

SANOCEAN BLUECONNECT

Public presentation on *Blue growth opportunities in changing kelp forests*, Friday 15 March 2019

The overall aim of BLUECONNECT is to create collaborative research and training programs that address the broader research question: How can kelp forest change in Norway and South Africa promote ocean health and develop the blue economy in these regions? This will be achieved through collaborative field research, graduate and postgraduate training opportunities, and workshops in both countries.

BLUECONNECT officially kicks-off in March 2019. We invite you to attend four presentations on the background to BLUECONNECT, and about kelp ecosystems. The talks are aimed at the general public, but we also encourage researchers and those more specifically interested in kelp as a renewable resource to attend.

Venue: DAFF Seapoint Research Aquarium

Date and time: Friday 15 March 2019, 13:15 for 13:30

RSVP: Tuesday 12 March 2019; please e-mail Amieroh at 3559244@myuwc.ac.za

Presentation programme

13:30 to 13:50: Karen Fillbee-Dexter— Blue growth opportunities in changing kelp forests (+5 minutes for Q&A)

13:55 to 14:15: Thomas Wernberg—Status and trends of the world's kelp forests (+5 minutes for Q&A)

14:20 to 14:50: Kjell Magnus Norderhaug—Kelps ecosystems in Norway (+5 minutes for Q&A)

14:55 to 15:10: AJ Smit—Kelp ecosystems in South Africa

15:10 to 15:30: Discussion session (20 minutes)

15:30 to 16:15: Snacks/drinks

About the presenters

Karen Filbee-Dexter

Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Dr. Karen Filbee-Dexter is a benthic ecologist studying drivers and patterns of change in coastal ecosystems. Her research focus is on kelp forests, Arctic ecosystems, social-ecological systems, and regime shifts. Karen has experience leading field research in Norway and Canada, have co- led interdisciplinary projects with social scientists and philosophers, and published on ecological theory and global change.

Thomas Wernberg

UWA Oceans Institute & School of Biological Sciences, University of Western Australia

Associate Professor Thomas Wernberg is a marine ecologist with a predilection for large habitat-forming seaweeds. He studies ecological patterns and processes across scales of biogeography, ecology and physiology to gain an understanding of how to ameliorate the impacts of changing environments and species responses (invasive species, fouling, herbivory) on biodiversity, humans and human activities now and in the future. Thomas' long-term focus has been on understanding how kelp forests respond to increasing mean and extreme temperatures. At the end of the day he is just a big boy, who has found a way to keep playing at the beach.

Kjell Magnus Norderhaug

Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Dr. Kjell Magnus Norderhaug's main field of interest is the dynamics of benthic coastal ecosystems with particular focus on kelp forest ecology and trophic interactions. Kjell Magnus has a long experience with

environmental monitoring, with particular focus on ecological effects from eutrophication and climate change. Through his work he has coordinated national and international research and monitoring projects, and has conducted field work and cruises, using diving as a scientific tool all along the Norwegian coast.

AJ Smit

School of Biodiversity & Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape

Associate Professor AJ Smit is a marine ecologist with a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary research interest in the biotic and abiotic drivers responsible for structuring coastal ecosystems, as seen through the lens of climate change. His current research focuses on extreme events such as unusually high waves and temperatures, and the consequences thereof on kelp bed structure and ecological function.