



EVENTS:

October 24th: The Heritage Council is hosting a seminar entitled **Boatwash on Our Inland Waterways – What are the Impacts and the Solutions?** The seminar is open to the general public, state bodies, local authorities and private industry, and will take place in the Radisson Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath from 10:00 – 16:00. For further information on registration and programme please contact Oonagh Duggan, Heritage Council; Tel: 056 7770777; E-mail: beatrice@heritagecouncil.com.

November 12th-15th: A series of public events are being held in relation to the South Western River Basin Project. The EU Water Framework Directive takes a new approach to managing our waters and the South Western River Basin District recently published **Water Matters – Have your Say!** - a preliminary overview of the main water related issues and the actions suggested to address them. A series of public events are planned to allow the public to comment on the issues and the proposed actions. Meetings will begin at 8pm and take place on: 12th November, Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway; 13th November; Firgrove Hotel, Mitchelstown; 14th November, Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig; and, 15th November, Midleton Park Hotel, Midleton – all are welcome. For more details please log on to the SWRBD website: <http://www.swrbd.ie>.

November 8th 2007: Ireland is now a member of the International Hydrographic Office (IHO) – **a new hydrographic office has been established in Ireland** to begin the management of our hydrographic responsibilities. A seminar to discuss the way forward has been organised by The Nautical Institute - Ireland Branch and will take place in the National Maritime College Of Ireland (NMCI), Cork. This seminar is for all those who navigate or manage vessels using Irish Waters or are responsible for teaching those who do! Registration Fee is Euro 95 (includes lunch). For further information please contact Gary E. Delaney, GPS Consultant, GPS Ireland Consultants Ltd.; Tel: + 353 21 4832990.

November 14th: A one day symposium on **Earth Observation Research in Ireland** is being hosted by the Spatial Analysis Unit RERC Teagasc. Earth Observation and remote sensing research is a fragmented activity in Ireland. This symposium aims to bring together researchers in order to better comprehend the “state-of-play” in Ireland and to foster future collaborations. Concentrating on the Earth Observation Research community in Ireland the workshop will have three themes: Application of EO to specific Irish issues; Research into EO systems and methods; and, RS sensor development in Ireland. The symposium will be free to attend to all EO researchers in Ireland. All researchers (including post graduate students) from Irish Institutions are invited to submit abstracts for oral presentations on these themes by 26th October. Presentations will be 15 minutes long. Abstracts should be no more than 350 words long. Poster presentations are also encouraged from student researchers with a €200 prize for the best received poster. Submissions and enquiries to stuart.green@teagasc.ie.

December 5th-7th: AN ENCORA conference entitled European Action Plans - Key Issues for Advancing sustainable Management of Our Coastal Zones will take place in Paris. The European Commission has invited ENCORA participants to identify scientific and technical key issues for advancing sustainable management of our coastal zones. The Paris theme conference will be dedicated to the development of European Action Plans, complementary to the work of the ENCORA theme networks on the Coastal Wiki (<http://www.encora.org/wiki>). Renowned European experts have already contributed several hundred articles to the Coastal Wiki, reflecting present knowledge, experience, practices and policies related to a great variety of coastal and marine topics. Forum discussions for each theme will be organised in autumn as a precursor to the conference. See attached flyer or visit <http://www.encora.org> for further information on programme and funding opportunities.

PROJECTS:

The EU MarinERA Project has developed a new pilot **on-line searchable marine research projects database**. The database contains details of over 900 current marine research projects being funded by MarinERA partners - 14 Marine Research Funding Organisations from 13 European countries. Interested researchers can access the database at <http://www.marinera.net>. The database provides a unique source of material for marine scientists and policy-makers to access data on current marine research projects, identify potential research partners and nodes of specialist expertise. The MarinERA Projects Database is paired with the EurOCEAN European Marine Research Funded Projects Database providing access to a further 500 EU marine research projects.

The **Mermaids' Purses project** aims to encourage people to report their observations of which are actually the egg cases of sharks, skates and rays. These purses are laid by the adult female fish in a suitable habitat on the seafloor, with the young embryo developing within the egg case for up to 15 months. The baby shark or skate then hatches out of the purse and swims away, leaving the discarded egg case behind it. Egg cases can often be seen washed up on the seashore, frequently tangled up in seaweed along the upper shoreline. Scientists in Marine Dimensions are hoping that observations of mermaids' purses on the seashore (and underwater) may provide valuable information on the location of nursery areas for Ireland's skates and rays, some of which are endangered or rare. Improving our knowledge of nursery areas for fish species is crucial for effective fisheries management. This is particularly true for sharks, skates and rays as they are known to be a vulnerable group of fishes, their slow growth and late reproductive maturity reducing their ability to recover from intensive fishing.

To participate, all you need to do is keep an eye out for the purses and report your sightings online at <http://www.marinedimensions.ie>. Purse Search Ireland is funded by Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Discover Science and Engineering, Forfas and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, with support from The Shark Trust. We are extremely grateful to all Purse Search volunteer recorders for their time and dedicated support.

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 (October 2007)** 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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