



MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series
Conservation and Use of the Ocean Genome
Wednesday, December 8, 10:00 – 11:30am (CET)
Venue: Online

How could you not be interested in marine genetic resources? In recent decades, our capacity to understand the ocean at a genetic level has been advancing at light-speed: new sequencing technologies, exponentially growing databases of genetic sequence data, and a suite of new applications for exploration and conservation. At the same time, marine biotechnology is a diverse and poorly quantified pillar of the blue economy, ranging from high-profile uses in the development of pharmaceuticals to lesser known uses as industrial enzymes for biofuel production, food additives and antifouling compounds. Yet tapping the full potential of the ocean genome for science, conservation and commercial uses depends on addressing core issues surrounding capacity, equity and biosafety. As a result, marine genetic resources are a key element of multiple ongoing negotiations and processes, most notably with regard to biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). This seminar will describe the concept of the ocean genome, the benefits it provides, the threats it faces, and prospects for increasing equity in the context of ongoing international processes.



Robert Blasiak is a researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, where he co-leads the Centre's "Human Ocean" research theme and leads the FORMAS project "The marine biotechnology industry and equitable governance of marine genetic resources". In the context of marine genetic resources, he has co-led several international collaborations, including for the Blue Climate Initiative, the World Ocean Assessment and the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. He is a visiting researcher at the University of Tokyo and was previously a NEREUS research fellow funded by the Nippon Foundation.

The monthly [MARIPOLDATA Ocean Seminar Series](#) offer a virtual space to get information and engage in exchanges on ocean governance issues, through presentations by international experts from academia, governments, international organisations and civil society. It is organised by the MARIPOLDATA project.

To register: via email to ina.tessnow-vonwyssocki@univie.ac.at, indicating your name and institution. You will receive an email with further information and the link to participate in the virtual space

More information: <https://www.maripoldata.eu/newsevents/#oceanseminarseries>