

The 17<sup>th</sup> biennial Ocean Sciences Meeting will be held 23 - 28 February in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Joint Session #2 (numbers may change) will be of interest in particular for the BALTEX and Baltic Earth community:

**Title: Understanding Coupled Human-Natural Systems: Multi-disciplinary Approaches for Addressing Sustainability of the Marine Environment**

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**Joint Session Proposal** (details of wording may change)

Human activities are impacting the sustainability and resilience of the marine environment. However, much uncertainty exists regarding how social-ecological systems will respond to a diverse and dynamic set of threats such as climate change, sea level rise and ocean acidification and how in turn these responses may impact ecosystem services. To understand the evolution and feedbacks among myriad pressures, balancing human health and wellbeing with ecosystem health will require the creation and application of multi-disciplinary teams, effective cross-discipline tools in the context of research coordination networks. In this session we explore the interface of human dimensions science and oceanography. We solicit presentations on emerging tools for understanding social-ecological linkages and discussions on the feedbacks and trade-offs inherent in complex marine systems.

Drawing on examples from the coastal marine environment in locations as diverse as the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and tropical islands, we want to discuss recent developments and future scenarios for moving the marine environment closer to sustainability. We encourage submissions from those developing and applying multi-disciplinary theory, ecosystem-based methods, or working towards creating the infrastructure and research networks critical to the successful understanding of the marine environment. As our session lies at the interface of several disciplines we invite presentations from researchers interested in broadly engaging those in the marine and social science communities. Through this session we will provide a forum for presentations and discussion of novel collaborations among researchers studying social-ecological systems.

**Keywords:** Ecosystem-based Management, Ecosystem Services, Sustainability, Ocean Policy, Multi-disciplinary, Research Coordination Networks, Social-Ecological Systems, Gulf of Mexico, Baltic, coral

[Visit](#) the Web site today to learn more about this important meeting and to begin making your plans to participate. Sessions will include all aspects of oceanography, including multidisciplinary topics and presentations that reflect new and emerging research on the global ocean and society. The call for abstracts will be announced in mid-August, and a list of sessions will be posted soon. We encourage you to check the [Web site](#) often for more information,

especially to review the session list and begin your plans to present at the meeting. **The abstract submission deadline is 4 October 2013.**