



## 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](http://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.

- **[Learning from a winter of extremes](#)**

Extreme weather is all over the news, worldwide, this winter. Here in Britain we've just had one of the costliest run of floods the country has ever experienced, with economic losses of over \$4.5Bn (PwC) and more expected. The US has had record breaking temperatures, tornadoes and floods. There is the heightened wildfire season in Australia, the persistent drought building up in Southern Africa and Ethiopia, and in Central America. These extremes are not just a coincidence. Scientists have long warned that extreme events like these will become more common as a result of climate change leading to a warmer planet (e.g. IPCC extremes report). More heatwaves, record temperatures, a wetter planet overall and in general dry areas get drier and wet areas wetter. But the regional distribution of many of the extremes above also has the hallmarks of what climate scientists expect from the global footprint of a strong El Niño event.

- **[Assessing the observed impact of anthropogenic climate change](#)**

Impacts of recent regional changes in climate on natural and human systems are documented across the globe, yet studies explicitly linking these observations to anthropogenic forcing of the climate are scarce. A recent study published by Nature Climate Change provides a systematic assessment of the role of anthropogenic climate change for the range of impacts of regional climate trends reported in the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report.

- **[UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: The Paris Agreement](#)**  
The Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognises the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, when taking action to address climate change (see page 21 of the Agreement). Watch also the **[parliamentary statement](#)** delivered by MP Amber Rudd.
- **[Changing climate, changing plankton communities](#)**  
The global increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and the subsequent temperature rise has dramatically altered the marine ecosystem, including planktonic microorganisms. Two new studies describe the long-term shifts in plankton community composition in response to climate change [see **[McMahon et al 2015](#)**, and **[Rivero-Calle et al 2015](#)**].
- **[Climate change is threatening the seabirds of St Kilda](#)**  
The survival of seabirds including puffins and kittiwakes on St Kilda – the island archipelago home to one of the world’s most important seabird populations – is being threatened by climate change, striking new evidence shows. Naturalists have discovered that the kittiwake, a small migratory gull with ink-black wing tips, is on the brink of disappearing from St Kilda.

**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](mailto:office@mccip.org.uk). New items will be added to the website next month.

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