

Tell Me More: What does society **really** want to know about changes in the Baltic Sea?

August 20, 2019

Distinguished scientists and journalists will help kick off the 2019 Baltic Sea Science Congress with a fast-paced discussion of key topics in the form of a mock press conference. A panel of experts will briefly highlight critical dimensions and intersections among climate change, biogeochemical cycles, human impacts - and solutions to sustain the Baltic into the future. Then, a panel of local and international journalists will quiz the panelists to elicit what their audiences would want to know. As professional question-askers, they will cut to the chase: What do policy makers and the public need to know? How might changes to the Baltic Sea affect them? What's working and where should we go from here? This opening session is designed to stimulate fresh thinking, reveal connections, help lead towards solutions, and catalyze conversations throughout the congress.

*This special opening event is supported by BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea research and development program.

Lead Scientist and Organizer



Christoph Humborg

Professor and Scientific Director

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Christoph Humborg is a professor of Coastal Biogeochemistry and Scientific Director of Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre, Sweden. His research deals with eutrophication issues of the Baltic Sea and its catchment to address nutrient pathways in various watersheds and estuaries, investigate large scale phosphorus and oxygen dynamics in the Baltic Sea, and estimate the environmental status. Christoph's research team was involved in the formulation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and he coordinated and currently participates in several EU BONUS projects dealing with environmental issues of the Baltic Sea. In addition, he works on international studies on carbon dynamics in high latitude watersheds and estuaries and along the entire Siberian Shelf with focus on riverine carbon transports, water column carbon dynamics and GHG emissions.

Panelists



Alf Norkko

Professor and Principal Investigator

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Alf Norkko is a professor of Baltic Sea research at Tvärminne Zoological Station, University of Helsinki. He leads the strategic development of marine research at the station and is currently a guest professor at the Baltic Sea Centre, Stockholm University. His research focuses on the ecology of seafloor habitats, the value of marine biodiversity and the mechanisms important for its maintenance. He participated in the first Vega Fellows Leadership and Communication training in 2011. He is particularly concerned with demonstrating why and how science matters to society.



Anna Sobek

Associate Professor

Department of Environmental Science and Analytical Chemistry, Stockholm University

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Anna Sobek is an associate professor at the Department of Environmental Science and Analytical Chemistry, Stockholm University. Her research focuses on how contaminants circulate the aquatic environment, where we can find them and why, how they are degraded and taken up in aquatic food webs, and what risk they pose to the environment. Parts of her research focuses on how fit society's chemicals management system is to address and reduce the risk chemicals pose to the environment. She is also engaged in improving science-policy interactions and communicating science to the society.



Erik Kjellström

Professor

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Erik Kjellström is a professor of Climatology at the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute within the Rossby Centre as well as an adjunct professor at the Department of Meteorology at Stockholm University. His research deals with climate variability and climate change with a special focus on regional climate modeling and support for users of climate information. He is working internationally with the CORDEX (Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment) project and is member of several national and international expert groups, such as the National Expert Group on Climate Adaptation.



Henrik Österblom

Professor and Deputy Science Director

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Henrik Österblom is a professor and Deputy Science Director at Stockholm Resilience Center. His research focuses on ocean stewardship, global cooperation and marine ecosystems. He is leading the Keystone Dialogues, a global co-production project including major private actors in global seafood, which has resulted in the establishment of the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship (SeaBOS) initiative and principal investigator in Nerus – Predicting the Future Oceans Program. Henrik serves as board member of Race for the Baltic and represents Stockholm University in the United Nations Global Compact Action Platform for Sustainable Ocean Business.



Michelle McCrackin

Researcher

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Michelle McCrackin is a limnologist and a researcher at the Stockholm University Baltic Sea Center. Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of eutrophication. She uses computer models and large datasets to understand the sources and magnitudes of nitrogen and phosphorus flows from land to the sea. She also synthesizes ecological and socio-economic data sets to explore cause-and-effect relationships between nutrient loading and ecosystem impacts. Michelle actively communicates her own research as well as others in social media and on her blog: balticeye.org/en/eutrophication/elemental.

Journalists



Peter Buchert

Reporter

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Peter Buchert has more than 25 years of experience of working in journalism. After 15 years at the Finnish News Agency (STT) he has spent the last 12 years reporting for Hufvudstadsbladet (HBL) daily newspaper in Helsinki, Finland. He mainly covers environmental issues, politics and science. He is trying to capture the complexity of sustainable development, focusing especially on the topics of biodiversity and climate change, in close relation to the Baltic Sea. When not working, Peter spends quite some time birdwatching and enjoying the Finnish nature.



Jannike Kihlberg

Specialreporter

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Jannike Kihlberg is a journalist at the Swedish daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter. With more than 30 years experience from various forms of journalism she is currently a specialreporter focusing on climate and environmental issues. That interest came after several visits to Greenland and Svalbard islands where people already more than 15 years ago experienced the climate change. She has been back to the tiny village Ittoqqortoormiit on the east coast of Greenland to report on their problems with starving polar bears. She has reported from UNs climate conferences, for example the one in Paris 2015. In her spare time she likes to be outdoors and tries to spend a lot of time at her summerhouse at Fårö, a small island north of Gotland in the middle of the Baltic Sea.



Sandra Kropa

Journalist

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Sandra Kropa is a Latvian radio and TV journalist specializing in science and environmental issues. For more than 14 years she has been hosting a national radio broadcast on environmental topics. Since 2015, after completing a TV documentary about underwater world of Tobago Island, she has been reporting on marine issues also on national TV, including the Baltic Sea. Marine life and everything connected to it, life below the surface and all interconnections with the coastal zones form her passion which she combines to her professional life in science communication.



David Malakoff
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[David Malakoff](#) is a Deputy News Editor specializing in coverage of science policy, energy and the environment. A native of Washington D.C., he has spent more than 25 years reporting on how scientists influence government policy, and how government policy shapes science. In addition to reporting for *Science*, he has worked as an editor and correspondent on NPR's Science Desk, for *Conservation Magazine*, and as a freelancer for numerous outlets.



Kenneth R. Weiss
Independent Journalist
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Kenneth R. Weiss, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, writes on ocean issues and other topics at the intersection of science, environment and public health. Recently, he has been on assignment for National Geographic, Nature and Science and Foreign Policy magazines. Before becoming a magazine writer, Ken spent more than two decades as a reporter and editor at the Los Angeles Times. His newspaper work included two major series: [Beyond 7 Billion](#), on the causes and consequences of human population growth and [Altered Oceans](#), which showed how industrious we have managed to change all of the world's oceans. Besides winning the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting, Weiss has won the George Polk Award, the Grantham Prize, a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, the American Association for the Advancement of Science Journalism award and many others. Ken writes from his home overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Carpinteria, California. That is, when he's not surfing or growing avocados.

Moderator



Nancy Baron

Director of Science Outreach, COMPASS

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Nancy Baron is the Director of Science Outreach for COMPASS. Nancy holds workshops around the world for academic, government, and NGO scientists helping them develop core competencies as scientist communicators who want to make their work relevant to journalists, policy makers, and the public. Nancy began her career as a biologist in

Banff National Park, spent 6 years as Director of Education at the Vancouver Aquarium, then morphed into journalism. She has won numerous writing awards including the Canadian Science Writers Science in Society and National Magazine awards. An ardent naturalist, she published a popular field guide, *The Birds of Coastal British Columbia* (Lone Pine Publishing) and a “how to” communications guide book for scientists titled *Escape from the Ivory Tower* (Island Press). Nancy received the 2013 Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in the Media for her work at the intersection of science and journalism.