

Newsletter



March - April 2015

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1. MARS Directors meeting 2015

The MARS directors meeting for 2015 will be held in Sopot and Hel, nearby Gdansk, Poland from the 21st of October till the 23rd of October, and will be organised by the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Hel Marine Station, and Institute of Oceanography of the University of Gdańsk.



This year is a special year, because MARS will have its 20th anniversary. We hope to meet you all in Poland in October!

You can find the tentative program for the directors meeting in section 2 of this Newsletter. Also some preliminary topics are indicated. If you have any topics that you wish to be discussed during the annual MARS directors meeting, please e-mail them to the MARS secretariat at MARS@nioz.nl or christiaan.hummel@nioz.nl.

2. Tentative program MARS Directors meeting 2015

Wednesday, 21st of October

Location: Institute of Oceanology (IOPAN), Sopot

- 08:30 - 09:30 : Registration
- 09:30 - 13:00 : Plenary meeting: The science-policy interface: translating marine science into political action and vice versa.
- 13:00 - 14:00 : Lunch
- 14:00 - 15:30 : Discussion
- Discussion points are (amongst others):
- The MSFD, and the Descriptors of Good Environmental Status (GES)
 - Long Term series observations
 - The importance of marine stations
- 15:30 - 16:00 : Celebration of the 20th anniversary of MARS
- 16:00 - ... : Social programme (visit Oliwa, centre Gdansk), and dinner.

Thursday, 22nd October

Location: Hel Marine Station , University of Gdansk, Hel (transport from 08:30 by boat or bus)

- 11:00 - 13:00 : Marine science: A global dimension
- 13:00 - 14:00 : Lunch
- 14:00 - 16:00 : Discussion
- 16:00 - ... : Social programme (visit to seal ponds, beach, ...), and dinner in Hel

Friday 23rd October

Location: Institute of Oceanology (IOPAN), Sopot

- 09:00 - 11:00 : Plenary meeting
- 11:00 - 12:00 : Discussion
- 12:00 - 13:00 : Lunch
- 13:00 : Departure

Practical information on locations and accommodation, together with a more detailed programme, will be sent at a later stage.

3. Preliminary topics for MARS Directors meeting 2015

For the 2015 MARS Directors meeting it may be important to discuss the following issues:

- The relevance of marine stations in measuring the eleven descriptors of Good Environmental Status (GES), as stated in the Marine Science Framework Directive of the European Union. This could be an enormous opportunity for MARS.
- Long term time series (LTS). These are mostly carried out at Marine Stations, but are not harmonised in any way. They are very relevant to measuring the previously named GES, since many descriptors of GES should be based on the outcomes of LTS.
- Field work as opposed to lab work in marine stations. Many marine stations are being closed or threatened with closing down, because according to administrators it is pointless to maintain a large and costly infrastructure to carry out work that might be easily carried out in normal labs at the University. What is the point of working at a marine station and not in the main campus?
- Expertise and knowledge present at marine stations. Regarding the descriptors of GES we need experts in biodiversity, experts in ecosystem functioning, and experts in both biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Marine stations are very able to supply these experts.
- Marine stations as a place for human capacity building; field courses for university curricula, summer schools, workshops, etc.
- The possibility of lobbying for project calls that can be carried out from a marine station. What would be the ideal project call for marine stations? Can we discuss on the contents of such a call and propose it to relevant people at the EC in Brussels?
- Composing a strategy for the future of marine stations: how do we bring all these issues to the political and policy level in such a way that they "hear" us, and that we receive some positive return from this. In the last year we have delivered substantial proposals from the MARS community to the EU, unfortunately they failed. How to overcome this? We need a proper strategy.

If you have other topics that could be discussed at the Directors meeting, please e-mail them to the MARS Secretariat: MARS@nioz.nl or christiaan.hummel@nioz.nl.

4. In memoriam: Prof. Dr. Otto Kinne

It is with great sadness that we have perceived the demise of Prof. Dr. Otto Kinne on 3 march 2015 at the age of 91.

Otto Kinne was a passionate marine biologist and visionary organiser and helped greatly in advancing marine sciences. Otto Kinne had a long and highly successful scientific career and was among the best known and respected of all marine ecologists.

He was director of the Biologische Anstalt Helgoland from 1962 to 1984, during which he made it become one of the leading marine institutes in Europe.



In 1966 he organised the first-ever European Marine Biology Symposium (EMBS) on Helgoland, a leading symposium series, which have been held annually ever since. Otto Kinne was founder and editor of numerous journals, including the well-known and renowned journals Marine Biology and Marine Ecology Progress Series.

Otto Kinne was also founder of the publishing company Inter-Research in 1979, as well as the International Ecology Institute in 1984, which will go on advancing marine sciences in the way Prof. Kinne has done his whole life.

In 1992 Kinne, who always showed great respect for Soviet biologists, founded the Otto Kinne Foundation providing grants for young ecologists from Russia and Eastern Europe, using his own private resources.

In 1998, anxious about harmful tendencies in the anthropogenic degradation of the environment, Kinne founded the Eco-Ethics International Union which has departments in many countries. In 2006 the MARS - Otto Kinne - Lecture Award for young scientists at the European Marine Biology Symposium (EMBS) was founded by Kinne.

Otto Kinne has worked tirelessly and up to high age for advancing marine science, and his wisdom, energy and devotion will be sorely missed.

5. New concept Working Programme Horizon 2020

In the last newsletter we asked all MARS members to lobby for more marine sciences in the new Horizon 2020 research framework. In the topic "Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials (SC5), there seemed to be the possibility to include marine realm into the already existing draft topics.

After lobbying the Dutch representatives have incorporated our proposal of changing the topic Earth Observation, as is show below. They proposed to the EC Programme Committee to include the fat underlined sentences:

Specific challenge: A more systematic observation of the earth system is required at a resolution and accuracy that cannot be provided only through remote sensing. There is therefore a need to update and improved **the requirements for the latest EC Directives, as the MSFD, and the** in-situ component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) in order to collect the relevant data necessary to deliver Earth Observation Services **including variables to describe the Good Environmental Status** for **policy makers**, local users and citizens. For this purpose, novel technologies are a powerful tool.

Scope: Development of new, in-situ observation systems, taking advantage of new **approaches and** technology so that measurements can be performed using low energy sensors and communication systems, requiring less demanding maintenance. The R&I activities under this topic may also include new concepts such as citizen observatories, crowdsourcing, disposable sensors, and the use of platforms such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The cost effectiveness of deploying the new systems should be an important driver for those developments. Proposals should address terrestrial **transitional water, coastal** and/or atmospheric systems.

Expected impact: [To be developed] Innovative solutions for the in-situ component of GEOSS **fulfilment of the requirements of the MSFD including description of GES.** Validation of the Copernicus space programme data.

Unfortunately, we cannot detect whether these recommendations were really used in the new version of the Horizon 2020 concept programme. In contrast to what we aim for, in the entire SC5 topic all marine related subjects have further been changed, leaving, except some emphasis for the Arctic, no space for marine sciences whatsoever.

It seems that the only Ocean in which Europe is interested, is the Ocean of opportunities for use and the maximum financial yield of (marine) ecosystems, regardless of the consequences for the long term. We, as MARS members, have to find ways to counteract this devastating trend. The MARS Directors may pay attention to this issue.
