



Making science available for policy work

One of CoastClim's key tasks is to ensure that relevant marine research reaches decision-makers and other actors at national, the Baltic Sea and the EU level. This is why experts in policy work and communication in many ways strive to connect researchers with the rest of society, presenting the latest knowledge at the right time and in the right format.

Coming up, Sweden and Finland face national elections 2026 and 2027, respectively. This provides a series of opportunities where we inform campaigning parties, incoming parliamentarians and the public of some important research-based measures to protect and restore environments in the Baltic Sea. See some of our most recent activities below:

Almedalen 2026

During the political event Almedalen (Gotland, Sweden) several topical seminars on the Baltic environment will be held as well as the launch of the latest scientific advice on

important measures for the Baltic Sea. Follow the Baltic Breakfast (in Swedish) on June 25.

[See our full Almedalen programme, June 24-25 >](#)

Researchers meet society on World Oceans Day

What can different sectors of society do to safeguard the well-being of the Baltic Sea? On World Oceans Day June 8, representatives from various sectors of society were invited to Tvärminne Zoological Station to meet our CoastClim researchers. The aim was to guide and inspire participants to understand the significance of the Baltic Sea in the debate on climate change and the ecological crisis. This event was organised in collaboration with the [Baltic Sea Action Group](#).



Proposed revision of the Water Framework Directive

Opening up the WFD for revision entails significant risks, according to a number of experts at Stockholm University. Rather than revisiting the legislation, the EU and Member States should prioritise the implementation, funding and enforcement of the existing WFD obligations.

[Read the full consultation reply >](#)



Baltic Breakfast: Who eats whom?

New DNA methods reveal surprising role of cyanobacteria in the Baltic food web. Research by CoastClim members and colleagues was presented in May.

[Read more and watch the seminar >](#)

RESEARCH NEWS

How to protect biodiversity by improved chemical regulation

The triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are deeply interlinked and chemical pollution is one of the major drivers of biodiversity decline. Though the EU has established goals for protecting biodiversity, a significant gap exists in how these are handled when it comes to regulation of chemicals.



Cost-benefit analyses as well as socio-economic impact analyses guide decisions under frameworks like REACH, but biodiversity and ecosystem services are rarely included in a meaningful way. PhD student Elin Leander and colleagues have analysed proposals to the European Chemicals Agency on limits and bans of chemicals, as well as applications for new or continued use of hazardous chemicals,

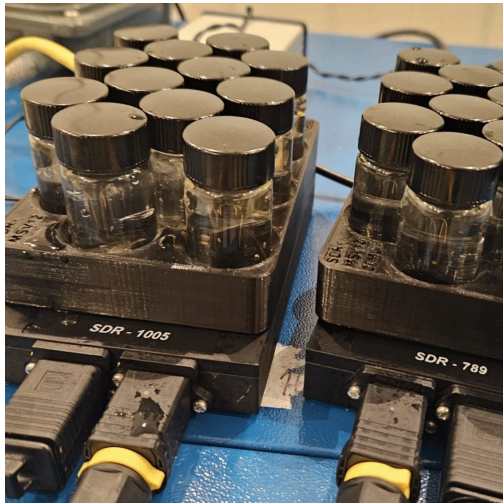
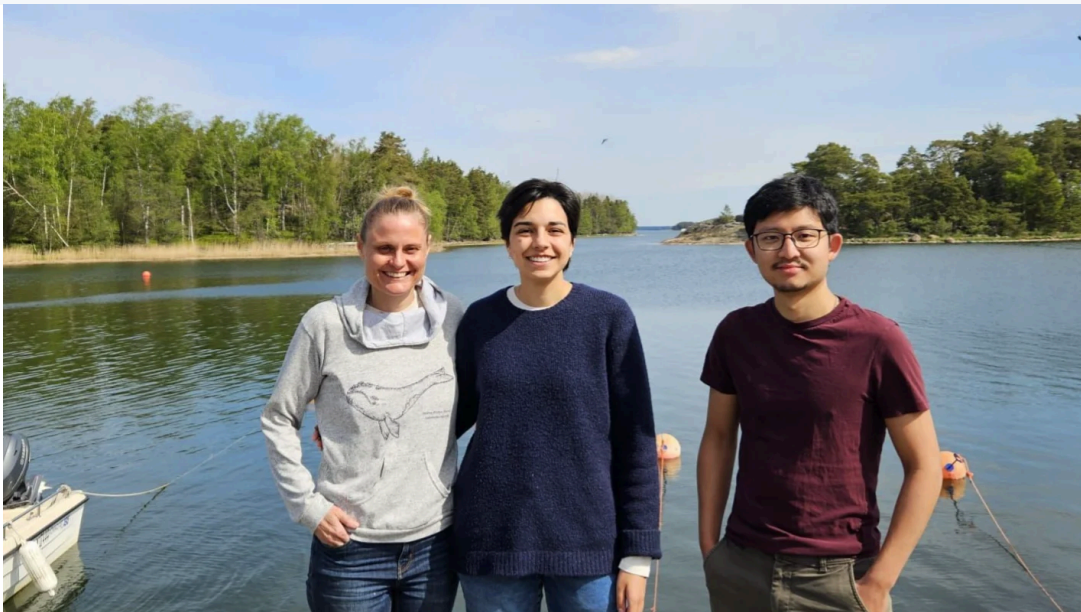
namely "substances of very high concern". Together with regulatory experts they investigated why biodiversity is often left out and what is required to change this approach. Their preliminary findings, presented at the [TerraChem](#) conference in Berlin in June, show variations across regulations – with real room for improvement.

"We need a shift away from over-reliance on quantitative data alone. Impacts that are hard to measure still matter and need to be recognised."

Elin Leander, PhD student in Environmental Science

A way forward requires, for instance, better information on biodiversity damage, a reference "price tag" for pollution, and we need a shift away from over-reliance on quantitative data alone. Impacts that are hard to measure still matter and need to be recognised. Updated guidance documents on how to prepare a socio-economic analysis should include examples of best practices. Such experiences could benefit

future decision making for better protection of biodiversity and align with the EU's ambition on protecting and restoring biodiversity.



Science in a bottle: Exploring how warming affects marine species

As part of the [IRISCC](#) (Integrated Research Infrastructure Services for Climate Change Risks) project, MSc graduate Zoe Xavier-Rouault carried out metabolism experiments at Tvärminne Zoological Station in May 2026 to investigate how warming affects common benthic invertebrates in the coastal Baltic Sea.

These small but essential species play a key role in the coastal Baltic Sea food web, transferring energy from basal resources to fish. By measuring how their metabolic rates change with temperature, the project helps identify the thermal tolerance for these organisms, providing insight into how warming and marine heatwaves may impact their survival.

The Baltic Sea is one of the fastest-warming seas in the world, with surface temperatures projected to rise by up to 4°C by the end of the century. Understanding how species respond to rising temperatures is critical for predicting future ecosystem changes and supporting conservation efforts.

This work also contributes to a broader effort to forecast heatwave impacts on coastal Baltic Sea ecosystems and supports larger-scale mesocosm experiments led by Drs. Ze Hui Kong and Susanne Kortsch at Tvärminne Zoological Station. Stay tuned for more updates from the project.

Exciting field season ahead

While most people head off on summer holidays, our researchers face their busiest season yet. Sampling at our field stations will be intense this summer, with several campaigns running in parallel. For instance, at Askö, volatile organic compounds (VOC) measurements will go alongside continuous phytoplankton monitoring using the brand-new FlowCytoBot. Researchers will also collect and analyse the microbial communities to deepen the understanding of what drives the production and breakdown of VOCs in the sea surface layer.

Meanwhile, at Tvärminne Zoological Station, studies will, for example, investigate the impacts of rising temperatures on the health of underwater vegetation and food-web dynamics. In addition, researchers will continue to assess differences in species

composition between healthy and degraded habitats and evaluate the implications of these differences for GHG and VOC dynamics.

SHORT NEWS AT A GLANCE



EGU26: Sharing coastal insights in Vienna

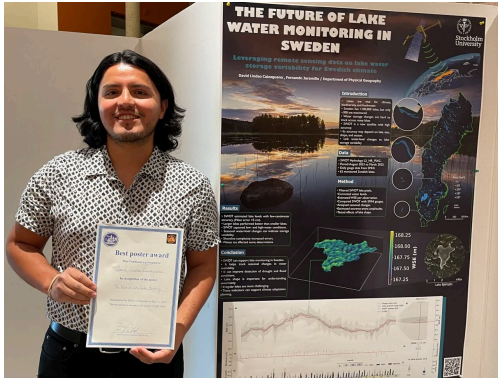
In April, a large delegation from CoastClim attended this year's EGU (European Geosciences Union) conference to present recent findings on, amongst others, greenhouse gas dynamics and coastal carbon processes.

New grant for Tvärminne Hub



Tvärminne Zoological Station has been granted 50,000 euros from the Bank of Åland's Baltic Sea Project, for the project Tvärminne Hub. This initiative aims to accelerate the transfer of scientific research findings into practical applications and enhance decision-makers' and the business community's understanding of the need to protect the Baltic Sea.

Award for water resource monitoring



David Lindao, PhD student in Hydrogeodesy, was selected by professor Johan Rockström's committee to receive the Vega Symposium's poster award. In his research, David explores how remote sensing and satellite-based data can be used to monitor lake water storage variability across Sweden.

Järva Week: Taking care of the Baltic Sea

At the Järva political week in May, CoastClim members met with students from high schools in Stockholm for discussions on marine environmental challenges and potential solutions. Inspiring ideas on how to protect our seas emerged, and we hope to see these brilliant minds in the environmental community in the future.



UPCOMING EVENTS

24-25 JUN Östersjödagarna, Almedalen

25 JUN Baltic Breakfast: Viktiga åtgärder för ett friskare Östersjön

14 AUG Abstract submission deadline for the Nordic Marine Science Meeting in Stockholm.

24-26 NOV Nordic Marine Science Meeting

PUBLICATIONS

Watson et al.: [Priority research questions to generate decision-grade data to enable coastal ecosystems to mitigate the climate and nutrient crises](#)

Kaikkonen et al.: [Key underwater habitat types of the northern Baltic Sea: An assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem functions](#)

Gilevska et al.: [Wastewater-impacted Skagerrak Sea microbiomes anaerobically demethylate micropollutants](#)

All publications >

MEET OUR MEMBER



EVA EHRNSTÉN

MARINE ECOLOGIST
AND MODELER

Who are you?

I am a researcher focusing on simulating ecosystem dynamics of the Baltic Sea and the role of benthic fauna in biogeochemical cycling. I'm working jointly at the Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre and the Zoological Institute of the University of Greifswald in Germany.

What are you doing in CoastClim and why?

Currently, I study how changes in the environment related to climate and eutrophication affect the bivalve *Macoma balthica*, the dominant species in Baltic Sea seabeds. I am very excited to be able to combine fieldwork in Tvärminne with lab studies, historical records and modeling to get a picture of how individual bioenergetics and population dynamics are changing in a changing world. Why are the clams increasingly adopting a strategy of rapid reproduction and short lifespans? One main motivation is to figure out how these changes affect carbon cycling in the sea.

Your recommendation to others...

..is to stay curious. Expose yourself to people who think differently (like the interdisciplinary CoastClim team), and you will always find new interesting ways to look at the world - and your own research questions.

[The CoastClim team >](#)

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