



Minutes of the  
9<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Baltic Earth  
Science Steering Group

held at

**Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research  
Warnemünde, Germany**

**12 June 2017**

*Edited by*

***Marcus Reckermann***

## Introduction

The 9<sup>th</sup> Baltic Earth Science Steering Group Meeting was a short interim meeting connected to the 11<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Science Congress. The meeting took place at the Baltic Sea Research Institute (IOW) in Warnemünde, with Markus Meier as host. Participants present at the meeting were Andreas Lehmann, Inga Dailiniende, Markus Meier, Marcus Reckermann, Karol Kulinski, Gregor Rehder, Andris Andrusaitis (Observer), Piia Post, Corinna Schrum (connected via Skype) and Kai Myrberg.

## TOP 1: Organizational Issues

### 1.1 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

### 1.2 Approval of the previous 8<sup>th</sup> Baltic Earth SSG meeting minutes

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

### 1.3 Review of previous (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) Baltic Earth SSG meeting action items

The pending and completed action items of the previous meeting were recapped and discussed (see Minutes of BESSG meeting #8).

### 1.4 Membership issues: BESSG memberships

It was again stated that new members to the BESSG and SAB should be invited. Markus Meier will approach the candidates (see Minutes of BESSG meeting #8)

**Action Item 1:** Markus Meier to invite candidates as new BESSG and BESAB members.

## TOP 2. Miscellaneous topics

### WG on Regional Seas

Corinna Schrum reported on the new WG on Regional Seas. She presented a short 2-p paper (Attachment 1). Envisaged first activities are a potential session at AGU Fall Meeting, submitted by Marcus Reckermann with Corinna Schrum and Don Boesch as conveners. A review paper on the Baltic-North Sea (and possibly others) connection is envisaged shall be drafted.

*Note: The session had to be merged with another group and re-named with new co-conveners can now be found at GC21: Addressing Environmental Challenges through Research Infrastructures and Cooperative Networks with an Emphasis on Marine and Coastal Regions*  
<https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm17/meetingapp.cgi/Session/35249>

The Baltic Sea- North Sea link is particularly interesting for BONUS as an extension is currently in preparation.

### WG on Coupled Regional Earth System Models

Markus Meier reported on the envisaged workshop on regional climate system modeling in collaboration with MedCORDEX (Gabriel Jorda as local initiator and organizer). The 3-day workshop will take place in Palma de Mallorca 14-16 March 2018 and will bring together the research communities of the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean, but also other European Seas, and thus also represents an activity of the WG on Regional Seas. See <http://www.baltic.earth/mallorca2018/>

**WG Multiple Drivers**

The envisaged large Workshop on Multiple Drivers will be postponed to late 2018/early 2019, due to the two large events in 2018 (2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Earth Conference and 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic Earth Summer School).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Earth Conference in Helsingør**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement and Call for Paper is in preparation and will be published in November. The local organisation and collaboration with the conference centre will be in collaboration with DMI. Suggestions for keynote and solicited session speakers will be collected by SSG members. Sessions will reflect the current Baltic Earth Grand Challenges and Working Group topics. Inga Dailidienė offered that the Lithuanian research and educational vessel “Brabander” can moor in Helsingør to host students and scientists from the University of Klaipėda, and can also be visited by conference participants.

**Draft Letter of Intent**

The Draft Letter of Intent will be sent out for BSSG and SAB members to iterate in order to arrive at a final text. All BSSG institutions shall sign this text. Further interested institutions can then sign this document.

**The next BESSG Meeting (#10) shall take place in Riga, 5-6 February 2018, with Juris Aigars as local host.**

Draft, Marcus Reckermann, 13 Nov 2017

## Attachment 1

### Working Group on Regional Seas

#### Mission as defined by the Baltic Earth Science Steering Group

The WG on Regional Seas is proposed to accommodate the wider geographical scope of future research funding. Particular focus is here on a possible BONUS-type EU funding instrument involving the Baltic and North Seas as well as possibly other regional Seas. The working group should initiate and promote coordinated research in regional seas in order to profit from synergetic effects. The WG should operate in this sense as “task force” for communication and collaboration with similar initiatives and research communities from other regional seas, such as the BlueMed<sup>1</sup> initiative of the Mediterranean. The new WG could generate links not only to other European Seas but to similar regions worldwide. It was proposed to have a session on regional seas at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Earth Conference in Helsingør, Denmark.

#### Strategy Draft (Corinna Schrum)

##### Background and objectives

Despite being of substantial size, regional seas communities are separated and fragmented, in contrast to the global climate research community. This is a challenge for finding similarities and developing generic theory and solutions to approach different societal challenges. This separation slows down progress and limits cross fertilization between different regional seas communities.

For the Baltic Sea, Baltic Earth has led to the development of a unique research community which has led to integration of available national research expertise in the surrounding Baltic Sea countries. This integrative approach was quite successful in the past, but has so far not aimed at integration with other regional seas communities. We believe that in doing so, there is a large potential to advance our science and increase its impact and visibility of our community on European and international level. We foresee that an initiative to start communication and collaboration between different research communities will help to develop project opportunities and will create more successful projects, through identification of best practices (in science, science-stakeholder dialogue and implementation of management solutions) and cross-fertilization of communities.

##### Description of tasks/Terms of references

With the WG on Regional Seas we aim to develop a regional exchange between regional seas research communities. The working group should initiate collaboration and communication with other regional seas communities on scientific and research funding level. To achieve this a broad strategy will be followed which consists of (i) reviewing of state of the art and promote comparative assessments, (ii) propose regional seas sessions at different conferences; (iii) initiate input to national funding organizations.

Following specific Terms of Reference will be implemented during a first period

- (i) Establish the working group and engage members

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<sup>1</sup> The “BlueMed” initiative of the Mediterranean supports “Blue Growth” <http://www.bluedmed-project.eu/>, similar to the BONUS Blue Baltic call [https://www.bonusportal.org/programme/competitive\\_calls/bonus\\_call\\_2015\\_blue\\_baltic](https://www.bonusportal.org/programme/competitive_calls/bonus_call_2015_blue_baltic)

- (ii) Develop the strategy document further and identify key research topics for the primary focus of the working group
- (iii) Identify communication channels to national and international funding agencies
- (iv) Initiate the first review paper, potential marginal sea candidates are Baltic & North Sea
- (v) Initiate Regional Sea sessions at conferences (AGU, EGU, Baltic Earth)
- (vi) Identify other regional seas initiatives to collaborate with

**Members (tbd)**

Corinna Schrum

Markus Meier

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**Actions so far**

Proposal to AGU for a Marginal Seas session was submitted by Marcus Reckerman, Corinna Schrum joined in as co-convener (co-proposer), other co-convener Donald Boesch (University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory (Cambridge US), Dongxiao Wang, South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, CAS, Guangzhou, China. *Note: The session had to be merged with another group and re-named with new co-conveners and can now be found at GC21: Addressing Environmental Challenges through Research Infrastructures and Cooperative Networks with an Emphasis on Marine and Coastal Regions*  
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Initiate dialogue to join a consortium to H2020 LC BG 01 2018. This is a call to finance funding agencies, but it is directed to CSA. Article 185 can only be implemented between ministries and funding agencies, but the instrument of a CSA allows for other partner as well. To be discussed at the BSSC meeting.