



EVENTS:

May and June: A series of biodiversity surveys are to be organised across Ireland during the May and June 2007 as part of the activities to celebrate **World Biodiversity Day**. A series of **foreshore surveys** will be organised by Coastwatch, through the Notice Nature Campaign, which is supported by Irish and Northern Irish Governments. The organisers are currently recruiting volunteer trainers and surveyors – training workshops will commence from the 1st May. For further information on how to get involved please contact Karin Dubsky, E-mail: kdubsky@coastwatch.org.

May 17th: Organised by the Clean Coast Project partners - An Taisce and Keep Wales Tidy – in co-operation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Dublin City Council, the **2007 Irish Green Coast Award Presentation** will take place at Sandymount Strand, (north end) on Thursday May 17th, at 12.00. For further information and to register attendance please contact Jimmy McVeigh, Clean Coast Project, An Taisce - Environmental Education Unit, Unit 5A, Swifts Alley, Francis Street, Dublin 8; Tel: (01) 4002221; E-mail: cleancoast1@antaisce.org.

June 5th: An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland in co-operation with Wicklow County Council invite you to the presentation of the **International Blue Flag Awards 2007** for beaches and marinas. The presentations will be given by Mr. Dick Roche T.D. Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, at Greystones Beach at 11.30 am on Tuesday June 5th. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP if you are interested in attending - Lucy Hunt, Blue Flag Manager, Tel: 01 4002210; E-mail: blueflag@antaisce.org.

June 15th: The Marine Institute is pleased to announce that the **Bright Sparks Competition under the 2007 Ship-time Programme** is now open. As a component of funding secured under the Government's Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (SSTI) Integrated Marine Exploration Ship-Time Programme 2007, the Marine Institute is offering students who are interested in marine research, the opportunity to undertake a research survey in Irish waters by providing grant-aid for 5 Days on board the *RV Celtic Voyager*, plus €5,000 towards the cost of consumables, expenses and logistics. All call documentation is available to download from <http://www.marine.ie> and includes further information on the scope and aim of the competition, cruise time and proposed survey area, applicant eligibility criteria, application procedure, evaluation procedure. Closing date for receipt of applications is June 15th.

June 22nd: A **CoastNet / Corepoint** conference entitled **A Very Visible Truth - Climate Change at the Coast** will take place on June 22nd in the Julian Hodge Building, University Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales. This conference focuses on climate change and the coast and will explore the latest thinking throughout Europe and internationally (at the national, regional and local level) on changing coastal systems, adaptation strategies and mechanisms, risk management through emerging planning policy, future thinking, and mitigation opportunities. Invited speakers include Ministers of State, politicians, media personalities and international experts. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to take part in an 'Any Questions' type debate with a panel of experts. For full details, including the programme and registration forms as well as details of exhibition opportunities, please contact Theresa Redding, E-mail: theresa.redding@coastnet.org.uk.

September 4th–6th: The Martin Ryan Marine Science Institute (MRI) at NUI, Galway will host a joint meeting of two **Special Interest Groups of the Challenger Society**. The meeting is co-hosted by Queen's University of Belfast, making it an all-Ireland event and is part-sponsored by the Marine Institute, and will run from 2007. The UK's Challenger Society for Marine Science is one of the oldest learned societies of its kind in the world, set up following the Challenger Expedition of 1873-1876. There are two objectives: 1) to bring together members of the UK, Irish and international community of marine scientists to discuss research being carried out in two key areas internationally – Marine Biophysical Interactions and Marine Biogeochemistry; and 2) and to showcase Ireland's contribution. The second objective is to begin the process of establishing a learned society for Marine Scientists in Ireland as currently no such society exists.

This will be the first time a Challenger conference has been held outside the UK. It will help raise the profile of Irish marine science both nationally and internationally, and to promote interactions between researchers at home and abroad. Scientists and postgraduate students in Ireland working in the area of Marine Biogeochemistry and/or Marine Biophysical Interactions are strongly encouraged to attend this conference, and to submit abstracts or posters. Details can be found at www.nuigalway.ie/eos/events/challenger/index.html. See also the website of the Challenger Society, www.challenger-society.org.uk, and the MRI website <http://mri.nuigalway.ie>. Deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31st May 2007. The organisers can be contacted at challengerSIG07@nuigalway.ie.

October 11th & 12th: A conference entitled **European Tourism and the Environment - Promotion and Protection, Achieving the Balance** will be held in Dublin Institute of Technology. The aims of the two day conference include dissemination of the DIT research project on sustainable tourism development, as well as providing an opportunity for all attendees to network, share best practice, learn from each other and promote their own work through a series of papers and case studies which will be presented over the two days. International guest speakers, considered experts in the field of sustainable tourism, have been invited to speak at the conference. For further information please contact Elaine O'Halloran, Tourism Research Centre, DIT, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1, Tel: 01 8146094; E-mail: Elaine.ohalloran@dit.ie.

REPORTS:

I-CoNet Conference - The outputs of the 1st National I-CoNet Conference; *Towards the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Coast* are now available to view and download from <http://iconet.ucc.ie>.

New Heritage Data Resource - The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) recently launched a new version of <http://www.npws.ie>. The new NPWS site includes a Public Map Viewer, a web based GIS allowing users to view NPWS data and base maps. In time, visitors to the site will be able to download data, in a variety of formats, from the www.npws.ie Map Viewer, and eventually the data will be updated on a 24 hour basis. If you have any queries regarding the new site please feel free to contact Robert Ovington, E-mail: robert_ovington@environ.ie.

VACANCIES:

Coastal Software Developer - The Coastal & Marine Resources Centre wish to recruit an additional member to the Marine Geomatics team to work on the EU ECOOP project (<http://www.ecoop.eu>) to develop a data management system to deliver real time and near real time data and metadata. The successful candidate will implement a framework for managing and providing access to harmonised, quality assured observational and satellite data and associated metadata sourced from regional oceanographic observation centres in Europe. Please see expanded job description and further applicant information in pdf document attached to this message.

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. The latest version of **ENCORA News** is attached as a pdf 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 I-CoNet 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, Marine 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 I-CoNet Bulletin is correct, we cannot accept any responsibility for factual errors. Please inform us if you experience any difficulties with the I-CoNet Bulletin or if you wish to amend your contact details. To remove your details from I-CoNet please contact iconet@ucc.ie.

best regards,

Cathal

On behalf of the I-CoNet team,

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