MCCIP Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership

Dear MCCIP news subscriber,

The MCCIP website has recently been updated with new marine climate change news and events. Below is a brief summary of the new items that have been added. For more details on all of the items listed below, simply go to **www.mccip.org.uk** and go to the relevant links in the 'news and events' box on our homepage. Please note that the material presented in MCCIP news does not necessarily reflect the views of MCCIP.

- **Marine food chains at risk of collapse, extensive study of world's oceans finds**
  Important ecosystems could be massively damaged by 2050 unless greenhouse gas emissions and localised pollution is drastically reduced, researchers say. The food chains of the world's oceans are at risk of collapse due to the release of greenhouse gases, overfishing and localised pollution, a stark new analysis shows. A study of 632 published experiments of the world's oceans, from tropical to arctic waters, spanning coral reefs and the open seas, found that climate change is whittling away the diversity and abundance of marine species. [**Full story**]

- **HYDRALAB+: Modelling the impact of climate change on the coast**
  HR Wallingford is to play a vital role in a new €10 million project that will improve the prediction of environmental change and, ultimately, shape the future of international climate change policy. As part the EU-funded HYDRALAB+ project, scientists from HR Wallingford will work with 23 partner organisations from across Europe to address the urgent need to understand the consequences of climate change on rivers, estuaries and coasts. The four-year project will create closer ties between international research institutes and provide training and access to experimental facilities to improve how climate change is modelled.

- **Plankton poo clue could aid climate predictions**
  Scientists from the UK's National Oceanography Centre (NOC) have set their sights on unmasking the ocean's 'twilight zone' - the area between 100 and 1000 meters deep where a small amount of the sun's light can still penetrate. This area has proved particularly troublesome for researchers to study, as scientific instruments are typically designed to either sink to the ocean floor or float on the surface. But this elusive region is teeming with ocean life that plays a key role in keeping atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels 30 percent lower than it otherwise would be, according to the scientists from NOC.

- **Sea turtles, reproduction and climate change: Warmer temperatures impact hatchlings**
  Loggerhead sea turtles have been around for 60 million years and have survived through many changing environments. Now, however, hatchling sex ratios and future reproduction success are being threatened by climate change, a new study revealed. Sea turtles' sex is defined during embryo development, and can be greatly altered by changes in the environment. Researchers from Florida Atlantic University discovered that warming temperatures during incubation yield more females, while more males develop under cooler conditions.

- **EMB Brussels event to highlight the importance of ocean research in addressing climate change**
  The scientific presentations programme will demonstrate the ocean's critical role in our climate system and how human activities have added stress to this important life support system. Scientific experts from both Europe and the US will present a Consensus Statement calling for recognition of the ocean in a post-2020 climate agreement and support to long-term ocean-climate research and observation programmes. The Statement sets out the key challenges for unravelling the links between ocean and climate and the most important research priorities that can help provide answers and support an evidence-based societal response to climate change. The statement has been jointly developed by the European Marine Board and the US Consortium for Ocean Leadership.

News stories: If there are any relevant news items or events that you would like to highlight on the MCCIP website please contact Susana Lincoln at office@mccip.org.uk. New items will be added to the website next month.

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