



BEAM overview 2012

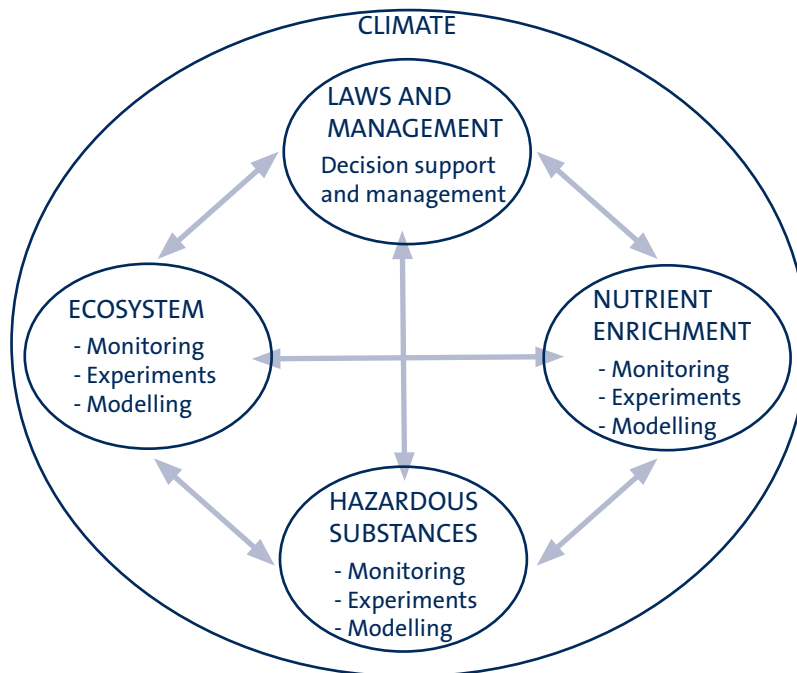
Important proceedings within the strategic research programme



A summary to the BEAM board meeting 21 September 2012. Compiled by: Thorsten Blenckner, Nastassja Åstrand Capetillo, Marmar Nekoro, Johan Gelting, Johan Eriksson and Henrik Österblom.

BEAM activities 2012

Baltic Ecosystem Adaptive Management, BEAM, is an interdisciplinary research programme with focus on achieving a holistic approach to Baltic ecosystem functioning and management. BEAM gives priority to collaborations that create synergy through interaction between scientists in different departments and faculties. This will give marine scientists at Stockholm University a unique possibility to cooperate across disciplinary borders, and is expected to lead to novel scientific results of high societal impact.



BEAM is divided into clusters: climate change, ecosystem functioning, nutrient enrichment, hazardous substances and laws & management, but strives to enhance the interaction between the research disciplines.

Coordinating work

In September 2011, Thorsten Blenckner, associated professor at Baltic Nest Institute (BNI), was employed as a network-coordinator to improve the cooperation between the clusters. Cluster leaders were chosen by the network-coordinator on the basis of full BEAM employment and being post-docs or higher. The cluster leaders are responsible for leading and planning the cluster meetings and assure cooperation of BEAM researchers within the following clusters:

- Ecosystem functioning and nutrient enrichment (Johan Gelting, ITM),
- Hazardous substances (Johan Eriksson, Dept. of Botany),
- Laws and management (Henrik Österblom, SRC).

Communication group

A BEAM communication group, BEAMcom, was formed with Nastassja Åstrand Capetillo (Stockholm University Marine Research Centre, SMF), Marmar Nekoro (BNI), Thorsten Blenckner (BNI) and Ragnar Elmgren (programme coordinator) to strengthen communication within BEAM and facilitate the outreach of BEAM research to appropriate target audiences. BEAMcom has continued to expand the homepage, sent out news-letters and been involved in organizing various meetings.

Meetings & events

Taskforce A taskforce team was formed with the cluster leaders and the BEAMcom members, with meetings chaired by the network coordinator. The aim of the taskforce team is to discuss the interaction possibilities across and within BEAM clusters, find synergies and overarching goals for all BEAM research activities - in the line with the original application. The taskforce is further a contact point between the BEAM researchers and the BEAM steering group. Taskforce meetings has been held: 13 April, 25 May, 7 June and 6 September.

Askö Gathering The reasons to gather “young” BEAM-researchers on Askö, were to foster co-operation, build active research groups and discuss win-win funding opportunities. It turned out to be a success to get better acquainted within the cluster groups. Visit www.smf.su.se/beam to watch a short video-commentary from the meeting where some invited scientists give their view of the gathering.

Cluster meetings The cluster leaders have arranged meetings to keep in touch and get a picture of the on-going research within the clusters: laws & management - 29 February, hazardous substances - 15 June, ecosystem functioning and nutrient enrichment - 19 June.

Collaborations

Examples of started research co-operations between and within BEAM clusters:

- Collaborative research between the cluster hazardous substances (Johan Eriksson) and food-web modelling expertise in the ecosystem functioning cluster (Maciej Tomczak).
- Postdoc Annica Sandström and Örjan Bodin in the laws & management cluster has established stronger linkages to FORMAS.
- Johan Gelting (ITM) and Isabelle Klawonn (Systems Ecology) in the ecosystem functioning cluster have discussed a possible collaboration on primary production and sedimentation.

Publications

So far BEAM scientists have contributed to over 30 PEER reviewed publications. Publications so far in 2012: Bradshaw et al. 2012, Casini et al. 2012, Elmgren 2012, Gustafsson et al. 2012, Hong et al. 2012, MacKenzie et al. 2012, Meier et al. 2012, Nascimento et al. 2012, Niiranen et al. 2012, Nyström et al. 2012, Österlund et al. 2012, Stange et al. 2012, Swaney et al. 2012. Visit www.smf.su.se/beam to get updates on published material and to download past publications.

BEAM researchers

BEAM funding is distributed after decisions made in the steering group that consists of Ragnar Elmgren (programme coordinator), Birgitta Bergman, Jonas Ebbesson, Tina Elfving, Carl Folke, Christoph Humborg and Michael McLachlan. Funding has so far been distributed to existing or new projects and employments such as new postdoctoral positions or PhDs. More than 40 scientists from over 10 Departments or Institutions at the University are financed by, or associated with BEAM 2012. Visit www.smf.su.se/beam to get in touch with BEAM personnel.

Further activities 2012

Besides continuing the coordinating work, the taskforce will work out a BEAM science plan to further improve and create a common vision as well as a more detailed bearing of the scientific outcome of BEAM. It should also clarify how BEAM operates and thus improve the transparency of the programme. An easily distributed folder will be produced to summarize the outcome.

- *BEAM 2012 annual meeting* All active researchers, the steering board and funded staff, will be invited to a meeting to present their research and establish future plans.

Proposed date: 26 November.