

## IOW press release April, 8, 2015

### **BaltCoast: New European project aims at the development of integrated approaches between exploiting and protecting the Baltic Sea**

*BaltCoast gathers partners from seven Baltic Sea countries looking for new action strategies for politicians and authorities. A first meeting on April 12 – 15, 2015, at the IOW will bring together 30 scientists.*

The Baltic Sea is one of the most intensely exploited seas of the world. A balance between exploitation and protection on the basis of scientific expertise is needed to enable a sustainable use without the destruction of valuable system services.

This is the area of conflict where the BaltCoast project and its interdisciplinary system approach is settled. It aims at creating user-friendly methods and tools of practical relevance which allow a systematic input of scientific findings and political processes into the complex management of coastal zones.

New problems, challenges and activities in the coastal zone shall be dealt with in a more interdisciplinary way than before. This system approach will be tested in different regions concerning various topics and processes relevant for management. All case studies will run through the complete system approach in order to test and further develop its suitability as a tool for the implementation of national and international coastal and marine policy. The German case study will be positioned at the Oder Lagoon and will deal with the establishment of mussel farms for an improvement of water transparency as well as the fixation and recovery of nutrients.

The project will last three years and will be funded with 3 mio Euro. It is coordinated by the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde (Prof. Dr. Gerald Schernewski, working group „Coastal and Marine Management“, department Biological Oceanography).



The partners involved besides the IOW are: DTU Aqua, Denmark, Marine Science and Technology Center Klaipeda University, Lithuania, Institute of Ecology, Tallinn University, Estonia, UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Coastal Development, University of Latvia, Institute of Hydroengineering, Gdansk, Poland, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden.

BaltCoast is one of eight research project which from April 1, 2015, on will receive funds from the BONUS programme – a funding programme dedicated to Baltic Sea research and development. The means are provided by the respective Baltic Sea riparian country and the European Commission.

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