MarBEF Newsletter Autumn 2005

FEATURES

Marine Policy

HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan – its ecological objectives and biodiversity

By Hermanni Backer

HELCOM HAS STARTED the process of developing a pragmatic assessment system for Baltic Sea biodiversity, including development of indicators and a method of combining these into higher-level indices. All interested scientists are invited to contribute with comments on the work.

The Baltic unique conditions limit the diversity of life in the sea and make ecosystems exceptionally sensitive to pollution, the effects of industrial fisheries, offshore activities, and the introduction of non-native species. The naturally low biodiversity of the Baltic Sea adds to the specific importance of the well-being of populations of all native species. As there is very little-functional redundancy in the Baltic Sea ecosystem, it can be argued that virtually all Baltic Sea species are “keystone species.” Another implication of the unique Baltic Sea biodiversity is that many well-studied species of the international and European biodiversity discourse are very difficult to apply directly to the Baltic. Novel solutions for biodiversity objectives and indicators for the region must therefore be sought.

The Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), the inter-governmental organisation responsible for overseeing the protection of the Baltic marine environment, is presently working on an improved assessment system including biodiversity. With the revised 1992 Helsinki Convention text, the Commission aims to reach “ecological balance” (for “good ecological status,” using Water Framework Directive terminology) in the Baltic Sea ecosystem. According to the approach applied, biological diversity - using the widest definition of the term - is actually the essence of this ecological balance. Consequently, some metrics for assessing Baltic Sea biodiversity must be agreed upon in order to make sound management decisions. Even if scientific publications on marine biodiversity are published continuously and our knowledge in the field is growing, this is not an easy task. Unfortunately, many of the indicators or parameters devised by scientists are very difficult to make operational with standard monitoring.

HELCOM is developing a Baltic Sea Action Plan in accordance with the ecosystem approach, also envisaged to be applied in the future European Marine Strategy. The plan will be an integrated approach for the adaptive management of human activities impacting on the Baltic Sea marine environment. It shall distinguish between actions that can be implemented at regional or national levels and measures that can only be implemented at the EU level. (Common Fisheries Policy, Common Agricultural Policy, marketing and use of chemicals) or globally (e.g., shipping through the International Maritime Organization). The Ecological Objectives for the identified main environmental issues (eutrophication, hazardous substances, maritime safety and loss of biodiversity) linked to the HELCOM monitoring and assessment programmes, will be used to measure progress towards the agreed targets.

Currently, HELCOM is developing Ecological Objectives within the Baltic Sea for eutrophication, nature conservation and hazardous substances and will focus in the near future on metazoan biodiversity. One of the most important functions of the Ecological Objectives and related Indicators is communication: how to translate science to managers. For that purpose, there is on the one hand a need to simplify the complex ecosystem. On the other hand, it is important to have a solid scientific foundation. Therefore, HELCOM invites the MarBEF network of excellence to provide input into HELCOM’s objectives. One opportunity is to give feedback using HELCOM’s e-meetings facilities on http://www.helcom.fi (Events & Meetings - Ecological Objectives).

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Great British Marine Animals – Second Edition out now!

Great British Marine Animals is an eye-opening celebration of Britain’s sea creatures, from the magnificent basking shark to the tiny but dazzlingly colourful jewel anemone. Designed to aid identification of the common animal species, it also describes their intriguing, often bizarre, lifestyles using pairs or sequences of photographs to accompany the text. There are many unusual photographs, including those of crabs in territorial dispute, sea-hare mating chains, starfish chasing brittle stars and even a benny having a “bad hair day.” It will appeal to everyone who loves wildlife and beautiful photo-graphy or wants to discover more about our seas.

The book’s 272 pages contain 420 colour photographs in total, many of them full or half page. Available from bookshops or by mail order from NHBS 0044 1803 865 913 ISBN 09523813 S 8

The end of an era – is small no longer beautiful?

By Richard Hartnoll

IN SEPTEMBER 2006, LIVERPOOL University will close the Port Erin Marine Laboratory in the Isle of Man, bringing to an end a century of investigation into the central regions of the Irish Sea.

The rationale is not simple, but it emphasises the current vulnerability of small off-campus research centres. They are falling victim to various pressures. One is the current ethos of interdisciplinary studies, where they have geographical problems of close integration. However, more important is the cost-driven evaluation of university facilities: small remote laboratories are inevitably expensive in unit costs, and their outputs cannot easily be buried amidst central funding. The decision has been made. The Isle of Man government now faces the necessity of focusing on the site, but nothing has been settled.

The driving force behind the founding of the laboratory was Sir William Herdman, Professor of Natural History at Liverpool from 1881 to 1912. Initially the laboratory was privately funded (at one guinea, £1.5, per year) by the members of the Liverpool Marine Biological Committee, first on Puffin Island off the north coast of Wales (1887-1892) and then in a small building on the north side of Port Erin Bay in the Isle of Man (1892-1902). The larger building on the site on the south side of Port Erin Bay was opened in 1902 and was transferred to Liverpool University in 1919.

The work at Port Erin in the early part of the 20th century focused largely on commercial finishes and shells, especially on herring, which was a major local fishery. However, there were also basic scientific studies such as those on algae and taxonomy. There were, in addition, routine hydrographic measurements, of which more later. Throughout the period up to the 1940s the laboratory functioned with a small resident staff, with much of the research being driven by visiting scientists based in Liverpool. Gradually the research shifted from the central regions of the Irish Sea, to the local area.

This all started to change in the late forties. Additional resident staff were recruited, and in 1950 John Colman was appointed as the first resident director. For the first time, the laboratory had a dedicated research vessel of its own, the星级 Hartnoll. The research field diversified, with basic research including algalology, benthic communities, rocky-shore ecology and plankton. The ethos was still essentially research, and by the end of the sixties there were eight scientific staff based in Port Erin. Fundamental research diversified further, but fisheries research was still a major preoccupation. However, there was an increasing emphasis on the scallop fishery as this steadily overtaking the herring as the major local resource.

In the early seventies there was another major shift in emphasis as the laboratory took over a substantial teaching role under its new director, Ernest Naylor. Liverpool initiated a marine biology honours degree, and to date almost a thousand students have spent their final undergraduate year in the Isle of Man. They are now scattered throughout the marine biology community, many in positions of power and responsibility. We will welcome the last of their kind in September this year. Marine biology will continue to be taught in Liverpool, but the ambience will perhaps not be the same. Have you ever tried to dive in the Mersey?

Nevertheless, this teaching role was not fulfilled at the expense of research. At the same time as the honours class grew, so did the number of research students, peaking at thirty or more in the eighties. Then slowly the screws began to turn, as university funding in the UK became tighter. Research funding was harder to come by so research student numbers fell. The staffing levels at Port Erin presented a demographic time-bomb - we were largely an ageing population, and as retirements occurred replacements did not follow. Whole animal biology was no longer sexy - employ another molecular biologist instead! In the early nineties the University was warned of the Port Erin predicament - invest now or perish later. The latter option was evidently the one chosen.

There is no point in being morbid at the closure, though we are entitled to be sad. What are the positive achievements of 114 years of marine biological research in Port Erin? Firstly, there is a major body of scientific publication, covering many fields, where it would be invidious to highlight topics. Secondly, there are our many graduate students, from all corners of the world, who have taken the Port Erin experience home with them. No less important, the hundreds of undergraduates who have achieved a Liverpool marine biology degree. There are the ongoing data collections that we hope to hand on for posterity and continuation; the long-term fishery data for herring and scallop; and the hydrographic records, the longest continual records in the UK, some extending over 100 years. For many years simply as a background data source for biologists, these are now seen as seminal data in our understanding of global warming and marine eutrophication. We hope that our inheritance will prove worthwhile.

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End of an Era is a live recording of a Nightwish performance at Hartwall Arena in Helsinki, Finland on October 21, 2005, and released in 2006. Both an album and a DVD of the performance were released. The title "End of an Era" was chosen because this was the final concert of a long worldwide tour for the album Once; however, to fans it was more significantly the final concert with vocalist Tarja Turunen, who had been with the band for nearly a decade. She was fired mere hours after the concert. During the concert, the band was joined on-stage by Lakota musician John Two-Hawks, who pe The 2009 album "The End of An Era" comes in a sick jewel case, wrapped in a beautiful plastic wrap. What more could you want? Includes unlimited streaming of The End of An Era via the free Bandcamp app, plus high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more. Sold Out. Share / Embed. 1. The Ruin of Mankind 02:12. buy track. 2. Of any era, at any field, you name it. For example, the last amphibious species that go extinct in the Amazon, marks the end of an era for the amphibious life on the planet. Which era? The era when amphibious life existed in Amazon. Example 2: When all internet traffic stops getting the same priority, will be the end of an era for the internet. Which era? The era of net neutrality. And so it goes. 25.4K views Â·. End of an Era is a DVD and double CD from Finnish symphonic metal band Nightwish. Nuclear Blast recorded their live performance at the Hartwall Arena in Helsinki, Finland, on October 21, 2005, the final concert of a long worldwide tour for their album Once. During the concert the band was joined on-stage by John Two-Hawks, who performed "Stone People" from his album Honor as an introduction to "Creek Mary's Blood", which featured his voice and cedar flutes. End of an Era is the final Nightwish The End Of An Era is the upcoming official third studio album by Australian rapper Iggy Azalea due to be released in the Summer of 2021 independently via Bad Dreams Records. On December 9, 2019 a week after she released her four-track EP Wicked Lips Iggy announced that she was already working on a full project due to arrive at some point in 2020/2021. After taking a break from social media to focus on her pregnancy and birth of her son she got back in the studio at the end of May 2020. She has described the albumâ€™s direction as a more experimental 90â€™s Pop mixed with Rap. And she confirmed the