

More information:

<http://www.ipcc.ch/press/pr05042005.pdf>

<http://www.ipcc.ch/press/SPM.pdf>

3. Climateprediction.net

Climateprediction.net is a web-based initiative that asks users to share their computer-time to investigate the approximations that have to be made in state-of-the-art climate models. By running the model thousands of times (a 'large ensemble') via computers worldwide the researchers hope to find out how the model responds to slight tweaks to these approximations - slight enough to not make the approximations any less realistic. This will allow improving our understanding of how sensitive current climate models are to small changes and other factors, such as changes in carbon dioxide and the sulphur cycle. It creates the opportunity to explore how climate may change in the next century under a wide range of different scenarios. In the past estimates of climate change have had to be made using one or, at best, a very small ensemble (tens rather than thousands!) of model runs. By using everybody's computers, this research will be able to improve our understanding of, and confidence in, climate change predictions more than would ever be possible using the supercomputers currently available to scientists. The programme is funded by NERC and DTI e-science programmes.

More information:

<http://www.climateprediction.net/index.php>

4. Conference: Marine and Freshwater Microbial Biodiversity (M&FMB) Finale Event

Tuesday 24th May 2005

Royal Society Edinburgh

Thursday 2nd June 2005

Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre London

The finale event will showcase the results of research, funded by NERC through the Marine and Freshwater Microbial Biodiversity (M&FMB) Programme, into the diversity and function of aquatic microbes and their role in ecological systems. The results are applicable to a range of fields and the event is intended for a wide audience, including those in central and local government, conservation agencies and NGOs, and biotechnology-based industries.

The scope of the programme's work has been varied and key highlights include:

- Role of aquatic microbes in global cycles and climate change
- Bio-prospecting for novel natural products
- How bacteria communicate in biofilms
- Discovery and cultivation of new microbe groups
- The role of virus DNA in oxygen production

More information:

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/thematics/mfmb/>

5. ESRC Seminar ‘Human Development and the UK's Marine Environment’ –

Global Change

The 6th seminar in the ESRC Seminar series, held at UCL in London 19-20 April 2005, focussed on the impacts of global change in the marine environment. Presentations were given on the Thames estuary, carbon fuel use, marine climate scenarios, ecosystem based management, ocean acidification, social-economic perspectives, flood hazards, impacts on fisheries communities and the perspective of WWF.

Important issues that were raised were the development of a Marine Bill and how we can contribute to it; how to reduce the severity of climate change bearing in mind that some of the changes may already be locked-in; how to make UK marine data more accessible and what research gaps still exist and the need for both mitigation and adaptation.

More information:

http://www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/marine-policy/ESRC/esrc_project_description.htm

http://www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/marine-policy/ESRC/esrc_outputs.htm

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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Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP)
MCCIP c/o SAHFOS
The Laboratory
Citadel Hill
Plymouth
PL1 2PB
UNITED KINGDOM
phone +44 (0) 1752 633 234
fax +44 (0) 1752 600 015
email mccip@sahfos.ac.uk

