



# ICBM – Alumni-News #22

Carl von Ossietzky  
Universität  
Oldenburg

Issue 22

September 2024

year 7

## Welcome to the 22nd Alumni-Newsletter

Dear alumni,

In this issue of our newsletter, we report on current fields of research at the institute, such as research on a rowing boat or a new concept for protection of marine biodiversity. About this year's ICBM PhD Day with the motto "Transparency in Science and Research" and we look beyond the horizon of our various activities, such as the future market in the city of Oldenburg. We would like to stay in touch with you via this newsletter. To ensure that you continue to receive news from the ICBM, please register once with your name and e-mail address to get our ICBM newsletter in the new design:

[Register here](#)

The new ICBM newsletter will be published every three months. It encourage you to give us some feedback, suggestions and wishes! Just send us an E-mail to [nadine.haake@uol.de](mailto:nadine.haake@uol.de).

We wish you a great start in the autumn

Best wishes and all the best,

Dr. Ferdinand Esser and Nadine Haake

## Topics of this issue

### Research

- Research on a rowing boat
- New concept for the protection of marine biodiversity
- Sometimes friend, sometimes enemy?
- Ocean and atmosphere in exchange

### News from our PhDs

- Transparency in Science and Research

### Outside the box

- Science in the pub
- Future market
- Long Night of Science

### Congratulations

- Happy Birthday SONNE!

## RESEARCH AT THE ICBM

### Research on a rowing boat

Extreme rower Martin Stengele and Prof. Dr. Oliver Wurl and Leonie Jaeger from the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) at the University of Oldenburg are forming an unusual alliance for marine research. Stengele will be the first German solo rower to cross the Atlantic alone in the “World's Toughest Row”. A camera and various measuring devices will be installed on board his six-meter-long ocean rowing boat “Mars” to collect data for science during the journey. “From the very beginning it was important to me that this challenge would not just be a physical and mental achievement. With this trip, I want to make my personal contribution to gaining more knowledge about the sensitive ocean habitat. So that the scientists from the ICBM can use the measurement data collected to provide the responsible institutions with a basis for their further action to protect the oceans. Even if this commitment makes my crossing anything but easier,” says sports therapist Stengele. ICBM researchers Wurl and Jaeger and Dr. Olaf Meynecke from the Griffith University in Australia were interested in this unusual offer. [...]

[Read more](#)



Forming an unusual alliance for marine research (from left): ICBM PhD student Leonie Jaeger, rower Martin Stengele and Prof. Dr. Oliver Wurl  
[©ICBM]

## New concept for the protection of marine biodiversity

The open ocean, which, for the most part, lies outside of national jurisdictions is just as severely impacted by climate change as are Nationally regulated coastal waters. With the new international Agreement on Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), a framework for nature conservation and the regulation of interventions in the international waters of the open ocean has been under development since 2023. But how can anything be protected in areas outside of national jurisdiction? How can marine protected areas be managed in a rapidly changing ocean?

This is where the AGELESS project comes in, as a continuation and expansion of the already successful cooperation between MARUM – Center for Marine Environmental Sciences at the University of Bremen and the University of Oldenburg. Partners at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) and Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at the University of Oldenburg (HIFMB) are also involved in the project.

[...]

[Read more](#)



Colorful coral diversity in  
the Red Sea  
[©Anna Roik]

## Sometimes friend, sometimes enemy?

How different species interact with each other, for example as predator and prey, is by no means fixed and can depend on the prevailing environmental conditions. Which factors play a role in this process is the focus topic of the new DFG research unit "DynaSym" („Density dependent symbiosis in planktonic systems“), which is being funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) for four years.

To what extent is the relationship between different species fixed? Does a predator, for example, always act as a predator towards its prey? And will species that compete for the same nutrients always be competitors? For a long time, ecologists and evolutionary biologists assumed that such relationships between different species never change. But we now know that they can change – depending on the environmental conditions.

[...]

[Read more](#)



Inside the ciliate, its symbionts are visible as small green dots  
[©Stefanie Moorthi]

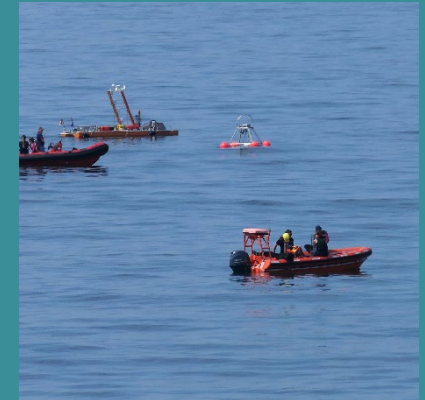
## Ocean and atmosphere in exchange

Our oceans have a central function for the global climate. They store greenhouse gases and heat, can transport them thousands of kilometers and partially release them back into the atmosphere. All these exchange processes between the ocean and the atmosphere take place in the surface layer, which is less than a millimeter thick - where the ocean and atmosphere meet. This layer and the processes that take place in it are still poorly understood. Scientists from the research unit BASS (Biogeochemical Processes and Air-Sea-Exchange in the Sea-Surface-Microlayer) want to change this.

From July 9 to August 1, 2024, the BASS team will investigate and sample the sea area off Heligoland. Various technologies will be used on board the research vessel Heincke from the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) and the multi-purpose vessel Fritz Reuter. Sensors and probes provide real-time data on the exchange of heat, greenhouse gases and fresh water in the form of evaporation and rain.

[...]

[Read more](#)



The autonomous research catamaran, two zodiacs and the sniffle buoy are in use at the same time  
[©Lisa Deyle]

## NEWS FROM OUR PHDS

### Transparency in Science and Research

“Transparency in Science and Research” was the motto of this year's ICBM PhD Day. More than 40 doctoral students came together at the ICBM site in Wilhelmshaven on August 29. They discussed current research work and had the opportunity to learn about various topics, such as abuse of power in the scientific community, academic career paths and data management. The event was organized by a group of doctoral students themselves and the topics and program were tailored to the needs and interests of the doctoral students. For example, various breakout groups offered in-depth discussions on topics such as health management, social media or start ups from academia. This mix was very well received by all participants. “The PhD Day provided a great opportunity to connect with fellow PhD students from all ICBM locations and exchange insights about our research and experiences throughout the PhD journey”, says ICBM PhD student Nicole Schröter. “The organizing team also invited interesting guest speakers who addressed very relevant topics, such as mental health, data management, and valuable advice for pursuing an academic career - or exploring alternative paths with a PhD. I found the event extremely beneficial and I am already looking forward to participating again next year.”

[...]

[Read more](#)



Participants and speaker  
at the 7th ICBM PhD Day

# OUTSIDE THE BOX

## Science in the pub

One evening, eight bars, 16 lectures.

Insights into current research projects in a cozy atmosphere - that's what the "Hirn vom Hahn - Wissen frisch gezapft!" series offers: On Thursday, September 19, scientists from Oldenburg's research landscape will once again leave their offices and laboratories and set off to report on their projects in an entertaining and amusing way in a total of eight Oldenburg pubs and bars. The events start at 7.30 pm. The first presentation will be followed by the second at 8.45 pm at each location.

[...]

[Read more](#)



„Hirn vom Hahn“ on  
19.09.2024

## Future Market

A sustainable future for Oldenburg, a future worth living for everyone! Under this motto, the Future Market (Markt der Zukunft) will bring together global challenges and regional commitment on August 25 at Schlossplatz Oldenburg. Enthusiastic people and projects from Oldenburg will present their visions for a sustainable future, focusing on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

The Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM) at the University of Oldenburg will also be represented with a stand. We will be presenting exciting coral research, providing information about the institute's study programs and explaining how a research project is attempting to reduce plastic pollution in the North Sea.

Over 50 regional groups will be presenting their goals and work at the Future Market. There will be hands-on activities for young and old at the market booths: From rickshaw rides and lotteries to clothes and plant swaps, there is something for everyone! A reading corner and free food and drink are also on offer, inviting you to network and linger.

[...]

[Read more](#)



Fair! Sustainable!  
Worth living! - Event  
for exchange and  
ideas!



## Long Night of Science

This year, students from the "Environmental Sciences" study program will take over the ICBM stand and provide information about a rather unknown problem in the world's oceans. They have looked into noise pollution in the ocean and created a program for the Long Night of Science. At three stations, visitors can find out about the problem of noise in the ocean and can experiment on the subject. There are exhibits to participate in and learn from.

The students have gained insights into the theory of environmental education during a project. The aim here is to inform society about current and relevant topics against a scientific background.

[...]

[Read more](#)



Long Night of Science on  
21.06.2024 in the  
Botanical Garden in  
Wilhelmshaven

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Happy Birthday SONNE

On July 11, 2014, the research vessel SONNE was christened by the then German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Friends of the SONNE sent congratulations and their special SONNE moments to mark the 10th birthday of our research vessel SONNE.

The congratulations are summarized on the ICBM website. [...]

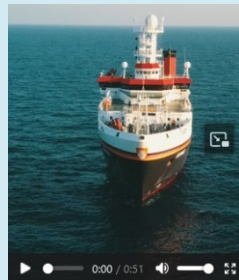
[Read more](#)



**NEW: ICBM is now on Instagram!**

The ICBM is now on Instagram with an own channel (@icbm\_uni\_oldenburg).

Watch all congratulations and SONNE moments in a video on Instagram:



[To the video](#)



10 years SONNE  
[©ICBM]

## Questions and suggestions

You are welcome to send us your questions and suggestions or other topics that are of interest to you.

Write an e-mail to: [ferdinand.esser@uol.de](mailto:ferdinand.esser@uol.de) or [icbm-alumni@uol.de](mailto:icbm-alumni@uol.de)

## Data protection

The use of this newsletter is voluntary. You can unsubscribe at any time and without giving reasons.

Simply send an e-mail to [icbm-alumni@uol.de](mailto:icbm-alumni@uol.de)

## Imprint

Published by:

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

Carl von Ossietzky University

Dr. Ferdinand Esser and Nadine Haake

Carl-von-Ossietzky-Straße 9-11

26129 Oldenburg

Tel: +49 (0)441 798 - 5342

E-Mail: [icbm@uol.de](mailto:icbm@uol.de)

Internet: [www.icbm.de](http://www.icbm.de)

Design/typesetting: Nadine Haake