
Marine biodiversity in a changing climate

How do we best enable the Baltic Sea ecosystem to be part of the solution?

05.11.2020, 10.00-11.30 CEST

Online Meeting

The Baltic Sea, an endangered ecosystem in Europe

In a healthy and living sea, many species require specific environments and conditions to prosper. This interaction has taken many thousands of years to perfect - and for the sea to provide us humans with the ecosystem services we enjoy today.

The greatest changes in the sea today, such as climate change, are caused by humans. The summer of 2018 was extremely warm in the Baltic Sea, which led to the highest coastal water temperature recorded since 1926. This heatwave caused carbon dioxide and methane to bubble up from the seafloor sediment to an extent comparable to hotspots for greenhouse gas emissions in Siberia. The coastal ecosystem is especially sensitive to temperature rise. Here is where the greatest diversity of species is found and many of the ecosystem services that we humans use are now faced with big challenges.

In the context of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy** and the **EU Climate Law**, this webinar will put the effects on marine biodiversity caused by climate change into perspective. This meeting will be the opportunity to discuss the value of resilience building and how we best enable the sea to play its role as a carbon sink with stakeholders from various backgrounds, all brought together to tackle the current situation of the Baltic Sea.

It will build on a **scientific study of the 2018 heatwave in the Baltic Sea** as an example and then discuss what is needed for increased marine resilience in a European and international policy context.

Agenda

10.00 – 10.03: Introduction and housekeeping rules by **Ms Hanna SJÖLUND**, Advocacy and Analysis Officer, Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre, Moderator of the event

10.03 – 10.07: Welcome by **Nils TORVALDS**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the SEArca board responsible for the Baltic Sea

10.07 – 10.10: Presentation of the speakers by **Ms Hanna SJÖLUND**, Advocacy and Analysis Officer, Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre, Moderator of the event

Panel discussion: How do we best enable the Baltic Sea ecosystem to be part of the solution?

The research approach:

10.10 – 10.20: “Biodiversity in a rapidly changing Baltic” by **Mr Alf NORKKO**, Professor of Baltic Sea research, Helsinki University

10.20 – 10.30: “Implication for carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions” by **Mr Christoph HUMBORG**, Professor in Coastal Biogeochemistry

10.30 – 10.40: “Marine Biodiversity under climate change – A European overview of pressures, state and remaining challenges” by **Mr Stéphane ISOARD**, Head of Group Water and Marine, European Environmental Agency

10.40 – 10.50: “Restoring marine ecosystems to tackle ocean warming at global level” by **Ms Minna EPPS**, Director Global Marine & Polar Programme, IUCN

The view of the regions:

10.50 – 11.00: “Reflections from a regional perspective” by **Ms Tiina PERHO**, chair of the Maritime working group of the CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, member of the board for the Regional Council of Southwest Finland

11.00 - 11.20: Q&A

11.20 – 11.25: Conclusions by **Nils TORVALDS**, MEP, Vice-Chair of the SEArca board responsible for the Baltic Sea

11.25 – 11.30: Closing remarks by **Hanna SJÖLUND**, Advocacy and Analysis Officer, Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre, Moderator of the event

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