



Minutes of the
15th Meeting
of the Baltic Earth
Science Steering Group

held online

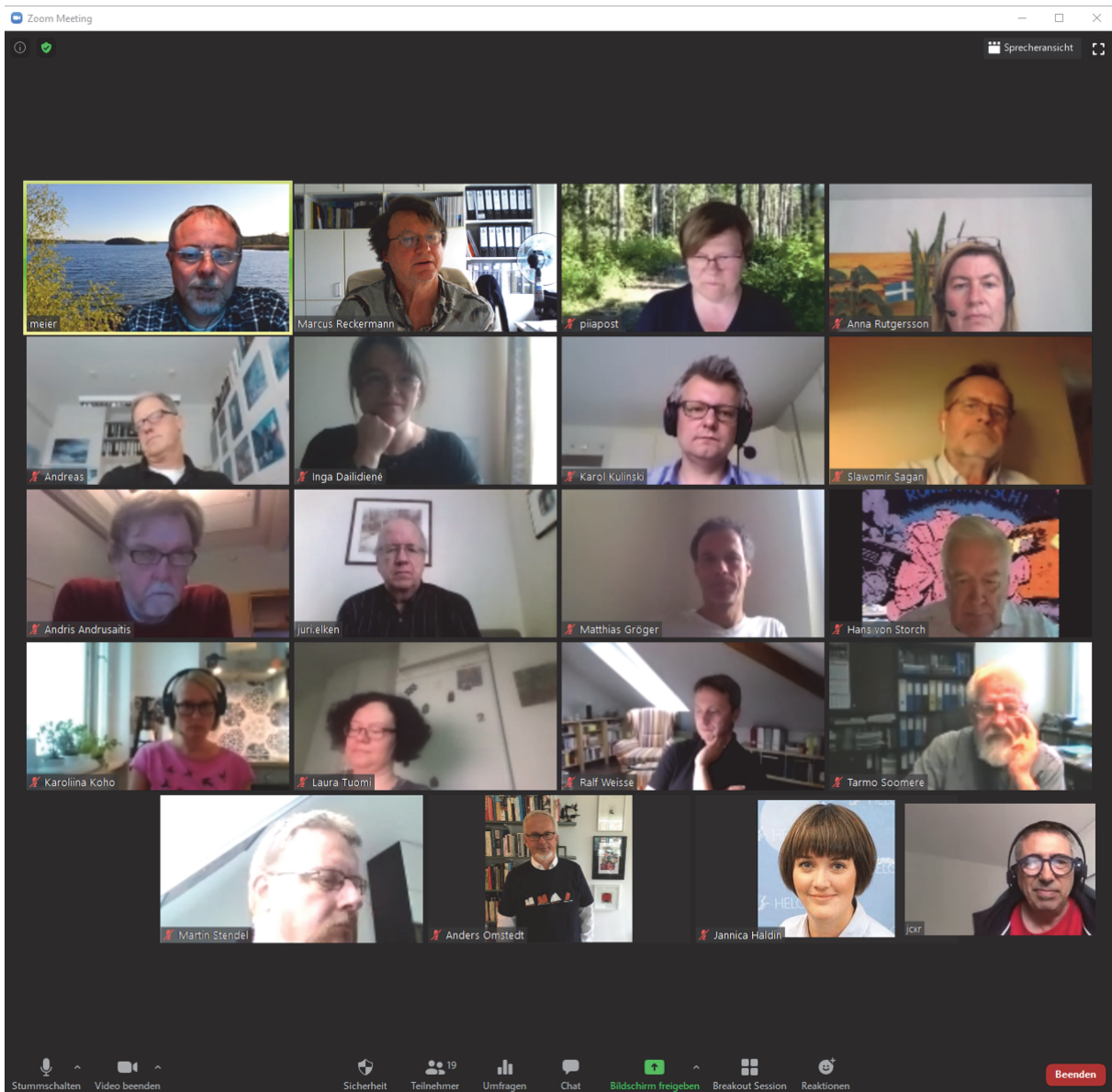
4 June 2020

Edited by
Marcus Reckermann

Participants at the 15th Baltic Earth Science Steering Group meeting

Last name	First name	Affiliation	Function
Andrusaitis	Andris	BONUS EEIG, Helsinki, Finland	BESAB member (observer)
Cuxart	Joan	University of the Balearic Islands, Palma de Mallorca, Spain	BESAB member
Dailidiende	Inga	University of Klaipeda, Lithuania	BESSG member
Elken	Jüri	TalTech, Tallinn, Estonia	BESAB member
Gröger	Matthias	Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, Germany	BESSG member
Haldin	Jannica	HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki, Finland	BESAB member
Koho	Karoliina	BONUS EEIG, Helsinki, Finland	Guest
Kulinski	Karol	Institute of Oceanology IO-PAN, Sopot, Poland	BESSG vice chair
Lehmann	Andreas	Geomar, Kiel, Germany	BESSG member
Meier	Markus	Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, Germany	BESSG chair
Omstedt	Anders	University of Gothenburg, Sweden	BESAB member
Post	Piia	University of Tartu, Estonia	BESSG member
Reckermann	Marcus	International Baltic Earth Secretariat at Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany	IBES, BESSG member
Rutgersson	Anna	Uppsala University, Sweden	BESSG member
Sagan	Slawomir	Institute of Oceanology IO-PAN, Sopot, Poland	BESAB member
Soomere	Tarmo	TalTech, Tallinn, Estonia	BESSG member
Stendel	Martin	Danish Meteorological Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark	BESSG member
Tuomi	Laura	Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland	BESSG member
von Storch	Hans	Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany	BESAB chair
Weisse	Ralf	Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany	BESSG member

15th Baltic Earth SSG Meeting Minutes



Summary of Decisions and Action Items

- Decision 1: Argo Arctic and Baltic Users Workshop, 23-25 September 2020, Sopot, Poland was accepted as a Baltic Earth activity (open call)
- Decision 2: ESA-Baltic Earth Workshop on Satellite Applications in the Baltic Sea region to be organized together with ESA (by invitation)
- Decision 3: Baltic Earth educational activities to be analyzed and a short note or article to be published in a suitable format
- Decision 4: Activity on the perception of the Baltic Sea in the different Baltic Sea countries.
- Decision 5: BEAR author meeting to be organized in the week after 10 August (if possible)

Introduction

The 15th Baltic Earth Science Steering Group Meeting was a short 2 hour online meeting, attached to the 3rd Baltic Earth Conference, which was held online on 2 and 3 June.

TOP 1: Organizational Issues

1.1 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved. A short round table introduction was done for new members.

1.2 Approval of the previous 14th Baltic Earth SSG meeting minutes

The previous meeting minutes were approved.

1.3 Review of previous 14th Baltic Earth SSG meeting action items

The action items of the previous meeting were shortly recapitulated, see below:

- Marcus Reckermann with Markus Meier to prepare and send out acknowledgment letters to resigned members. *Pending*
- Markus Meier and all to identify and approach possible authors for a new BEAR topic "Analysis of re-analysis products". *Candidates have been approached but with no success; no further action as of now*
- Markus Meier to discuss issues with GC5 and the concurrent BEAR paper representatives, and suggest and contact potential additional colleagues. *No further action*

1.4 Membership issues:

Laura Tuomi of Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland, was welcomed as new member of Baltic Earth Science Steering Group. She succeeds Jari Haapala from the same institution.

Slawomir Sagan of Institute of Oceanology at Polish Academy of Science (IO-PAN), Poland, was welcomed as new member of Baltic Earth Senior Advisory Board.

Hans von Storch of Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany, was welcomed as new Baltic Earth Science Senior Advisory Board chair. He succeeds Jüri Elken as SAB chair.

Resigned members will receive acknowledgment letters.

TOP 2: Miscellaneous

2.1 Past and upcoming events

2.1.1. Past events

- *2nd Baltic Earth Winter School, 23-31 March 2020, Warnemünde, Germany*
The Winter School was cancelled because of the Corona virus. Students who have applied for the winter school are considered for the Summer School on Askö 2020 or the next Winter School in 2021.
- *BEAR Author meeting, 15-16 April 2020, Hamburg, Germany*
The meeting was held online on 15 April, with 33 authors and co-authors. See attached the meeting summary (Annex 1).

- *3rd EN Clime meeting, 16-17 April 2020, Hamburg, Germany*
The meeting was held online on 16 June, with more than 30 participants. See below (2.4.)
- *Baltic Earth session at EGU 2020: Climate change and other drivers of environmental change: Developments, interlinkages and impacts in regional seas and coastal regions, Vienna, 3-8 May 2020*
The session was held online on 7 May, using solely text chats. This format worked well although no presentations were held, but all material was available for viewing days before the session, which was then basically organized as a question- and answer session between participants and authors, with a dedicated time slot per contribution. There was a vivid participation with up to 70 participants.
- *3rd Baltic Earth Conference, 1-5 June, Jastarnia, Poland*
130-150 participants, with 123 accepted presentations (orals and posters) were expected to attend the 3rd Baltic Earth Conference on the Hel peninsula in Poland. Because of the Corona virus situation, the physical conference had to be cancelled. Instead, on 2 and 3 June, participants from the whole Baltic Sea region (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland and Germany) came together online to exchange scientific presentations and discussions. 35 oral presentations from the whole scientific spectrum of Baltic Earth were given, supplemented by 35 pdf posters which were available in a virtual poster hall. The online format proved to be a feasible alternative to the real conference, also with as many as 80 participants. There was a breakout online event related to the conference on ESA Baltic+ SeaLaBio, User consultation 1 - ERGOM modelling results.
<http://baltic.earth/hel2020>

What went well and what did not?

We did not experience major technical problems. One presentation was given as a pre-recorded live presentation. One speaker was not able to log in with audio, but was able to log in via telephone. That was the only mentionable technical problem.

The guidelines related to “audio discipline” proved very successful. Non-speakers muted their microphones avoiding background noise. In 2 cases, there was a minor audio quality which made it difficult to follow the presentation; this was probably due to poor microphone quality (or/and) location, or poor internet connection on the speaker side.

Unfortunately, there was too little time allocated for the individual slots, and too little time for discussion. We had allocated 10 min for regular talks (incl. discussion), which turned out to be not enough for current presentation habits of most colleagues. Although informed of the short slot beforehand, it was obviously difficult for most speakers to adapt to this short time. This will have to be considered for future events.

As a resume, we can say that this format (in this case using the zoom software) proved to be fully applicable also for larger conferences (in this case 80 participants). However, a stable internet connection and proper technical equipment on the speaker side is important.

- *3rd Climateurope Festival, 16-18 June, Riga, Latvia*
Also this event was cancelled for obvious reasons. After considerations for alternatives, it was decided to organize a small series of “webstivals”, with online slots of up 4 hours, later in the autumn 2020. The first such online event was performed on 18 June. For more information and registration, see <https://www.climateurope.eu/events-climateurope/festival/webstival-2020-home-page/>

2.1.2. Future events

- *6th Baltic Earth Summer School, 24-31 August 2020, Askö Laboratory, Trosa, Sweden*
At the time of writing it is not clear whether the Summer School can be held on Askö. In case that this is not possible, it will be given online, and the format and details will be communicated in due time. <https://baltic.earth/summerschool2020/>

It was recommended by SAB to make the success story of the summer (and winter) schools as well as other educational events (e.g. doctoral courses in Estonia) better known. A statistical evaluation and documentation of the schools and courses organized under the umbrella of BALTEX and Baltic Earth is currently under preparation, including dedicated questionnaires sent out to past students. The goal is an article/note in a suitable journal.

The activity of the Baltic Sea University at Uppsala regarding the establishment of a climate change course material was mentioned, in which Baltic Earth may be involved.
<https://www.balticuniv.uu.se/projects/baltic-sea-region-climate-change-curriculum/>

- *Argo Arctic and Baltic Users Workshop, 23-25 September 2020, Sopot, Poland*
The Argo project in the Baltic Sea was presented online at the 3rd Baltic Earth Conference. There will be a dedicated Workshop on the application of Argo floats in the Arctic and the Baltic Sea. Upon request by the project coordinators, this workshop was adopted as Baltic Earth activity and will be communicated and supported through the Baltic Earth channels. The workshop, which is open to all interested participants, is organized by IO-PAN in Sopot, and is scheduled to take place just there, on 23-25 September 2020, if the situation allows. For more infos and registration (by 15 August), see:
<https://www.euro-argo.eu/EU-Projects/Euro-Argo-RISE-2019-2022/Meetings/2020-Arctic-Baltic-workshop>
- *ESA-Baltic Earth Workshop on Satellite Applications in the Baltic Sea region*
Initiated by ESA, Baltic Earth will co-organize a one-day online workshop at the end of September/beginning of October 2020. Participation will be by invitation only. Goal will be to collect new/current scientific questions in the Baltic Sea region, which can be approached by remote sensing technology. Detailed methodological questions will not be treated preferably at the workshop. Potential participants will be approached individually; colleagues are encouraged to spread the information and contact the secretariat as soon as possible to indicate interest.

An overlapping interest on the two above issues (Argo floats and satellite observations) may exist, e.g. for sea level products and other parameters.

- *4th Baltic Earth Conference, 30 May - 3 June 2022, Jastarnia, Poland*
The next (4th) Baltic Earth Conference will take place where the 3rd had been planned. The topic will be updated, and a first announcement will be published in autumn 2020. The 5th Baltic Earth Conference is currently planned to take place in St. Petersburg (or vicinity), Russia, in June 2024.

2.2 News and suggestions from BESSG/SAB members and institutions (virtual round table)

- SAB noted that 8 June 2020 was World Ocean Day (<https://worldoceansday.org/>; <https://en.unesco.org/ocean-decade>). SAB suggested that Baltic Earth could be more visible/active with such international opportunities. Likewise it was suggested that Baltic Earth may look for stimulation with or contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable

Development (<https://www.oceandecade.org/>). However, it was also noted that this may not be the most relevant platform for Baltic Earth. We will look into it and see at in how far this may be relevant to Baltic Earth.

Furthermore, it was suggested to consider the coming EU European Green Deal call: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/european-green-deal/call_en

- Motivated by the keynote speech at 3rd Baltic Earth Conference by IO-PAN director Jan-Marcin Weslawski on the public perception of the Baltic Sea in Poland, SAB suggested that the issue of how the Baltic Sea is perceived in the different Baltic Earth countries could be the topic of a survey across the Baltic Earth countries. A questionnaire could be designed and distributed through the Baltic Earth members, also at [Baltic Sea Day 2020](#), which was postponed from 16-18 September 2020 to March 2021, in St. Petersburg.
- On that matter, it was also reported that the 3rd Marine Science Communication Conference this year takes place online, 1st to 2nd December 2020 (<http://commocean.org/>). This may serve as good opportunity in connection with the previous item, and could be used to distribute questionnaires (perception of the Baltic Sea in the different countries), or participate in other aspects of communication of our science. A dedicated workshop at that conference was suggested by SAB; further ideas and planning to be followed. The conference at Sopot may also serve as attachment point for the next (16th) Baltic Earth Science Steering Group meeting (see below).
- SAB suggested that a dedicated Workshop on the Baltic Earth Grand Challenge 5: *Regional variability of water and energy exchanges in the Baltic Sea region* may help to initiate some activity in this topic. A dedicated workshop to discuss issues like the closure of the water and heat cycles over the Baltic Sea region, with the goal to stimulate a review article on the topic, should be on the agenda for the end of this is the beginning of next year.
- Piia Post reported that Estonia now full member of European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, ECMWF)
- Tarmo Soomere reported on the activities regarding a new working group of the European Marine Board (<https://www.marineboard.eu/>). It will focus on coastal resilience, taking into account the different properties of Baltic Sea coasts, as compared to open ocean shores of e.g. the Mediterranean. It is considered important to recommend several experts from the Baltic Sea to this working group as otherwise there could be major misunderstanding of resilience (and associated threats to) our coastal systems. Recommendations must go via national representatives to the European Marine Board. Members of the EMB from BESSG/SAB are Tarmo Soomere (for Estonia) and Slawomir Sagan (Poland). Prof. Kevin Parnell was recommended to this Board by Tarmo, supported by Slawomir.
- Karoliina Koho gave a short report on the current developments of BANOS, the envisaged successor to BONUS, encompassing both Baltic and North Seas. The BANOS CSA (Coordination and Support Action) is currently at work. The SRIA (Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda) is currently being drafted and is expected to be finalized in about a year's time. Similar CSAs are in preparation in other parts of European marine areas, and partnerships between the different regional seas programmes should be established. See attached Annex 2.
- Joan Cuxart reported on latest developments in GEWEX. A GHP Workshop together with HyMex is envisaged in spring 2021. Graeme Stevens of NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory who had been GEWEX Chair since 2014 has resigned and will be replaced by Jan Polcher, Director of

Research, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). There is a new GEWEX cross-cutting activity “Mountain Meteorology”. <http://www.gewex.org/>

2.3 BEAR status

Articles should be submitted in a reviewable state by 15 July 2020 to the secretariat. Hans von Storch and Anders Omstedt will act as internal reviewers, to have their comments and recommendations, if possible, ready by 10 August. After that, a BEAR Author meeting will discuss recommendations and comments by internal reviewers. The next BEAR Author meeting is envisaged in the week following 10 August, depending on the availability of authors. A doodle poll is currently in the process.

2.4 HELCOM and EN Clime status

Jannica Haldin shortly reported on the status of EN Clime. 44 key messages are now in internal review, and should be approved by 6th EN Clime meeting 22-23 Sept 2020 (see above) before they will go to external review. Still, names for internal reviewers are sought. Jannica also noted that the HELCOM Science Plan and the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan are progressing as planned.

2.5 Next BESSG meeting

The next BESSG and BESAB meeting will be online, at the end of November/beginning of December, possibly attached or in close proximity to the 3rd CommOcean online Conference, 1st to 2nd December 2020 (<http://commocean.org/>).

MR, 1st draft, 19 June 2020
Corrected final version 10 July 2020