
Reports

The 19th Conference of Baltic Oceanographers

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The 19th Conference of Baltic Oceanographers, organised by the Institute of Oceanology PAS, the Polish SCOR Committee and the Institute of Oceanography of Gdańsk University, was held in Sopot from 29 August to 1 September 1994. Scientific sessions took place in the meeting rooms of the Sopot City Hall (plenary and physics) and the Institute of Oceanology PAS (chemistry and ecology).

Altogether 177 scientists from 15 countries took part in the Conference. All the Baltic countries except Latvia were represented. Visiting scientists from Bangladesh, India, Italy, the Netherlands and Nigeria participated as well.

84 papers and 51 posters were presented.

The major contribution of Polish scientists is worthy of note: 90 participants, 21 oral and 38 poster presentations.

The Conference was organised into 21 sessions:

- 2 general plenary sessions (opening and closing sessions),
- 3 scientific plenary sessions,
- 2 poster sessions,
- 14 disciplinary sessions divided into two groups: physics (7 sessions), and chemistry and ecology (7 sessions).

Besides these, several meetings of senior scientists were held, mostly during lunch-time and evenings. During the opening session the national reports were presented, and during the closing session, resolutions were adopted.

The plenary scientific sessions were devoted to the report of the working group on the future of the CBO and the introductory lectures at the start of the Conference, and to modelling at the end.

The sessions on marine physics dealt with the following topics:

- Air-Sea interaction: marine aerosol production and the results of the BAEX-ONE Experiment were the main subject of seven presentations.
- Optical properties of the seawater and primary production.

- The Danish Straits and salt water inflows into the Baltic Sea.
- Baltic Sea hydrography; upwelling, fronts, temperature and salinity fields.
- Sea-level and sea-ice description and modelling.
- New methods of oceanographic measurements and data collection, new instruments.

The papers presented at the chemistry and ecology sessions were from the following subject groups:

- Nutrients in the sea: fluxes, balance, variability.
- Radionuclide sources, concentration, variability.
- Hydrocarbons in Baltic seawater, sediment and organisms, seasonal and spatial variations.
- Heavy metals in water, the sedimentation and migration of heavy metals through the environment and trophic chain.
- The general state of the Baltic Sea environment; the ecosystems of some gulfs and bays: the Gulf of Finland and the Neva Bay received most of the attention.
- Ecosystem modelling.
- Suspended matter and sediment.

Two plenary sessions at the end of the Conference were dedicated entirely to modelling. Models of water exchange and inflows through the Danish Straits were presented, as well as models of the Baltic Sea circulation, fronts, sea level and waves. Modelling of the Gulf of Gdańsk and Gulf of Finland as a tool for decision-makers combatting pollution in particular was also discussed.

The following recommendations were formulated and adopted by the Conference:

- Rec. No. 1
 - Endorses the Gulf of Finland Year project as an essential part of the work of Baltic Oceanographers.
- Rec. No. 2
 - Welcomes and supports the initiative by the European Committee on Ocean and Polar Sciences (ECOPS) and EU DG XII with regard to Baltic Sea research – the Gotland Basin Experiment (GOBEX) in particular.

- Rec. No. 3
 - Welcomes the initiative taken by the Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Warnemünde, with substantial support by EU DG XII to draft a ten-year Sciences and Implementation Plan for Joint Baltic Sea Ecosystem Research and recommends scientists and institutes to participate actively in the further development of the Plan.
- Rec. No. 4
 - Recommends that the oceanographic institutes around the Baltic Sea continue their participation in the major international project which had been recommended by the 18th CBO and to summarise their results and present them at the next meeting.
- Rec. No. 5
 - Welcomes the work of the ‘ad hoc’ working group on the future of CBO.
 - Recommends that the relevant proposals be included in the preparations of the next conference.
 - Recommends that major organisational changes to the CBO be postponed until after the next Conference.
 - Proposes the formation of a core group of senior scientists/national correspondents to support the chairman during the intersessional period.
 - Further proposes that national correspondents from Denmark, Germany and Poland be appointed.
- Rec. No. 6
 - Thanks the Organizing Committee of the 19th CBO for the excellent arrangements and hospitality in Sopot.
 - Welcomes the invitation from the representative of Denmark to arrange the Conference in Denmark in 1996.
 - Recommends that the Conference be arranged in accordance with recommendation No. 7.
- Rec. No. 7
 - Recommends that the 20th CBO be held in mid-1996 in the form of a general Conference on Baltic Marine Research, preferably on Bornholm, with Mecklenburg-Vorpommern as second choice.

- The CBO invites the BMB and BMG to co-sponsor the Conference and to take an active part in its planning and organisation.
- Recommends that an international Steering Group be established, which shall be responsible for planning the scientific programme of the Conference, selecting speakers and papers for publication. The CBO proposes the following names: Dahlin, Hempel, Victorov, Pertille, Lund-Hansen (ex-officio) and invites the BMB and BMG to name 2 persons each.
- The Conference should review the present state of Baltic Marine research under three main aspects:
 - I. to understand better the Baltic marine ecosystem(s),
 - II. to use the Baltic Sea as an experimental basin for the application of modern theory and methods in oceanography, including remote sensing, modelling and complex ecosystem studies,
 - III. to integrate Baltic research into global programmes, the IGBP in particular.
- The Conference of four to five days should consist of:
 - I. plenary sessions on themes of general, interdisciplinary interest (invited lectures),
 - II. disciplinary sessions with selected contributions in the various fields of Baltic research,
 - III. open sessions for the presentation of the latest results and methods and for young scientists,
 - IV. organisational meetings for discussion of the future structure of Baltic research.
- Recommends that a modest Conference fee be established.
- Any decision on the CBO's future structure and meetings and on its links with other organisations will depend on the experience gained by the Conference.

The Organising Committee of the 19th Conference of the Baltic Oceanographers would like to express thanks to its sponsors – the City Council of Sopot, the City Council of Gdynia, the City Council of Gdańsk, the District Governor's Office Gdańsk, Naftoport Gdańsk and Petrobaltic Co. Gdańsk for their financial support. It also thanks those numerous staff from

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