

eEmail sent 15 Aug. 2016, 18:57

Dear All,

Many of you have asked “What should you prepare for the Hannover symposium ?” This mail will give an unexpected answer...

1.

We applied for this specific symposium after a specialist team meeting last year in which we realized that biologists and geoscientists do use the same terms for completely different contents. At first we planned a “terminology meeting” to overcome this Babelonian confusion. Soon this seemed too narrow to convince anybody to fund such a meeting.

Therefore we applied for this symposium with the explicit goal to **initiate** a joint analysis and description of the seafloor by biologists and geoscientists/ acousticians.

2.

In Hannover scientists representing the involved disciplines will meet. We will discuss what we regularly do in our seafloor related research, what our difficulties are and what complications “the other discipline” causes. We intend especially to initiate discussions on how we can learn to really include results of “the other discipline”, how to improve future work at sea by joint experiments, and how to increase awareness for “the other discipline”. The final goal (beyond what can be achieved in 3 days in Hannover) is to develop a treatment of **“the ocean’s seafloor as one bio-geo system”** – the title of our symposium.

We are aware that this task requires a lot of learning. We are aware that this goal needs a lot of re-consideration of used and familiar approaches.

3.

To initiate (at least) this development we invited a mix of experienced senior scientists and early-career scientists. The different levels of experience (and questions) and the different familiarity with newest technologies will be helpful to support our approach. The role of biology is reflected in the fact that 1/3 of the participants are biologists, the other cover different fields of geosciences (geotechnics, sediment properties, sediment transport, acoustics etc.).

4.

So what should you bring to Hannover? **Nothing but ...**

1. your knowledge,
2. your experience,
3. creativity, innovative ideas,
4. examples from which other disciplines can learn.

5.

To help you bring these things you can send interesting papers/reports, thoughts and proposals, that you want other participants to know and consider, to:

vwsbiogeo2016@gmail.com

or other contacts on the website

http://instaar.colorado.edu/~jenkinsc/VWS_Meeting_Web/ .

We will post them in the ForParticipants page for you.

Best regards and see you soon in Hannover,

Thomas, Chris, Kelly and Achim