
BlueAdapt seminar “Adaptive management of aquatic ecosystems and transformative change of the blue economy governance

Invitation

Welcome 5.10.2023 to the **final seminar** of the **BlueAdapt project “Adaptive management of aquatic ecosystems and transformative change of the blue economy governance”** in Viikki Helsinki University Campus (EE-building, Walter-sali 70, K51601-A2089, Agnes Sjöberginkatu 2).

Introduction to the theme

Inland and coastal water systems are valuable and yet vulnerable for human pressures and climate change impacting hydrological cycle, coastal dynamics, aquatic ecosystems, and their functioning. The challenge is how to combine economic activities that are dependent on water and marine resources, and to prevent deterioration and to ensure improvement of ecological and environmental status of aquatic ecosystems. The BlueAdapt project has brought together a multidisciplinary team of scientists to develop novel approaches and tools and to innovate pathways and solutions of the transformative change that is needed to ensure sustainable use of aquatic resources and prevent deterioration of inland and marine waters. There are no easy solutions to tackle the dual challenge of blue growth and good ecological status. BlueAdapt has developed scenarios and policy options based on advancement of coupled watershed and coastal models. Concurrently legal, governance, and economic approaches and different options in ‘blue economy’ policies have been developed together with stakeholders and policy makers.

The final seminar will present some highlights of the key ideas, tools and solutions co-developed during the six years project:

- The novel means for securing the sustainability and resilience of water ecosystems, food and energy production and tourism.
- Novel ecological models to improve the usage of ecological data of water ecosystems and to create predictive understanding of lake and coastal systems.
- Alternative development paths for sustainable transitions and new practices for governance and regulation.
- Theoretical and methodological openings in social sciences and law which is divided into two parts, first concerning effectiveness and legitimacy of regulation and the second navigating, and locating blue transition

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The project was led by the Finnish Environment Institute and participated by the University of Lapland, University of Helsinki, Demos Research Institute Oy, Finnish Meteorological Institute and University of Eastern Finland.

The first session – From source to sea: ecological boundaries and potential of blue growth – showcase the novel ecological models and scenarios developed to create predictive understanding of lake and coastal systems in changing climate and society.

The second session - Transformative change of blue economy policies, policy coherence & legislation – presents the theoretical and methodological openings of the BlueAdapt project in social sciences and law.

Program

9:00 Morning coffee

9:30-9:40

- Welcome and introduction to BlueAdapt (Anna-Stiina Heiskanen)

Scientific Session I - From source to sea: ecological boundaries and potential of blue growth

9:40-10:30 Theme I: Improving models to increase the understanding of coastal and lake ecosystems (chair Niina Kotamäki)

- The role of coupled models and scenarios in adaptive water management and policy (Niina Kotamäki)
- Circulation and transport dynamics in the Archipelago Sea (Elina Miettunen)
- Large-scale patterns in community composition and functioning of coastal plankton systems (Veera Norros)
- Impacts of rapid environmental changes on coastal fishery resources (Heikki Peltonen)
- Macrosystem community change in lake phytoplankton and its implications for diversity and function (Benjamin Weigel)

10:30 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 12:00 Theme II: Linking environment and blue economy – (chair Kari Hyytiäinen)

- Introduction to integrated models for protection and management of water resources (Kari Hyytiäinen)
- National-scale nutrient loading under climate change and agricultural mitigation measure scenarios (Markus Huttunen)
- Towards good ecological status at Archipelago Sea - coastal modelling perspective (Janne Ropponen)
- Nutrient load compensation as a means of maintaining the good ecological status of surface waters (Sanna Lötjönen)

- Commentary speech: Turo Hjerppe (YM)

12:00-13:00 Lunch

Scientific Session II - Politics and regulation of a blue transition: new social scientific and legal perspectives

13:00–15:45 How to understand the politics and development needs of the blue transition: new social and legal perspectives (Chair Jukka Similä)

Objective: In the second session of the scientific final seminar, the focus will be on the theoretical and methodological openings of the BlueAdapt project in social sciences and law. How do new approaches make path dependencies visible and thus support critical evaluation of policy and regulation? The aim of the session is to bring together new analytical tools created in different work packages, present them to the scientific community and build dialogue between different research trends.

13:00 – 14:00 Theme 1: Effectiveness and legitimacy of regulation

- The impact-based regulatory strategy in environmental law: Hallmark of effectiveness or pitfall for legitimacy? (Niko Soininen)
- How policy instruments come (not) to have consequences: a new perspective to document analysis (Helena Valve)
- Commentary by Professor Janne Hukkinen
- Open discussion

14:00 – 14:30 Coffee

14.30–15.30 Theme 2: Navigating and locating blue transition

- Role of planning in blue bioeconomy transitions (Jani Lukkarinen)
- Theory of change of water visions (Päivi Haapasaari)
- Commentary Professor Nina Tynkkynen
- Open discussion

15.30 –15:45 Closing and some take way thoughts, Anna-Stiina Heiskanen

15:45 End of day