

HELCOM Workshop on Blue Carbon Potential in the Baltic Sea region

Virtual Event: 17 and 18 November 2021

Final Agenda

Start of the Workshop: 09:00 CET on Wednesday, 17 November 2021
Expected closure: 12:30 CET on Thursday, 18 November 2021

Moderators: Day 1 - Uli Claussen (German Environment Agency, UBA),
Day 2 - Dr. Jochen Krause (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, BfN)

Digital Workshop Platform: Meetingland via <https://www.meetingland.de/live/helcom-workshop/>

DAY 1

8.30 CET Technical introduction to Meetingland for all participants (**highly recommended!**)

9.00 CET **Agenda Item 1 Opening**

Welcome messages

Dr. Lilian Busse (HELCOM Chair and UBA Vice President)

Dr. Britta Knefelkamp (BfN Head of Directorate "Marine Nature Conservation")

Rüdiger Stempel (HELCOM Executive Secretary)

Keynote presentations

Dr. Dorte Krause-Jensen (Uni Aarhus, DK) "Vegetated coastal ecosystems, blue carbon & nature-based solutions in the Baltic area and beyond"

Prof. Dr. Thorsten Reusch (Geomar, DE) "The blue carbon wealth of nations – global and Baltic perspective with link to the sequestration potential of seagrass beds"

10.25 CET **Agenda Item 2 Question #1 "What is our understanding of Blue Carbon?"**

Plenum: Input of views from Baltic representatives

from science, governmental bodies and NGOs on Blue Carbon

3 Break out groups

Round table discussions aiming for common understanding of the term "Blue Carbon" within the HELCOM area

11.15 CET *Coffee/Lunch break (45 min)*

Summaries from Break out groups with plenary discussion

to potentially narrow down a proposal for a HELCOM-wide definition for "Blue Carbon"

12.30 CET **Agenda Item 3 Question #2 "What are Blue Carbon projects in the Baltic Sea region?"**

Short presentations on projects contributing to conservation or restoration of Blue Carbon relevant habitats in the Baltic Sea region:

Dr. Ketil Koop-Jakobsen (AWI, DE) - "sea4soCieTy - Innovative approaches to improving the carbon storage potential of vegetated coastal ecosystems with focus on the Baltic Sea"

Nerijus Zableckis (FPRC, LT) – “Peatland rewetting and paludiculture in Baltic Sea Region as nature-based solution”

Plenary discussion with exchange of experiences and expectations about national and international Blue Carbon projects

13.45 CET Summary of Day 1 and Glimpse into the second Day

14.00 CET Closure of DAY 1

Optional offer:

18.00 CET Informal exchange/virtual get-together at the Meetingland platform (~60 min)

With short introduction from Dr. Burkard Baschek, Director of the German Oceanographic Museum Foundation

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**DAY 2**

**8.30 CET Get together/ time for technical questions**

**9.00 CET Wrap up of DAY 1**

**9.10 CET Agenda Item 4 Question #3: What may hamper or promote the conservation and restoration of Blue Carbon Habitats?**

**Kick-off Presentations**

*Valerie de Liedekerke (WWF, SE)* „Heavy use of the Baltic Sea by maritime sectors as well as the lack of protected areas hinder Blue Carbon potentials”

*Dr. Malte Ehrich (State Office Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, DE)* “Economic instruments in the financing and implementation of carbon sequestration”

**3 Break out groups**

Round table discussion on difficulties as well as potential solutions

**10.25 CET Coffee break (20 min)**

**10.45 CET Summaries from Break out groups and discussion of outcome**

plus further exchange of experiences with restriction, options and solutions

**11.30 CET Agenda Item 5: Blue Carbon potential for the Baltic Sea region – State of knowledge**

Summarizing information and discussion of results on Questions #1-3 in the context of climate change policy and upcoming HELCOM processes

**12.10 CET Agenda Item 6: Towards the integration of the Blue Carbon topic into HELCOM processes**

*Jannica Haldin (HELCOM Deputy Executive Secretary)*

Looking towards the joint HELCOM/Baltic Earth Stakeholder Conference on Climate Change in March 2022, co-hosted by Germany

**12.20 CET Closing remarks**

**12.30 CET END**