



MCCIP E-news November 2009

News

1. Creation of the Marine Protected Area Science Advisory Panel

On 1st December, Defra announced the appointment of Dr Peter Ryder to the Chair of the newly-established Marine Protected Area (MPA) Science Advisory Panel. This is one of the first steps the Government has taken towards implementing Part 5 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 which received Royal Assent on 12th November, and will make a vital contribution towards creating an ecologically coherent network of MPAs.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/marine/documents/mpa-sap-members.pdf>

2. UKCP09 Marine Climate Projections User Interface now available

Following the launch of the UK Climate Projections for land areas in the summer Defra and UKCIP have just upgraded the User Interface allowing access to the Marine Projections. Users can access the user interface using a simple immediate online registration log-in (a link to the user interface site can be found on our homepage)

Users can plot maps, select sub-areas and download model output for all the UK shelf seas for projections of surface and bottom Temperature and Salinity, mixed layer depth, stratification, storm surges and sea-level. On first access a simple, short 'e-learning' tutorial is available.

<http://ukclimateprojections-ui.defra.gov.uk/ui/admin/login.php>

3. IUCN launches reports on 'The Ocean and Climate Change – Tools and Guidelines for Action' and 'The Management of Natural Coastal Carbon Sinks'

The IUCN recently released a report entitled '*The Ocean and Climate Change – Tools and Guidelines for Action*', to help decision-makers understand the importance of the ocean in the global climate debate – and the cost of not taking action. The report provides a comprehensive view of the mitigation and adaptation strategies available, as well as a clear set of action recommendations.

Another recent IUCN report, '*The Management of Natural Coastal Carbon Sinks*', supported by Natural England, The Lighthouse Foundation and UNEP, and compiled by leading scientists in this field, provides the latest evidence of the ocean's ability to store carbon and the role each of these marine ecosystems play in reducing the negative effects of climate change. It offers specific policy guidelines about how to include management of marine carbon sinks in international and national reduction strategies.

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_our_work/climate_change/?4197/Dont-shun-the-ocean--IUCN-tells-climate-leaders

<http://www.iucn.org/?4216/Ocean-Carbon-Central-to-Climate-Challenge>

4. Marine and coastal access bill receives royal ascent

England's sea life and habitats will benefit from greater protection after the Marine and Coastal Access Bill received Royal Assent on 12th November, creating the Marine and Coastal Access Act.

The Act will create a new marine planning system designed to bring together the conservation, social and economic needs of our seas. A network of Marine Conservation Zones will be created that will protect rare and threatened species and habitats.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2009/marine-1112.htm>

5. Climate impacts on Irish coasts and waterways.

Ireland's Heritage Council has recently launched a report into the impact of climate change on the Irish coast and inland waterways. The recommendations will inform policy, research and grant-making activities by the organisation. The report includes an assessment of the main impacts, particularly on the tourism sector, and discussion of adaptation options and the challenges they bring.

[http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/inland-waterways/news/view-article/article/working-together-better-for-the-shannon-copy-1/?tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=42&cHash=b19cfeec6](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/inland-waterways/news/view-article/article/working-together-better-for-the-shannon-copy-1/?tx_ttnews[backPid]=42&cHash=b19cfeec6)

Events

6. Managing our changing flood and coastal risk: Emerging good practices CIWEM Rivers and Coastal Group Annual Conference, Jan 27th 2010, London

This conference aims to share the emerging good practices both at the strategic scale and at the sharp end of delivery in tackling existing challenges head on. It will also provide an opportunity to take stock of where we are and assess how we need to progress to achieve our goal of using flood and coastal management as a vehicle to mitigate and adapt to sustainable futures given the expected pressures.

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