

## First MARES Conference Marine Ecosystems Health and Conservation

Deprez Tim, Pieter Blondeel, Wendy Massart and Magda Vincx

MARES Conference Coordination Office, Marine Biology Research Group, Ghent University  
Krijgslaan 281/S8 9000 Ghent, Belgium  
E-mail: [maresconference@ugent.be](mailto:maresconference@ugent.be)

The first international MARES Conference is an initiative from the MARES Doctoral Program. This joint international thematic doctoral programme was initiated in 2010, and since over 30 young scientists are actively conducting research focused on the impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems. The Mares Conference aims to address the main issues of marine ecosystems health and conservation:

1. Future Oceans : temperature changes - hypoxia – acidification
2. Understanding biodiversity effects on the functioning of marine ecosystems
3. Biological invasions
4. Natural Resources : overexploitation, fisheries and aquaculture
5. Ocean noise pollution
6. Habitat loss, urban development, coastal infrastructures and Marine Spatial Planning

The conference will take place from 21 to 27 November 2014 in Olhão, eastern Algarve, Portugal. This international and open conference will bring together scientists from different levels and disciplines to discuss and address issues about marine ecosystems health and conservation. The conference will be dynamic, mixing oral presentations, round table discussions and poster and digital objects sessions.

Website of the First Mares Conference: [www.maresconference.eu](http://www.maresconference.eu)

Website of the MARES joint Doctoral Programme: [www.mares-eu.org](http://www.mares-eu.org)

Facebook page of the Mares Conference: [www.facebook.com/maresconference](https://www.facebook.com/maresconference)