

## **IOW Press Release - October 19, 2011**

### **Polar scientist takes charge at the IOW**

This week, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bathmann took over as Director of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research in Warnemünde (IOW). "I especially look forward to being involved in the design of the new 7-year research programme, by which the IOW, as the largest marine research institute in the Leibniz Association, will extend its position within the German Marine Research Consortium (KDM)", he said on the day he assumed office.

The marine biologist previously served as the head of the Polar Biological Oceanography Section at the Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research, in Bremerhaven (AWI), and later, beginning in 2009, chaired its Department of Biosciences. A specialist in his field, Ulrich Bathmann is in great demand, as evidenced by his active membership in numerous international research committees.

In pursuing his research interests, the interaction between climate change and the microorganisms in the global oceans, he has joined in more than 20 marine research expeditions, including 12 carried out in the Antarctic.

"Particularly in the polar regions, climate change is extremely noticeable. In the seas covering the continental margins, such as the Baltic Sea, its causes can be very well studied." Uli Bathmann explained his decision to pursue this new field of activities. "The IOW is the leading German Baltic Sea research institute and the only one with a dedicated Baltic Sea research vessel, and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, with its universities and research institutions, provides optimal conditions to understand the problems of the Baltic Sea. Oxygen depletion in the global oceans, alternatives to the globally waning supply of phosphate as fertilizer, the consequences of rising temperatures, and the acidification of the ocean can all be studied using the Baltic Sea as a model ocean." Moreover, according to Ulrich Bathmann, his new job is a return to his Baltic Sea roots: He started his scientific career with 10 years of intense work in Kiel, which were followed by 20 years of research in Bremerhaven. In the coming years, he plans to dedicate his time and efforts to Baltic Sea research.

In addition to Director of the Leibniz Institute of Baltic Sea Research, Ulrich Bathmann takes on the position of Professor of Earth System Research at the University of Rostock.

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