



LIFE + MC-SALT

The News for the LIFE + MC-SALT Project for the Aigues-Mortes Salt-works

N° 2 - October 2012

The action plans needed to define the real concrete actions will soon be finished.

The restoration works for the hydraulic systems

After taking stock of the systems that need renovating, out production service is drawing up the specifications for the renovation works. Several different companies will be consulted and the work should start in January 2013



Marteliere – Wooden lock systems which allow water to circulate from one pond to another

Burying electric lines

The zone reserved for the burying of electric lines has been decided on and the specifications have been drawn up. Several different companies are currently being consulted and the work should start in 2013.



Part of the electric lines

The restoration of the nesting sites and the actions to be taken in order to limit the disturbance of birds of national heritage interest by the yellow-legged gulls

Ground assessments were carried out to define the location of the islets to be created. Furthermore an authorization request will be submitted in November to the Territorial and Maritime Departmental Direction for the Bouches de Rhone (Direction Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer des Bouches du Rhône) to request the right to scare off and eradicate the yellow-legged gulls.



Yellow-legged Gulls: a species that colonizes the majority of favorable breeding sites and totally excludes any competition from other species

Setting up hides and notice boards

Following the intervention of naturalists for the discovering pathways project, there are currently no environmental constraints



A hide which will be built on the discovering pathways project

A protocol for the assessment of the state of the preservation of coastal lagoons and bird populations

This protocol must ensure that the impact of the hydraulic restoration work on the state of the lagoons and the birds on the salt-works can be monitored. It will be distributed to all the partners of the LIFE project by the end of 2012.



Coastal lagoon on the Aigues-Mortes salt-works with the Pink Flamingos



Zostera noltii, an aquatic plant which can be seen on certain lagoons on the Aigues-Mortes salt-works

The documentary “Salt and Nature”

The filming of the documentary “Salt and Nature” will begin in February 2013. It aims to make the general public and school visits more aware of the role played by the Mediterranean salt-works in bio-diversity. Via this documentary the Groupe Salins hope to show the inter-dependence of the different harvesting steps and the wealth of the ecosystem..



In the summer, the Fleur de Sel de Camargue is harvested by hand by the “sauniers” or salt-workers



In the summer, the first of the Pied Avocet chicks hatch

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