Irish Coastal Network Bulletin No. 14 - October 2008

UPDATE:

ICoNet Site Updated - The website of the Irish Coastal Network has been updated to include the outputs from this year's Irish Coastal Network (ICoNet) / Northern Ireland Coastal and Marine Forum (NICMF) conference - **Planning Challenges and Opportunities for Ireland's Coast**. The conference focused on a range of topical coastal and marine issues relevant to planning and management, sessions were devoted to: an all-island approach for coastal and marine planning; emerging economic sectors; spatial planning and coastal development; and, the role of seabed data in support of coastal policy. Please visit http://iconet.ucc.ie to view and download copies of individual presentations and the full conference report.

SHORT SURVEY:

As you are aware, ICoNet forms the Irish component of the European Coastal Network (ENCORA); to improve the services of both ICoNet and ENCORA we would **encourage you to fill out the short survey questionnaire attached**. The questionnaire should take no more than a few minutes to complete and we would we grateful for all comments and feedback received. The results of the survey will assist in the future development of ICoNet to meet the networking requirements of Ireland's coastal and marine community. **Please return your comments by 04/11/08.**

EVENTS:

November 6th and 7th: The 2nd **Annual Irish Earth Observation Symposium: Opportunities for Earth Observation** in Ireland is taking place in the National Maritime College of Ireland, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork. The Symposium provides an opportunity for those working in the Irish Earth Observation sector to meet discuss the potential offered by these technologies in seeking solutions to contemporary problems. Further information on registration, logistics and the full programme – including a maritime session – is available to download from http://www.ucc.ie/academic/geography/geoinformatics/IEOsymposium.html.

November 8th: An Irish Whale and Dolphin Group 1-day **Cetacean Identification and Whale-Watching Workshop** will be held in the Mizen Head Visitor Centre, Co. Cork. For further details please contact suehill@eircom.net or Tel: 028-35225 / 028-35115.

November 12th: Lecture on "**The Role of the National Museum in Underwater Archaeology**" takes place at 1 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. in the Ceramics Room of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin.

November 14th: **Partnership for Change National Climate Change Conference** takes place in the Cork International Airport Hotel; this conference will examine the nature of the problem and the relationship between individuals, the scientific community, engineers, educationalists, journalists, environmentalists, urban and regional planners, landscape architects, economists, professional Institutions, local authorities, development agencies and society in responding to climate change. Distinguished speakers and panellists will explore specific issues, providing practical advice and international experience on the challenges of climate change and planning for an uncertain future. Further information available at http://www.partnershipforchange.ie or by contacting info@partnershipforchange.ie

November 15th: Members and enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in the next **monthly bird count** at Rogerstown Estuary, Fingal, Co. Dublin. This data will contribute to the monthly winter census of wetland birds at the estuary and is vital for monitoring and conservation. Meeting point is at the Plant Market Garden Centre car park, Blake's Cross (on the N1); further details available at http://www.bwifingal.ie/i-webs.html.

November 27th: River Shannon and the Heritage Council's **Waterway Corridor Studies Conference** will be held in the Radisson SAS Hotel, Athlone. Integrated thinking on the Shannon is vital to ensure the future of this resource. This conference is aimed at local authority personnel (County Councillors, County managers, planners, environment section, heritage officers, etc. state agencies, members of the public). For further information please visit the Inland Waterways section at http://www.heritagecouncil.ie or send enquiries to oduggan@hotmail.com.

COASTAL INITIATIVES:

Clare Biological Records Centre's Purple Sea Urchin Survey - Clare Biodiversity Group, Clare County Council and the Heritage Council would like to inform all diving / snorkelling / coastal enthusiasts of County Clare about the 2008 Public Marine Survey. The Purple Sea Urchin (*Paracentrotus lividus*) is a marine invertebrate species that is found mainly on the lower rocky shore in rock pools on the west coast of Ireland, particularly in County Clare. The Clare Biological Records Centre and the Clare Biodiversity Group have organised this marine survey with the aim of encouraging both the locals and the tourists of County Clare, to become involved in gathering important information on the current population status of the Purple Sea Urchin, which is thought to be under threat from over fishing.

The Clare Purple Sea Urchin Survey leaflets, which contain guidelines and the Purple Sea Urchin Record Card will be available at diving centres and tourist information points throughout Co. Clare. Alternatively you can request a survey leaflet(s), by contacting Catriona Lynch, e-mail: clynch@clarecoco.ie; Tel: 065 4846499. You can also register your findings on the Clare Biological Records Centre website, http://www.clarebiodiversity.ie.

Proposed Regulations for the Conservation and Protection of Tope (*Galeorhinus galeus*) - The Loughs Agency would welcome your views on proposed implementation of a new regulation, to be introduced in the Foyle Area and Carlingford Area for the conservation and protection of Tope. The new regulation is proposed to be called the Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Conservation of Tope) Regulations 2008. This regulation if enacted, will prohibit the killing any Tope, require any Tope taken to be carefully handled and immediately returned to the water from which they were taken, and prohibit the sale or offering for sale of Tope caught by rod and line to support the other restrictions within the proposed regulations. The consultation document is available on the consultation section of the Loughs Agency website at http://www.loughs-agency.org. Responses and any comments about this Consultation should be either sent to Conservation of Tope Consultation, Loughs Agency, 22 Victoria Road, Prehen, Londonderry, BT47 2AB, (Fax Number (028) 71342720) or e-mailed to laura.french@loughs-agency.org

Hard copies of this Consultation Document can be obtained from the Loughs Agency at the above address or by telephoning Laura French on (028) 71342100. Copies of this document in an alternative format can be made available on request in large print, disk, Braille and audiocassette. It may also be made available in other languages on request. Consultation closes on the 24th December 2008.

ENCORA:

ENCORA - European Network for Coastal Research Co-ordination Action - is a European part-funded initiative that essentially acts as a "network of networks", linking national coastal networks across Europe. ENCORA provides a range of services to coastal practitioners and researchers, including: a mechanism to search for contacts or information across European

coastal networks; opportunities for young professionals to travel to conferences and take part in exchange visits. To find out more about the recent activities of ENCORA please see copies of **ENCORA News** attached to this message as an html document.

As always, if you have a news item, big or small, that you wish to circulate to an audience of over 650 network users (and growing!), please send it in. To find out more about ICoNet please contact Cathal O'Mahony at iconet@ucc.ie.

The Irish Coastal Network is administered through the Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, supported by an advisory committee comprising representatives from the Marine Institute, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Heritage Council, Enterprise Ireland, NUI Galway and University of Ulster, Coleraine. While every effort is made to ensure the information contained in the ICoNet Bulletin is correct, we cannot accept any responsibility for factual errors. Please inform us if you experience any difficulties with the ICoNet Bulletin or if you wish to amend your contact details. To remove your details from ICoNet please contact iconet@ucc.ie.

best regards,

Cathal

On behalf of the ICoNet team,

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