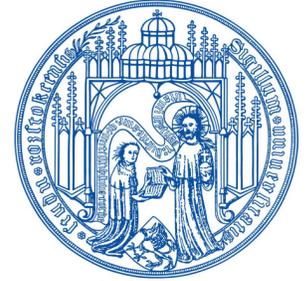


Joint Press Release

**Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research
Warnemünde**



**Department of Biosciences
University of Rostock**



Rostock, March 19, 2007

From March 19th to 22nd, 2007, Rostock will be the European centre of Baltic Sea research. Up to 260 scientists from all Baltic Sea countries will come together at the 6th Baltic Sea Science Conference (BSSC) to exchange their results and develop new ideas.

The Baltic Sea Science Conference takes place biannually at changing venues. Joint organizers of the conference, scientists from the department of biosciences at the University of Rostock and the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde took the initiative to bring this event to Germany.

The BSSC is a truly interdisciplinary meeting, as it gathers under one umbrella three different congresses: The Baltic Marine Biologists (BMB) as well as the Baltic Sea Geologists (BSG) and the Conference of the Baltic Oceanographers (CBO) will attend this event.

This get-together of all disciplines in marine science represents a highlight per se. It allows the scientists insights in the most recent results of their own and neighbour disciplines and promotes the exchange of knowledge. While the focus clearly is on the Baltic Sea guests from other European countries as well as from North-America and Africa will add a broader perspective.

The conference focuses on the <functioning> of the system. Questions concerning the reaction to climate change will be addressed as well as changes in the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea.

Lectures on <Blue-Green Algae>, a topic of special interest for the media during the past years because of its impact on tourism, will be given by scientists from several Baltic Sea states. Detailed knowledge about the trigger mechanisms of these algae blooms is required to allow an estimate of the consequences of changing environmental conditions.

A further highlight will be the topic of changes of biodiversity. The Baltic Sea - a relatively young ecosystem - still is the scene of numerous invasions of species carried in by ballast water. This process as well as the formation of new species will be discussed at the BSSC.

Another important issue will be to take a look at the past to identify and investigate evidence of earlier climate changes. Special interest will be dedicated to reports on the preparation of large drilling campaigns designed to obtain sediment cores with continuous information over the last 120,000 years.

Progress in computer simulations is expected with great anticipation. It should help to improve the understanding of ecosystem development and to estimate the consequences of a continuously increasing exploitation and utilization pressure on the system.

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