

Bulletin of the Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association



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With thanks to all contributors.

Instructions to Authors

The ECSA Bulletin is issued in JANUARY and JULY. Articles, reviews, notices of forthcoming meetings, news of personal and joint research projects, etc. are invited and should be sent to the Editor. Closing dates for submission of copy (news, articles, notices, reports, etc.) for the relevant numbers are 15 November and 15 May. These dates will be strictly adhered to in order to expedite publication. Articles must be submitted at least 5 weeks before these dates in order to be edited and revised in time for the next issue of the Bulletin; otherwise they may appear in a subsequent issue. Authors are encouraged to consult an earlier issue of the Bulletin and adhere to the style of the publication.

Suggested word limits are as follows: obituaries (1500 words); articles (3000/4000 words); reports on meetings (2000 words); reports on ECSA grants (1000 words); reviews (1500 words); letters to the Editor (500 words); abstracts (500 words). Authors are requested to submit their work electronically as Word for Windows documents (no other software is to be used). Figures and photographs must be sent as separate copies in JPEG format. Articles in the series "Estuaries in Focus" should present current and planned research on a specific site which will be introduced by text and photographs. The suggested format for these articles is as follows: (1) Site characteristics, (2) current research, (3) future developments. Papers for "Introducing institutions" should be fully illustrated with (as a minimum) a photograph of the building and people at work in the field and in the lab. They should emphasise the expertise of the organisation and give full details with address, telephone number, e-mail, website, etc.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

January 2017

We have had a busy year here on the ECSA council, big changes are afoot and we are very pleased to launch our new website and new look Bulletin for the start of 2017. The new website has a new design and information on ECSA news, conferences, meetings, grants and prizes. We've also introduced a members only area where you can access the Bulletin, archives and newsletters, and streamline applications for membership and ECSA grants and awards. Please use this opportunity to take a look and make sure your contact details are correct. I'd like to thank members of ECSA council for their hard work setting up the website and the hard work of all those in the past, particularly Karen Nicholson, and invite all of you to contribute to the news section and newsletter. After many years as our Bulletin editor, Jean-Paul Ducrotoy has handed the task over to Patrick Meire and Stijn Temmerman from the Ecosystem Management research group (ECOBE) at the University of Antwerp. The Bulletin will now be delivered to you electronically enabling us to extend our global reach and re-direct resources to support ECSA members, particularly focusing on those in the early stages of their careers. As a reminder, we have awards to support conference attendance and research activities, and prizes to recognize excellence for research publications and conference presentations. Critical to ECSA's activities are the conference and workshop opportunities we provide for dissemination, networking and training. Last year saw one of our biggest ever international symposia held in Bremen hosted by the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology. Our international reach is increasing with over 500 delegates from more than 50 countries, and our workshops on early career publishing and network analysis were a sell-out. In additional to our large symposia we also ran an ECSA Focus meeting at the University of Antwerp in July on estuarine restoration. This is a great way to organize a meeting with a focused science agenda and/ or a particular study area in mind and we'd like to encourage anyone with potential suggestions to get in touch. We have two ECSA Focus meetings coming up in 2017 on the Science Policy and Management of Marine Protected Areas, at Poole, UK and 'Where Land Meets the Sea: the vulnerable interface' in Shanghai, China.

So, that just leaves me to say 'Happy New Year' and please enjoy our new look Bulletin!

Kate Spencer

Queen Mary University of London

THE NATURA 2000 BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PROCESS

"WORKING TOGETHER ON THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURA 2000 SITES"

Natura 2000 is a network of core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are protected in their own right. It stretches across all 28 EU countries, both on land and at sea. The aim of the network is to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, listed under both the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive.

Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves from which all human activities would be excluded. The approach to conservation and sustainable use of the Natura 2000 areas is much wider, largely centered on people working with nature rather than against it. However, Member States must ensure that the sites are managed in a sustainable manner, both ecologically and economically. The Commission has published a number of guidance documents with regard to the management of Natura 2000 sites One example is the guidance document on the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in estuaries and coastal zones, with particular attention to port development and dredging (see: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm).

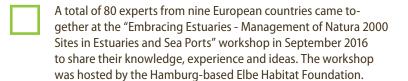
The 'Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process' is practical framework to support knowledge building, cooperation and networking on the management of Natura 2000 at the biogeographical level. It aims at achieving coherence in management of the Natura 2000 Network with a view to meeting the EU 2020 Biodiversity objectives through working together in Natura 2000 and promoting Natura 2000 as a 'network of people'. The process was launched in 2012 with the organisation of a first Natura 2000 Seminar for the Boreal region hosted by Finland. Since then, five more Natura 2000 Seminars have been organised also in the other biogeographical regions and a considerable number of cooperation and networking events have taken place, for example on the management of Alpine and Mediterranean forests, Atlantic dunes, estuaries, grasslands, etc.

The process is a voluntary multistakeholders' co-operation process. It involves Member States, expert stakeholders, practitioners and the European Commission. It helps identifying conservation priorities and establishing cross-border cooperation at the biogeographical level. Natura 2000 Seminars are periodic milestone events to review the results and to scope regional Roadmaps of agreed future collaborative actions. In the Boreal region the five Member States involved (Sweden, Finalnd, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) are already implementing an effective regional cooperation process with regular coordination between their experts involved in the management of major habitat groups. In other regions, the process has mainly been developing through thematic cooperation and networking events, for example on the management of coastal habitats such as dunes and estuaries, the management of grassland and forest habitats or on addressing the effects of excessive Nitrogen depositions on protected habitats. The Commission supports this process by organising seminars in close cooperation with host countries and/or organisations and by facilitating the organisation of networking events. The Commission has established a web-based 'Communication Platform' for the exchange of information on all events under the process. See: http://ec.europa.eu/environment /nature/natura2000/platform /index_en.htm

As part of the Natura 2000
Biogeographical Process in the Atlantic
Region a workshop "Embracing
Estuaries – Management of Natura
2000 sites in Estuaries and Sea Ports"
took place on 15 and 16 September
2016 in Hamburg. The main goal was
to encourage dialogue and cooperation between scientists, practitioners
and policymakers on the management
of Natura 2000 sites in estuaries with
particular attention to the develop-

ment of integrated management plans (see: http://www.stiftung-lebensraumelbe.de/eu-workshop/embracing-estuaries-workshop.html). The workshop built on some pre-existing cooperation initiatives such as for example the "TIDE - Tidal River Development" project implemented between 2010 and 2013 and co-financed by the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme (see http://www.tide-project.eu/). Projects concerning the management of estuarine habitats have also been implemented and co-financed under the LIFE Nature Programme, such as for example the "Tiengemeten, restoration of freshwater tidal area in the Haringvliet estuary" and the "Zwin Tidal Area Restoration" (more information on Life projects can be found on the LIFE projects database: http://ec.europa.eu/ environment/life/project/Projects/

From the discussions at the Hamburg workshop it appeared however that there is a need to strengthen the exchange of knowledge between the scientific community and the community of Natura 2000 site managers. ECSA is very relevant instrument for cooperation and networking on multi-disciplinary research in relation to estuaries, and it has the potential, for example by a broader distribution of its bulletin and advertising ECSA conferences and publications also via the Natura 2000 Communication Platform to help promoting such knowledge exchange.



CONFERENCE REPORT by Elisabeth Klocke

EMBRACING ESTUARIES

"MANAGEMENT OF NATURA 2000 SITES IN ESTUARIES AND SEA PORTS" WORKSHOP: 15 - 16 SEPTEMBER 2016, HAMBURG, GERMANY









Accelerating the Biogeographical Process in the Atlantic Region

The networking event offered experts from EU Member States from the Atlantic Biogeographical Region, as well as representatives from the European Commission and cooperating institutions, such as representatives from port authorities, water management bodies, coastal management bodies, environmental organisations, local/regional governments, etc., the opportunity to share experiences and best practice examples and to discuss challenges regarding any topic related to estuarine management.

Dr. Elisabeth Klocke, Head of the Elbe Habitat Foundation, and her team organised the "Embracing Estuaries" workshop









Intense and cooperative interaction: working groups discuss estuarine challenges

Initiating the discussions: the workshop's main topics

Speakers were invited to talk about four main issues regarding the challenges of implementing Natura 2000 management plans in European Atlantic Estuaries and Sea Ports:

- Natura 2000 Management Plans

 Integrated Approaches &

 Implementation Facing challenges and learning from experiences
- Habitat Restoration
- Practical examples: restoring European estuarine habitats
- Legal Issues
- Getting it right: European legislation, challenges and contradictions
- Communication Getting through to the public: Do you speak "Estuarine"?

The presentations, delivered by renowned experts such as Professor Mike Elliott

from the University of Hull, Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies, and Roger Morris from the Bright Angel Coastal Consultants Ltd., provided insight into the challenges facing estuaries in the UK: the "Inter-tidal habitat creation – experience in England" and "How to satisfy industry and nature – the ability to create an integrated Estuarine Planning Support System." The presentation by Dr. Bastian Schuchardt from BioConsult GbR provided an overview of habitat restoration measures in Northern German Atlantic Estuaries. During the Communications session, Alexander Porschke from Germany's Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) addressed "The long way from confrontation to cooperation".

Professor Patrick Meire from the University of Antwerp and Hendrik Schoukens from

the University of Ghent added perspectives from Belgium with presentations entitled "Ecosystem services of estuarine and coastal areas: the basis for restoration and an integrated approach?" and "Temporary nature as innovative approach to nature conservation: legal underpinnings and potential constraints."

After each session, participants were invited to share their views and experience in working groups focusing on key aspects of the main issues. Please visit the Elbe Habitat Foundation website to view the presentations and detailed working group results and to obtain material for downloading: www.stiftung-lebensraum-elbe. de/eu-workshop/input-outcome.html



BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colin D. Levings (2016). Ecology of Salmonids in Estuaries Around the World: Adaptations, Habitats and Conservation. University of British Columbia Press. ISBN: 9780774831734

In the alluvial forests at Heuckenlock (left) and the view of Kreetsand (right) on a hot day in September





Hands-on experience: the Elbe Estuary

In addition to input and discussions by specialists, the Foundation invited all participants to attend a field trip to experience the conference venue first-hand: the remarkable Elbe island of Wilhelmsburg, Europe's largest river island in the heart of Germany's second largest metropolis. A unique location where port facilities, industrial sites and outstanding tidal habitats lie in close proximity to each other. Workshop participants were also given the opportunity to experience the Elbe Estuary on a field trip to Heuckenlock Nature Reserve and the realignment project Kreetsand.

Conclusion and outlook: the Biogeographical Process continues

The "Embracing Estuaries" workshop revealed that experts have a great need for high-quality information on how to implement Natura 2000 management plans. It became clear that practitioners have a common desire to share their experience and best practice cases at the international level. As a result, workshop participants suggested establishing a special "Estuarine Network" as part of the Biogeographical Process. The results of the workshop were presented at the second Atlantic seminar in Ennistymon, Ireland in October 2016. Please refer to the European Commission's communication platform to find out future opportunities for networking with experts on Natura 2000 topics.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/platform/index_en.htm

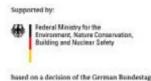
The workshop

was organised in cooperation with the European Commission and the Hamburg Ministry of Environment and Energy. It was supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.













Elbe habitat foundation

the Elbe Habitat Foundation was founded in 2010 by a law passed by Hamburg City Parliament. It is a unique organisation in that its Board of Trustees comprises five representatives from the City of Hamburg and the Port of Hamburg as well as five representatives from environmental organisations. For the first time, therefore, the port industry and nature advocates decide collaboratively on measures to ecologically enhance a tidal river.



Experts involved in the implementation of Natura 2000 management plans across Europe

CONTACT

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Picture credits: Dr. Elisabeth Klocke, Johannes Arlt, Elbe Habitat Foundation

FLANDERS MARINE INSTITUTE

CONNECTING, JUST AS AN ESTUARY ...

Facilitating coastal and marine research in Belgium and beyond

When in 1999 the Flemish Government (Belgium) launched the idea of creating a new sea-bound institute, it turned out to be a visionary approach. As an institution supporting and facilitating the 1500 marine and coastal scientists in the country rather than competing with them for funds and staff, the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) had a unique mission statement and would face a prosperous childhood. The staff initially 10 professionals, now almost 70 - managed to support many researchers from all disciplines over the years. One condition prevailed: there need to be a clear connection with the sea, the coastal stretch (beaches, dunes, saltmarshes,...) or with river mouths characterized by saltwater intrusion and/or by tidal impact. The facilitation that VLIZ provides includes logistic support, information & data management support. But VLIZ has invested tremendously in sharing scientific knowledge with different stakeholders as well, including other scientists, policy-makers, formal and informal educators and the wider public.

And although quite a lot of effort dealt with the open ocean or the North Sea, many of those facilitating services have been very useful within the estuarine context. A few examples:

- * In terms of *logistic support* to scientists, the new purpose-built RV Simon Stevin acts as a multidisciplinary research vessel deployed for coastal and oceanographic research in the Southern Bight of the North Sea, the eastern part of the English Channel and the Scheldt estuary. The ship meets the requirements of the various marine research disciplines and is equipped with standard as well as with sophisticated technologies like echo-sounders for flow measurements and soil characterization, automated underway bioplankton identification and biogeochemistry sensors. Researchers can apply for ship time and equipment. It also serves as a training platform for marine science students and for maritime training courses, and as a testing platform for new technologies.
- * With regard to *information management*, the VLIZ library is a public marine scientific information center boasting a wealth of information on the Flemish coast, the North Sea and its estuaries, and the world's ocean and seas. The collection can be searched online or consulted on site in the library at the InnovOcean

site in Ostend (Belgium). The VLIZ Library's collection consists of books, maps, periodicals, articles, reports and theses, and can be searched via the online catalogue (www.vliz.be/ en/catalogue). Every week an overview of new acquisitions is sent out via e-mail (www.vliz.be/en/library-acquisitions). As VLIZ supports an open access policy, its library has invested thoroughly in an Open Marine Archive (OMA: www.vliz.be/en/open-marine-archive), giving free access to the larger part of the Belgian marine and estuarine literature. Counting more than 20,000 publications, OMA is one of the largest in its kind worldwide.

* VLIZ has a dedicated data center with a global perspective and a strong reputation in biological *data-management*. It hosts the World Register of Marine Species (www.marinespecies.org), the most authoritative taxonomic list of marine and estuarine biological species globally with 242,464 accepted species and 53,300 images. In another VLIZ data system, "Marine Regions" (www.marineregions.org), almost 50,000 marine & estuarine georeferenced places and 61,661 place names are listed and made freely available.

A strong focus on the Scheldt Estuary

Although a substantial part of the actions of VLIZ deal with the open ocean and with shallow seas and coastal systems worldwide, estuaries have always been in the core of its activities. Particularly the river Scheldt, with its estuary situated within Belgian-Dutch territory, is in the spotlights of VLIZ activities. A brief overview can be consulted via: www.vliz.be/en/scheldt-and-other-estuaries.

* 'ScheldeMonitor': a central knowledge & information portal of the research and monitoring performed in the Scheldt Estuary

The portal aims to provide an overview of the research landscape: a catalogue refers the visitor to literature, datasets, experts and relevant institutions. The extensive collection of literature offers more than 6000 Open Access documents; the oldest dating back to 1781. Since 2008 VLIZ sup-

ports the working group Research & Monitoring of the Flemish-Dutch Scheldt Commission (VNSC) to centralize the data and products from the MONEOS monitoring program and facilitate the dataflow (www.scheldemonitor.be/en/monitoringsprogrammamoneos; www.scheldemonitor.be). Since 2006 VLIZ is also responsible for the data management of the OMES monitoring program (www.omes-monitoring.be/en).

* Communication & education efforts, or how to share estuarine knowledge with the public

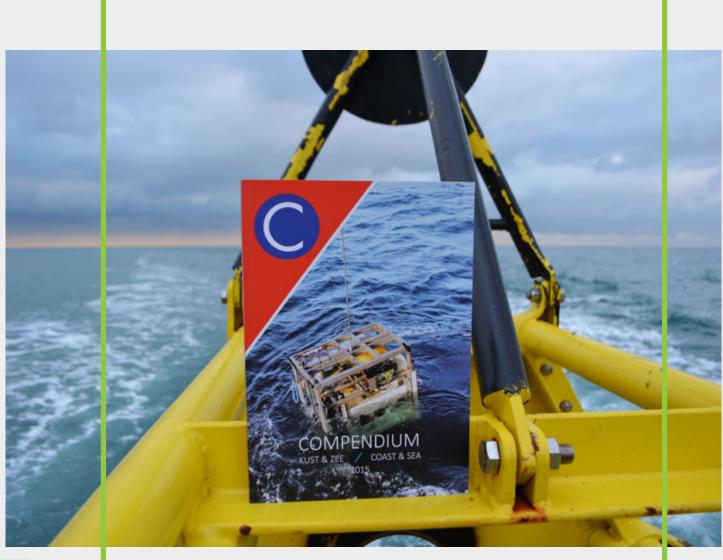
VLIZ has been active throughout the years in supporting various communication efforts dealing with the river Scheldt and channeled towards different audiences, including formal education. Its Dutch house magazine 'De Grote Rede', the annual 'Zeekrant' ("Sea Newspaper"), the VLIZ website and the electronic magazine 'VLIZINE' includes articles on tidal rivers on a regular basis. The production of the book 'De Schelde: van bron tot monding' (Meire, Amery & Decleer, 2015) was financially supported by VLIZ. On top of these publications, VLIZ has cooperated with the University of Antwerp in the organization of several conferences and study-events. And in 2005 (Koksijde, 19-23 September) VLIZ organized the international Dunes

& Estuaries conference, jointly with the Coastal Conservation Unit of the Flemish Government, EUCC-the Coastal Union and the municipality of Koksijde.

* LifeWatch efforts to track eel and other fish species in the Scheldt Estuary As part of the Belgian LifeWatch observatory, a permanent acoustic receiver network for fish tracking is established in the Belgian Part of the North Sea and in the Scheldt Estuary. Using acoustic telemetry distribution, movements and habitat use of tagged migratory fish, including eel and Atlantic cod, can be tracked. Setting up the fish acoustic receiver network is a cooperation between VLIZ, the Research Institute for Nature and Forest INBO and Ghent University (www.lifewatch.be/en/ fish-acoustic-receiver-network) and a good example of how VLIZ can facilitate research in coastal ecosystems.

* VLIZ as a provider of policyrelevant information

Sound scientific information is an essential part of any ecosystem management and policy. Therefore and besides the information provided in the framework of the ScheldeMonitor (see above), VLIZ has been instrumental in working out a set of indicators for a sustainable Scheldt estuary, including an analysis of the available data and trends (www. scheldemonitor.org/nl/evaluatie-indicatoren, only in Dutch). VLIZ has also compiled relevant baseline information on the Scheldt Estuary in its Compendium for Coast and Sea (www.compendiumkustenzee.be/nl/schelde-estuarium) and is providing ecological expertise within the framework of the **Dutch-Flemish Scheldt Environmental** Assessment working group.





MARINE PROTECTED AREAS 2017 CONFERENCE Call for Abstracts

ESTUARINE & COASTAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION AND POOLE HARBOUR STUDY GROUP

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: SCIENCE, POLICY & MANAGEMENT MONDAY 15TH – WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY 2017 – POOLE DORSET UK

Climate change, policy developments such as Brexit and progress in marine science all contribute to a fast changing context for MPA's. This conference aims to examine the current issues from a variety of perspectives at a time when questions on the future approaches to MPA's are the subject of policy development. Contributions are welcome from individual practitioners, NGOs, statutory and governmental organisations as well as from academia.

Abstracts of papers and posters are invited ranging from original scientific research reports through reviews to policy analyses, critiques and management practice innovations. Both UK and comparative international perspectives are welcome on all forms of Marine Protected Area.

While abstracts may focus on specific MPAs, especially when the subject matter is of wider relevance, submissions which examine or exemplify general issues such as (inter alia) the relationship between scientific evidence, policy and management, or the balance between conservation and socio-economics are also encouraged. The conference will result in a published proceedings volume with the prospect also of themed journal publication for suitable peer reviewed papers.

Conference themes

- The science of Marine Protected Areas
- MPA's and fisheries: Policy & practice
- Climate change, non-indigenous species and marine conservation
- Post Brexit UK policy and European Marine Sites
- Recreational & commercial pressures: Impacts & solutions
- Water quality, nutrients, and eutrophication.

Keynote speakers and the full programme will be announced early in the New Year.

Cultural Programme

The conference has been timed to precede the European Maritime Conference which will be held at Poole on the two days following. The Poole Boat Show with various associated events will also be running over the following weekend.

These events add up to a major international maritime festival for those wishing to stay in Poole for the week beginning 17th May 2017.

The Port of Poole lies a short distance from Poole Quay which offers a wide range of recreational facilities. A conference buffet dinner will

take place during a cruise along the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site whose eastern boundary lies adjacent to Poole Harbour.

Accommodation in nearby hotels will be reserved for direct booking by registered delegates. Further details on the conference, associated events and cultural programme will be made available at http://www.pooleharbourstudygroup.org.uk/2017-conference/

Generous support from our sponsors have allowed a conference fee for all three days inclusive of refreshments and lunch of £60. Some sponsored places are available.

Photo Sabella Pavonina in Poole Harbour © PMRU



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4TH INTERNATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION CONGRESS (IMCC4)

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, CANADA

Thanks to the travel award of the Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association I was able to attend the 4th International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC4) which was held from the 30th July to the 3rd August in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The IMCC series are organised by the marine section of the Society for Conservation Biology and are one of the key international meetings for marine conservation scientists and professionals. Coming to the end of my PhD journey this year, IMCC4 provided a perfect opportunity for me to present the outcomes of my research. My talk on 'The ecosystem services approach as a tool to improve stakeholder engagement in marine management' was part of a session entitled Communicating Science.

Communicating science, building links and enabling collaboration between scientists, marine conservation professionals, as well as the wider marine user community and general public were key themes at this conference which ran under the motto Making Science Matter. This was reflected in the wide range of attendants, sessions and topics covered by the talks. IMCC4 brought together an interdisciplinary range of marine conservation scientists - from deep sea ecologists to social scientists – and marine conservation practitioners from governmental and non-governmental institutions.

ning and policy, fisheries management and citizen science. The talks covered all the hot topics of marine conservation, from invasive species and marine protected areas to plastic pollution, climate change, deep sea mapping and management of the high seas.

There were sessions on marine plan-

My personal highlight was a session on sharks which summed up nicely the interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach of the conference. I tweeted the following about this session: 'Great session on sharks at #IMCC4 from a science, conservation and policy perspective #flatsharksneedlove2'.

Last, but by no means least, IMCC4 offered plenty of opportunities for socialising and networking, be it at the opening reception where the delegates were welcomed by two bear like friendly Newfoundland dogs, over lunch at the local Rocket Café with its friendly staff, out at sea watching whales and puffins, or at the George Street Music Festival.

IMCC4, with its interdisciplinary approach and aim to make science matter, fitted in perfectly with my interests and aspirations. Therefore, to conclude, I want to thank ECSA one more time for enabling me to travel to St. John's and attend IMCC4.

Image caption: My IMCC4 experience – from presenting my research to diving into local culture at the George Street Festival





26TH GOLDSCHMIDT 2016

CONFERENCE IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

The 26th Goldschmidt Conference was held at the Pacifico Yokohama convention complex between the 26th of June and the 1st of July this year. With over 140 sessions all kind of geochemical interests are covered during this conference. This year about 3500 scientists from over 50 countries attended the conference to meet like-minded persons. The Goldschmidt Conference is very popular among early career scientist due to the "mentoring" and "meet the speaker" programs, which allows informal meetings and discussions with more experienced scientists.

My talk was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon and part of the session

"Organic matter from headwaters to estuaries: an integrator of hydrological, watershed, and climate processes". I presented data from my PhD studies at the Luleå University of Technology. The main focus of my work is Fe-OC aggregates and their isotopic composition from headwaters to the estuaries. The talk helped me to improve my presentation and speech skills. During the remaining session scientists presented their ongoing work in river deltas and estuaries. I got new insights into the physical and chemical behavior of different elements at these remarkable sampling sites. Furthermore I could deepen my knowledge about the geochemistry of rare earth elements

and other trace elements in different environments. This will be part of my future research work in the Kalix and Råne estuaries (northern Sweden).

During the Goldschmidt Conference I was able to improve my geochemical background not only through sessions, but also during pre- and post- session workshops and students programs. Overall I had a great experience during the Goldschmidt 2016 Conference by meeting key persons, presenting my work and finding new cooperation's.

