

Join this UCT-SANCOR Seminar by

Dr. Chris Lindemann

Norwegian Institute for Water Research and
University of Bergen, Norway



The immeasurable value of plankton to humanity

Date:

Monday, 17 March

Time:

13h00 SAST

Online:

[Link available here.](#)

THE IMMEASURABLE VALUE OF PLANKTON TO HUMANITY

Overview

Plankton, a diverse group of aquatic organisms, make Earth livable, regulate aquatic life, and provide benefits to human societies such as access to clean water, food security, and well-being. They also support economies and inspire biotechnological innovations. However, their important role is often not being recognized. In this presentation the value of plankton is presented across six themes of human interest: “Biogeochemistry,” “Ecology,” “Climate,” “Evolution of Science,” “Economy,” and “Culture, Recreation, and Well-being”. Additionally, we provide examples of plankton indicators used in policy frameworks and recommendations for enhancing understanding of their value through long-term sustainable research and monitoring. Guided by the 2022 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessment, we introduce the six themes under the Life Framework of Values to offer a comprehensive summary of the significance of plankton to humanity. This presentation raises awareness of the value of plankton to humanity, to provides information for aquatic professionals, policymakers, and anyone interested in plankton.

About the Speaker

Chris is an ocean scientist focusing on biogeochemical ecology, carbon and element cycles and relating them to stakeholders and management for sustainable development of the ocean.

He works with numerical methods and data focusing on various aspects of ocean biogeochemistry and marine ecology, from phytoplankton dynamics and microbial nutrient uptake kinetics to coastal darkening and mesopelagic ecology. Chris further works with blue carbon ecosystems, including kelp. Here, his work ranges is focused on mapping efforts, uncertainties regarding carbon sequestration and relating these to policy and regulatory aspects. While mainly working ‘in silico’, Chris has maintained his seagoing spirit, frequently participating in research cruises field work.

Chris is a researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Water Research (NIVA) and holds a secondary position as a research scientist at the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Bergen, Norway. Chris has a PhD from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU Aqua).