

News

New national centre covers marine science from the coast to the deep ocean

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) recently announced the creation of a new, national research organisation that will work in partnership with the UK marine research community to deliver integrated marine science and technology from the coast to the deep ocean.

The National Oceanography Centre (NOC) will be formed by bringing together the NERC Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (POL) in Liverpool and NERC-managed activity at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (NOCS) into a single institution. NOC will work in close partnership with the wider marine science community to create the integrated research capability needed to tackle the big environmental issues facing the world. Research priorities will include the oceans' role in climate change, sea level change and the future of the Arctic Ocean.

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/press/releases/2010/04-noc.asp>

'Jason 3' sea-surface height mission secures funds

Europe has committed to build the next Jason altimeter spacecraft to monitor the behaviour of the world's oceans. The decision should guarantee the continuation of a remarkable 18-year record of sea-surface shape until late in the decade.

It is the Jason series that has traced the recent steady rise in global sea level by about 3mm per year. The data has become invaluable to oceanographers, weather forecasters and climatologists.

Eumetsat, which looks after Europe's meteorological satellites, has indicated that its member states will now meet their 25% share of the 252m-euro (\$380m; £228m) project.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8491116.stm>

Latest Met Office 'insider' newsletter tackles climate controversy

The latest issue of the Met Office newsletter has five articles related to the climate change debate and recent controversies surrounding the issue. These articles include a statement from the UK science community and further stories which aim to lay out the basic science and clarify key messages.

http://info.ma002.com/anony/newsletters/C4/C4_0557.asp?str=*3235313330383933302C31383336

Launch of the UKCP09 online discussion forum

UKCP09 recently announced the launch of the UKCP09 online discussion forum. UKCIP are hoping that this will help to foster networking between projects / people using UKCP09 while also enabling a forum for people to discuss areas of concern while using UKCP09. The forum will be moderated by the UKCIP helpdesk.

The forum is in a somewhat pilot phase in that it has not yet been advertised to the wider UKCIP stakeholder network. However, interested individuals are encouraged to sign up and post discussion topics. In the interests of networking it is strongly recommended that you indicate your interests in the sign-in form in order for others with similar interests to find you.

<http://moodle.ukcip.org.uk/login/index.php>

New UK Thames Estuary case study - integrated approach needed to tackle coastal flooding

A new study outlines the challenges faced in securing Europe's coastlines against flood damage. The study highlights the importance of taking an integrated approach to coastal management which accounts for scientific, socio-economic and political factors, and considers the problem at local, regional and national levels, from the perspectives of all stakeholders.

Coastlines are important not only to those who live there or those who visit them as holiday destinations, but also to the fishing industry and for international trade. Much of Europe's coastline is under threat from erosion and flooding, which will only be exacerbated by rising sea levels caused by global warming.

The EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood risks requires Member States to assess the risk of coastal flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas, and to reduce the risk.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/19si1.pdf>

Ten principles of climate change communication

Successful communication of climate change needs to be tangible, relevant and tailored to its audience, according to new research. The study established 10 key principles for effective communication using a brainstorming exercise between scientists and local government.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/184na3.pdf>

Paul Buckley
MCCIP Secretariat