

ACCESSING AND SHARING BENEFITS FROM MARINE GENETIC RESOURCES BEYOND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES: WHAT ROLE FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY?

Workshop

**Thursday 3rd September 2015, 1.00-2.30pm, Pequeno Auditorio,
14th Deep Sea Biology Symposium, Centro Cultural e de Congressos de Aveiro, Aveiro**

Abstract

Access to deep-sea marine genetic resources (MGR) in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and the sharing of benefits arising from their use is a topic of growing international debate that could have profound implications for deep-sea science. This topic is one of the core issues under consideration in a process to develop a new international legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction that is poised to commence under the auspices of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The expertise of the deep-sea biology community is of critical relevance to this debate, particularly given that deep-sea biology is the main activity involved in accessing MGR in ABNJ.

This workshop will discuss how the deep-sea biology community can inform and influence this crucial international debate, and develop ideas for how a new regime for access and benefit sharing of MGR in ABNJ could facilitate research and innovation. All delegates of the 14th Deep Sea Biology Symposium are warmly invited to participate in this workshop, convened by the MGR Working Group of the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative.

Aim & Objectives

The aim of the workshop is to discuss scientific perspectives of the international legal debate surrounding marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The objectives are to:

- Identify relevant drivers and barriers to conducting deep-sea research relating to MGRs in ABNJ;
- Discuss how a new regime for access and benefit sharing for MGR in ABNJ could facilitate deep sea research, enhance capacity and improve biodiversity conservation; and
- Discuss what role the deep-sea biological research community could play in influencing the development of a new regime for ABNJ.

Agenda

1.00-1.10	1. Welcome <i>Kristina Gjerde</i> Introduction to marine genetic resources in ABNJ: governance challenges and a possible role for the deep-sea biology community <i>Harriet Harden-Davies</i>
1.10-1.20	2. Deep-sea biodiscovery: challenges and opportunities <i>Prof Marcel Jaspars</i>
1.20-2.20	3. Governing access and benefit sharing of marine genetic resources in ABNJ Panel discussion & audience participation <i>Co-Chairs: Kristina Gjerde and Harriet Harden-Davies</i> <i>Panellists: Dr Kim Juniper, Prof Lisa Levin, Torsten Thiele</i> Issues for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. What is needed to facilitate access to MGR in ABNJ?ii. What benefits could be derived from MGR in ABNJ?iii. How should benefits relating to MGR in ABNJ be shared?iv. What opportunities does the UN process offer to support deep sea research, enhance capacity and improve biodiversity conservation in ABNJ?v. What role could the deep-sea biology community play in the future development of this process?
2.20-2.25	4. Summary, next steps and close