

Opening Session

What do we need to tackle marine global changes?

Sam Dupont

Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, the Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences - Kristineberg, University of Gothenburg, Fiskebäckskil 45178 Gothenburg, Sweden

All aspects of our life (e.g. cultural, historical, biological, and economic) are deeply rooted in the ocean, no matter where we live. Unfortunately, as we enter the Anthropocene at full speed, the ocean is threatened by disastrous human impacts and every citizen has a moral duty to slow down the pace of destruction of the atmospheric, terrestrial, fresh water and marine environments. In this respect, scientific research and science communication have a key role to play in fostering our appreciation of the importance of the ocean, our understanding of our own responsibility in its alteration and our awareness of the relevance of its protection. However, increase marine environmental awareness constitutes a real challenge as many features of the ocean and global environmental changes are difficult to experience because they are too small, too big or too abstract. Using ocean acidification as a case study, I will discuss the importance of an ocean and climate literate citizenry as well as opportunities and challenges to communicate marine global change science; specifically, what information and research are needed today for a successful mitigation and adaptation to marine global changes.