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Citizens' Observatory for Coast and Ocean Optical Monitoring

Support marine observation with your smartphone

Keep an eye on the ocean together with professional marine scientists – that's what interested citizens can do now. Please visit the Blue Info Days and the Open House Event in Wilhelmshaven on 15th and 16th March 2014 in the UNESCO world heritage visitors center to learn more about it. The parent project Citclops (Citizens' observatory for Coast and Ocean Optical Monitoring) involves partners from five European countries. The project name picks up the English word 'citizen' and reminds us of the one-eyed giants (Cyclops) of Greek mythology – a huge eye watching the ocean is the logo of this project.

The event is bi-lingual, just as the international nature of this project. On Saturday, the scientists give an introduction about citizens' participation in ocean observation, on Sunday interested citizens try out for themselves: Practical Work in Ocean Monitoring (not only) with Smartphones. Close to science, everybody has the opportunity to test new prototype smartphone apps.

Afterwards have a little snack and talk to the scientists from Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland and Germany. Contact persons are Prof. Dr. Oliver Zielinski and Dr. Julia Busch from the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (University of Oldenburg) and Peter Thijsse (Maritime Information System AS, Netherland).

Up to 50 participants have the opportunity to take part for free.

The oceans have always been fascinating to mankind – for providing food and for transport and travelling) – but they are in danger, especially coastal zones where more than half of the world's population is living. The colour, transparency and fluorescence of seawater can indicate the quality of coastal water.

Everybody with a smartphone will be able to determine these data in the future. The scientists hope to collect comprehensive data and be able to monitor processes of societal concern, ranging from local and regional over-fertilization to global climate change. Citizens have the chance to take an active part and provide feedback about the condition of local sea water. This will help to identify unfavourable trends at an early stage.

Please see www.citclops.eu or meeresfarbe@icbm for more information and/or registration.