



## Welcome to the eighth ICBM-Alumni-Newsletter



Institute for Chemistry and  
Biology of the Marine  
Environment (ICBM)

### ICBM-ALUMNI-NEWSLETTER

Dear ICBM alumni,

In the eighth edition, we report on a new format "Wissen Frisch gezapft" in which scientists present their research in a pub and get in contact with the general public. We also give an overview of the increasing number of completed doctoral studies at the ICBM and provide information on both past and current ICBM colleagues.

We wish you a nice Christmas and all the best for the new year.

Yours Ferdinand Esser

### 2.5 MILLION EUROS OF FUNDING FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION "GUTE KÜSTE NIEDERSACHSEN"

Coastal protection in order to strengthen coastal ecosystems in Lower Saxony: A new research collaboration between Leibniz University Hannover, University of Oldenburg, and TU Braunschweig will address this topic. The Spokesperson for the collaboration is Professor Schlurmann (LUH). The alliance has received 2.5 million euros of funding from



Langwarlder Groden (Leibniz Universität Hannover)

"Niedersächsisches Vorab", an initiative of the Volkswagen Foundation. Since beginning to settle coastal areas, mankind has learned to protect itself from the powers of the sea while using its resources. Today, the experience gained is reflected in the scientific discipline coastal engineering and established by law in the general coastal protection plan. In addition to protecting living environments and economic regions, there is an increasing demand for an ecosystem-friendly approach to coastal protection, which addresses the following pressing questions: What defines a "good coast", where we are able to live and work in a responsible and sustainable manner, in harmony with nature and embedded in the existing cultural landscape? (PB)

### WISSEN FRISCH GEZAPFT - NEW FORMAT IN OLDENBURG

„Hirn vom Hahn – Wissen frisch gezapft (Science from the tap)“ is the name of the new format that was launched for the first time on October 24, 2019 in seven Oldenburg pubs. In this context, Prof. Dr. Helmut Hillebrand, ICBM - working group leader and founding director of the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity (HIFMB), introduced the public in the pub "Umbaubar" closer to the effects of climate change on marine life diversity. In addition to climate change, Prof. Oliver Kramer gave a crash course on artificial intelligence. You could hear a pin in the crowded pub. The format was very well accepted by the listeners of Oldenburg. At the end of the approximately 20-minute contributions, there was time for questions and discussions. (FE)



Prof. Helmut Hillebrand in „Umbaubar“ (Foto: Lukas Roß, ICBM)

#### TOPICS OF THIS ISSUE

- 2,5 Mio. Euro of Funding for Research Collaboration
- Science from the Tap
- Completed doctoral studies at ICBM
- 10 years OLTECH
- New appointments at ICBM
- Retirement of Prof. Brumsack
- Graduate Symposium

## Announcement:

### Graduate Symposium 'Career Paths in Marine and Climate Sciences' 15. May 2020 in Bremen

Various professional job fields will be presented at the conference. The focus is on career paths outside the university, e.g. in the fields of industry, administration, consulting or journalism. If you are interested in becoming a speaker, please contact [Ferdinand Esser](mailto:Ferdinand.Esser@uol.de).



## If you have comments:

Please contact us if you have questions or further suggestions: [ferdinand.esser@uol.de](mailto:ferdinand.esser@uol.de) or [icbm-alumni@uol.de](mailto:icbm-alumni@uol.de)

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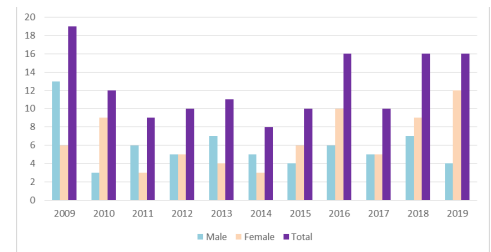
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## COMPLETED DOCTORAL STUDIES AT ICBM

The number of completed doctoral studies at ICBM is the same as the previous year, with 16 dissertations for 2019. The high number is due to the increasing number of doctoral students, e.g. in research projects such as the Collaborative Research Center *Roseobacter* or the EcoMol Research Training Group at ICBM. [FE]



Number of completed doctoral studies at ICBM (F. Esser)  
[FE]

## 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLTECH

Supporting doctoral students in their first steps towards independent scientific work and preparing them for their career path with subject-specific and comprehensive offers, the Graduate School Science, Medicine and Technology (OLTECH) was founded at the University of Oldenburg in 2009. OLTECH celebrated its 10th anniversary in October 2019. With its doctoral study program "Environmental Sciences and Biodiversity" as well as its structured PhD program EcoMol and the Research Training Group integrated in the SFB Roseobacter, the ICBM is an important partner of OLTECH with over 90 doctoral candidates. (PR, FE)



Feier zum 10-jährigen Bestehen der Graduate School OLTECH  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Graduate School OLTECH

## NEW APPOINTMENTS AT ICBM

### OSCAR PUEBLA APPOINTED AS PROFESSOR FOR FISHERIES ECOLOGY

[Prof. Dr. Oscar Puebla](#) has been appointed to a joint professorship for Fisheries Ecology at the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment at the University of Oldenburg and the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Bremen. Previously, the biologist led a working group at the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel as a junior professor of marine ecology. Puebla studied biology and oceanography in Switzerland and Canada. In 2009 he received his doctorate from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He then worked for seven years at the Smithsonian Institute for Tropical Research in Panama, initially as a postdoctoral researcher, later as a research assistant and research assistant. He is currently an associated member of the institute. As part of his cooperation professorship, he will now head the working group "Fish Ecology and Evolution" at the ZMT. [PR]



Prof. Dr. Oscar Puebla  
[Photo: private]

### THILO GROSS APPOINTED AS PROFESSOR FOR BIODIVERSITY THEORY

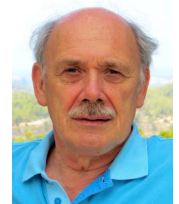
On January 1st, 2020 Prof. Dr. Thilo Gross has been appointed to a joint professorship for biodiversity theory by the Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity (HifMB) and the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment at the University of Oldenburg. He has chosen an unusual interdisciplinary career path. Following a MSc in Physics and a PhD in Natural Sciences in Oldenburg, he has held a postdoctoral position in the Chemical Engineering Department at Princeton University, and subsequently led a research group at the Max-Planck Institute for Physics of Complex Systems. He joined the Engineering Maths Department of the University of Bristol in 2011, where he was promoted to Reader in the following year. In his work he develops new methods for the analysis of dynamical networks with a particular focus on ecological and social systems. He has repeatedly succeeded in establishing new methodologies and applying them to answer important questions in applications. (PR HifMB)



Prof. Dr. Thilo Gross

### GEOCHEMIST PROF. HANS-JÜRGEN BRUMSACK RETIRED

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Brumsack, retired from university this autumn. Since 1992 he was head of the Microbiogeochemistry group at the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) at the University of Oldenburg. Brumsack is one of the first appointed professors who leave the university as the ICBM was founded in 1987. Prof. Dr. Meinhard Simon, Vice President for Research and Transfer of the University, said "As a 'researcher from the very beginning', he made a decisive contribution to shaping the institute's interdisciplinary approach and establishing the various degree programs." Brumsack was from 2003 to 2005 director of the ICBM. [PR]



Prof. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Brumsack. Photo: private