



# NEWSLETTER

## Issue 2 - April 2006

COREPOINT (Coastal Research and Policy Integration) is a partnership of 12 academic and local government institutions in North West Europe who are promoting all aspects of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Full details of our background, goals and activities can be found at <http://corepoint.ucc.ie/index.php>. This newsletter describes the major COREPOINT activities of the past six months.

### **BELGIUM (GHENT)**

The Ghent ICZM Expert Surgery and ICZM Training School was held on the busy Belgian coastline in Ostend February 22-24<sup>th</sup>, 2006. COREPOINT partners and Belgian stakeholders covered topics ranging from MPAs, to coastal defence and the eight principles of ICZM.



Baai van Heist tour by park ranger, Jean Luis Herrier (AMINAL) © Jeremv Gault

Local participants included personalities from three levels of government, NGO's, interest groups, port officials, scientific coordinating centres and educational institutes and consultancies involved in coastal environmental research. Presentations and commentary were given by Cathy Plasman (representative of the Minister of the North Sea), the Director of the Multidisciplinary Cell of the Port Authority of Zeebrugge, representatives of the AWZ (Flemish Department of Waterways) and of AMINAL (Department of Nature).

The Ghent ICZM Expert Surgery, with an attendance of about 20 external delegates, started with a chilly beachcomber view of the Sluffers in De Panne and a guided tour of the dune nature reserve in the Westhoek, the most intact dune landscape of the Flemish coast. This led on to one of the two focus topics of the afternoon, the first being on soft and hard coastal defences and the second being on implementation of Marine Protected Area's in Belgium.

The ICZM School, previously held in Cardiff and Cork, uniquely presents local case studies alongside a complementary European case study, and facilitates comparison of local Belgian experiences with other European experiences coming from different working environments. Feedback from the Belgian participants was very positive and encouraging. COREPOINT partners experienced first hand some of the problems and issues coastal workers are facing and dealing with on a daily basis as well as the innovative ways coastal workers and groups have met the challenge of ICZM. Local coastal workers also became aware that they were working in accordance with ICZM principles.



On the second day of the Ghent ICZM School participants were given an introduction to 'ICZM' in the field. In the morning there were some presentations regarding the tern peninsula, an important European tern breeding site situated in the middle of the harbour of Zeebrugge and The Bay of Heist, an area of about 50ha of beach, dune, silt and salt marsh, a highly dynamic and changeable landscape which is constantly remoulded by sea and wind. With the success of the ICZM Expert Surgery and School behind us, the Ghent COREPOINT team is focusing on a thorough policy analysis and public participation with respect to the implementation of MPAs and beach spatial planning.

### **IRELAND (GALWAY)**

Registration is now open for the 30th Virginia Law of the Sea Conference which will be held in Dublin Castle, July 12-14, 2006. The conference will be hosted by the Marine Law & Ocean Policy Centre, NUI Galway, with support from various national and international institutions. This conference concerns a range of issues that need to be addressed by the international community including: the ecosystem approach in fisheries management, ocean exploration, the role of science in international decision-making and ocean policy, marine science capacity building, international transfer of marine technology, the European maritime policy, science in dispute settlement, marine biological diversity, marine genetic resources, and strategic developments in the Law of the Sea. The conference features keynote addresses by the European Commissioner Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO and Executive Secretary of the IOC, as well as the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority. For registration and further details, please visit the conference website at: <http://mri.nuigalway.ie/marinelaw/microsite/index.html>. Space at the conference centre in Dublin Castle is limited and places will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **ENGLAND (COASTNET)**

CoastNET has been active on the conference front and setting up the *All Party Parliamentary Group on Coastal and Marine Issues* which had its inaugural meeting to elect officers in February 2006. Membership of the group is open to organisations and details of membership and its purpose can be found on the CoastNET website ([www.coastnet.org.uk](http://www.coastnet.org.uk)). Two short presentations were given at the meeting to raise awareness amongst the MP's of the issue created by coastal changes due to erosion and other dynamic forces. One issue of great interest to MP's was the scale of 'hidden' communities found in caravan parks occupied all year round. The conference held in the Hague (19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2006) attracted a wide variety of attendees from all over Europe. The conference output is now on the CoastNET website under publications ([www.coastnet.org.uk](http://www.coastnet.org.uk)). The next conference on "Policy tools for delivering ICZM" will be in June 2006 in Vannes, (Brittany) France.

### **SCOTLAND (ABERDEEN)**

Aberdeen University attended the BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science) event in Oban on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2006 to speak on the role of GIS and use-conflict techniques for choosing the best sites for coastal and marine protection. This event was one of a series of four meetings around Scotland funded by the Scottish executive to "promote openness about science in society".



One of the surfing beaches in North Cornwall  
© David R. Green

Additionally, Aberdeen University have continued work on carrying capacities for water activities in North Cornwall with the NDCD as part of an investigation into surf school licensing as part of beach management.