



Bringing marine nature back to our lives – the role of science

Organised by VELMU – the Finnish Inventory Programme for Underwater Marine Diversity*

14-15 March 2023, Helsinki, Finland
Venue: Paasitorni, Paasivuorenkatu 5A

Day 1 (Tuesday, 14 March): Halting the biodiversity loss in marine areas

- 0830-0920 Registration
- 0920-0930 Opening of the conference —**Penina Blankett**, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
- 0930-1000 Keynote of Day 1 by **Mike Elliott**, University of Hull, UK:
Activity-, pressures-, effects- and management response-footprints - Walking the pathway to protecting biodiversity and managing human impacts in the sea
- Session 1: How to achieve efficient conservation in marine areas? Targets, challenges and success stories (Chair: Rasmus Boman, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland)**
- 1000-1020 Session keynote:
20 Year Anniversary of inventories of underwater marine diversity in Finland: what has been achieved? —**Markku Viitasalo**, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- 1020-1040 Assessing ecologically and biologically significant areas at different spatial scales: What type of decision-making is supported? (EBSA-EMMA-PEMMA) —**Lauri Kuismanen**, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- 1040-1100 Health break with mingling (coffee, tea, biscuits)**
- 1100-1120 Effects of a fishing closures in Swedish waters —**Charlotte Berkström**, SLU Aqua, Sweden
- 1120-1140 Science-based marine conservation planning and implementation in the Åland Islands — **Sonja Salovius-Laurén**, Åbo Akademi
- 1140-1200 Biodiversity patterns in *Fucus vesiculosus* associated invertebrates along a depth gradient (MSc Thesis)—**Wiljam Eklund**, Åbo Akademi
- 1200-1300 Social lunch (offered by VELMU)**
- Session 2: Anthropogenic pressures and marine biodiversity – Challenges of improving the state of degraded species and habitats (Chair: Markku Viitasalo, Finnish Environment Institute)**
- 1300-1330 Session Keynote:
Challenges in understanding impacts of anthropogenic pressures on ecosystem recovery —**Laura Uusitalo**, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- 1330-1350 Is the coast a carbon sink or source? Linking coastal habitats and biodiversity to carbon cycling — **Alf Norkko**, Tvärminne Zoological Station, University of Helsinki
- 1350-1410 Restoring state of habitats: goals, possibilities, and achievements —**Fiia Haavisto**, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland

- 1410-1430 Recreational land-use contributes to loss of marine biodiversity —**Elina Virtanen**, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) & Finnish Museum of Natural History
- 1430-1500 **Health break with mingling (coffee, tea, biscuits)**
- 1500-1540 Facilitated discussion: Challenges and practical examples of conservation in marine areas Briefing; Discussion, with highlight slides and Mentimeter — **Niko Kallio**, Finnish Environment Institute
- 1540-1550 Conclusions for Day 1
- 1600-1700 Poster session**
- 1700-1900 Conference cocktail event at Paasitorni restaurant sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment**

Day 2: (Wednesday, 15 March): Sustainable use of marine areas

- 0900-0930 Keynote of Day 2 by **Ana Queiros**, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK: Bright spots: working with nature and people under climate change

Session 3: Nature-human link revisited: Marine biodiversity and ecosystem services (Chair: Sanna Kuningas, Natural Resources Institute Finland)

- 0930-1000 Session keynote:
Transforming marine ecosystem service flows towards sustainability —**Evangelia Drakou**, Harokopio University of Athens, Greece
- 1000-1020 From biodiversity mapping to mapping of ecosystem services: examples from Finland — **Louise Forsblom**, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- 1020-1050 Health break with mingling (coffee, tea, biscuits)**
- 1050-1110 Potential use of algae and invertebrates for nutrient sequestration and removal from the Baltic Sea—**Jonne Kotta**, University of Tartu, Estonia
- 1110-1130 Valuation of ecosystem services – introduction to non-economists —**Tin-Yu Lai**, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- 1130-1150 Discussion on biodiversity - ecosystem service link
- 1150-1300 Social lunch (offered by VELMU)**

Session 4: Reconciling sustainable use of the sea with people & nature (Chair: Anu Kaskela, Geological Survey of Finland)

- 1300-1330 Session keynote:
Scientific mobilization of keystone actors for biosphere stewardship —**Henrik Österblom**, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden
- 1330-1350 Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources: the fish perspective —**Meri Kallasvuoto**, Natural Resources Institute, Finland
- 1350-1410 Knowledge-based status assessment of benthic habitats: challenges and opportunities —**Antonia Nyström Sandman**, AquaBiota, Sweden / HELCOM Expert Network on Benthic Habitats and Biotopes
- 1410-1430 Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources: the legislative and steering perspective — **Kirsi Kostamo**, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- 1430-1500 Health break with mingling**

- 1500-1530 Conclusive invited talk: by **Angel Borja**, AZTI, Spain:
Maritime Spatial Planning, blue economy and ecosystem-based management, reconciling them to achieve good environmental status at sea
- 1530-1550 Final discussion
- 1550-1600 Wrap up & Goodbye —**Penina Blankett**, Ministry of the Environment
- 1600 Conference closes**



In cooperation with



- * *VELMU collects data on the occurrence of underwater marine biotopes, species and communities in Finland's marine waters. The programme contributes to the Baltic marine protection and to the sustainable use of the sea and its natural resources. <https://www.ymparisto.fi/en-us/velmu>*

BIODIVERSEA will contribute to halting loss of biodiversity; it will identify the most diverse and valuable underwater natural sites in Finnish coastal areas and protect marine biodiversity, i.a. by developing protected areas network and restoring degraded habitats.