



Second announcement: final BIOMARE workshop

Akvaplan-niva, Polar Environmental Centre, Tromsø, Northern Norway
8th –11th September (7th and 12th are travel days)

See <http://www.polarenvironment.no>

*This second announcement includes the meeting agenda, additional information and some free-time ideas. Please, by **15th August**, send us your arrival and departure times and whether you need help with arranging extra activities.*

Travel

To reach Tromsø, the easiest way is to fly to Oslo (Gardemoen Airport) and get a direct connecting flight to Tromsø. There are two airlines, SAS and Braathens. In Norway, this internal connection costs just over 200 Euros cheap-ticket, but sometimes its less if you are booking from abroad.

About Tromsø

Tromsø is located on a small island at about 69°N. It is connected to the mainland and the surrounding islands by bridges and tunnels. During the last 10 years, Tromsø has greatly expanded into an international University city with 60 000 inhabitants. However, the charm remains that one is never more than 20 mins drive from open countryside. More information on Tromsø can be obtained at http://www.destinasjontromso.no/eng_default.htm or <http://home.no.net/steinfre/indexE.htm>

Workshop Facilities

The auditorium and smaller seminar room both have all modern facilities and access to internet (restricted number of lines). In addition, two smaller meeting rooms without electronic projection facilities will be available for group discussions. There will be two separate computers set up for internet and mail access.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Currency

The currency is the Norwegian kroner (rate last check 1 Euro = 7.6 Kroner). You can pay by credit card in most places (including taxis), and there are plenty of ATM machines for cash delivery, including at airports. Don't try to pay with Euro. The taxi from the airport will cost about 70-100 kroner per car (9-13 Euro).

Special requirements

Please inform us if you have any special requirements, practical or food-wise. Comments and requests already received have been taken into account.

Weather

The weather in September can be unpredictable, as it's the transition period between the end of day-round daylight and the 'hibernation' of the sun. It can be a fantastic time of colour, or it might simply rain. It has occasionally been known to snow, but only on the high ground. Anyway, we don't like talking about snow just yet...

Please bring warm clothes (including hat and gloves) and stout footwear for the boat trip. General dress in Tromsø is quite informal, also in the institute. People tend wear 'indoor' shoes in the institute, so bring sandals or similar if you like taking your boots off. It will not be cold in the institute.

Registration and arrival/departure times

Those who have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible.

Also as soon as possible, and no later than **15th August** please send us:

- your arrival/departure times
- request for help with extra activities

Prospective Svalbard visitors - please express an initial interest as soon as possible, with final confirmation within the date above. This for guide and accommodation enquiries.



BIOMARE - Final Workshop

Tromsø

September 7 – 11, 2002

Agenda

Saturday, 7 September

Arrival

Sunday, 8 September

- 9.00** Opening and introduction
Framework, goal, deliverables
- 9.30** **WP1**
Presentation of the EMBiF sites per region and examples of available data
- 10.30** coffee
- 11.00** Discussion and formal acceptance of the nomenclature/classification
- 11.30** **WP2**
Introduction to the problem
Presentation of the priority biodiversity indicators.
- 12.30** Lunch
- 14.00** Special issue: Biomarkers
- 14.30** Subgroup discussion of proposed strategy and feasibility of applying proposed methods
- 15.15** Reports on subgroup discussions
- 15.45** Coffee
- 16.15** Special Issue: Protocols for Biodiversity Monitoring
- 16.45** Highlights on biodiversity issues from BIOMARE participants
- 17.45** Status report of the first day
- 18.30** Closure of first day

Monday, 9 September

- 9.00** Summary of yesterday's discussions
- 9.15** Recent information on FP6
- 9.45** Plenary session: what research objectives can be achieved by BIOMARE?
- 10.15** Coffee
- 10.45** Subgroup discussions on objectives defined by plenary session
- 11.45** Report of the subgroup discussions
- 12.15** Special Issue: Links with other initiatives (OSPAR/ICES)
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.00** Special Issue: Links with other initiatives (EEA)
- 14.30** **WP3**
Dissemination of the results, capacity building:
Databases, Brochure, Protocol, Newsletter
- 15.30** Plenary discussion of wp3
- 16.00** Coffee
- 16.30** Special Issue: to be submitted
- 17.30** Special Issue: Modelling of Biodiversity
- 18.00** Status report of the second day
- 18.45** Closure of the session



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Agenda

Tuesday, 10 September

- 9.00** Summary of Previous Day
- 9.15** Plenary discussion on gaps: genomics, habitats, fisheries, deep sea and pelagic systems etc.
- 10.15** Coffee
- 10.45** Plenary discussion: life after BIOMARE
- 12.15** Highlights on biodiversity issues from BIOMARE participants
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.00** Social Programme

Wednesday, 11 September

- 9.00** Wrapping up the discussions.
- 9.30** Action List and Agreements on Future Activities according to funding from FP 6/ESF/MARS and friends/National Agencies
- 10.30** Coffee
- 11.00** Action List (continued); Preparing the memorandum of understanding
- 12.00** Final remarks and closure

BIOMARE is a concerted action to establish the infrastructure and conditions required for marine biodiversity research at a European scale.

Funded under the [Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development Programme](#) (Support to Infrastructures) of the European Union.

*Contract number: **EVRI-CT2000-20002***

Registration and Accommodation form

Please fill out this form and return it to Sabine Cochrane (sabine.cochrane@akvaplan.niva.no) or Merete Stefanussen (merete.stefanussen@akvaplan.niva.no) or by fax +47 777 50301

Name:

Institute:

Country:

E.mail:

Accompanying person? (yes/no)

Hotel preference:

Please indicate your preference for hotel. Prices are given for single rooms, please indicate if you are bringing a partner.

First Choice

Second choice

	Hotel	Shared shower	En-suite	No. rooms	Comment	Price (Eu)*
A	Ami/ Nord	X		10/16	simple, ok, 15 min walk	60
B	Skansen		X	15	simple, ok, 15 min walk	65
C	Ami		X	7	simple, ok, 15 min walk	73
D	Rainbow Polar		X	lots	middle/nice 5-10 min walk	94
E	Bryggen		X	lots	very nice, on quayside, 5-10 min walk	113

* given at present exchange rate, may be slight changes

*If no other options are requested by **June 1st**, options **B** and **D** will be booked.*

Excursion

We will try our best to provide a boat excursion free of additional charge, but in worst case scenario, please be prepared to contribute a nominal fee (10-15 Euro). For booking purposes, please indicate below:

Yes, I will participate on the excursion

Yes, but only if no charge

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

We are happy to note the large interest for extending your stay. The following information should answer most of the queries received.

Svalbard

You can visit Svalbard either before or after the workshop. The plane from Tromsø costs about 250-260 Euros (depending on availability, book in advance).

See <http://www.svalbard.com/> or <http://www.unis.no/>

We will try to point you to inexpensive, informal accommodation, price to be confirmed once we know numbers.

Flights from Tromsø (SAS)

Mondays, Tues, Thurs, Fri: leave Tromsø 13:10, arrive Longyearbyen YR 14:50

On Thurs. an additional flight at 22:15

Saturdays 19:25 (only up to the 14th)

Return to Tromsø

Mondays and Fridays 04:40

Sundays 08:00

All days except Saturdays: 15:40

At least a full day there is recommended. Things go at a slower pace on Svalbard, and that's part of the charm. There are several good eating places in Longyearbyen, from the reasonably priced "Kroa" (done like a hunters cabin) to very nice restaurant meals with good wines.

Some info. on Svalbard:

The daylight period on Svalbard changes very rapidly in September. The midnight sun disappears about 20th August and the autumn equinox is the 21st September. During one month, the daylength is therefore reduced from 24 to 12 hours. Around the 21st September, the daylength will be similar to that in Tromsø, but the sun is lower on the horizon (very nice for photography). The most dramatic light conditions are at the autumn equinox, and the period of day-long darkness starts on the 20th October.

Longyearbyen itself sprung up as a mining settlement, and now also hosts a large research and teaching facility. Around Longyearbyen, Arctic grouse is quite common, and up in the valley there may still be some geese. On the shore there are a variety of sea birds. "Tyvjo" (*Strcorarius parasiticus*) or "Polarjo" (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) are not uncommon. You may also see Svalbard reindeer or occasionally an arctic fox.

The excursion options will be a) shore walk/ seabird-spotting, overlooking some interesting mountain formations or b) trip up glacier with (if lucky) reindeer spotting, fossil hunting.

Important: because of the polar bear danger, no one is allowed to walk outside the settlement without a rifle (and the appropriate experience). However, we strongly prefer that all BIOMARE people carry out their excursions in the company of the local guides we will provide/hire. Then you will be free to look at the scenery, while the guide looks out for you. The chances of seeing a bear are fairly small, and very minimal in a danger situation, but the rule is always to be prepared.

Around Tromsø

Tromsø itself is not so different from other towns, in that it prides itself on being international and “forward-thinking”. However, 20-30 mins drive in any direction takes you to really nice unspoiled country. See www.destinasjontromso.no for tourist info.

Things to do in a day:

- Bus trip or hire a car. Popular activities are walking, fishing and berry-picking (national obsessions).
- Fishing – from land (mostly saithe, cod if you’re good or get the tides right). Lake fishing (50 kroner/ 6.5 Euro per day, trout/char) or river fishing (approx. 150 kroner /20 Euro). Some local boats do sea fishing trips for groups (prices vary).
- In town, there are a variety of museums/galleries to visit – the polar museum absolutely being recommended – a mine of information and relics of historical polar exploration. There has been a recent explosion of urban coffee- and wine bars and there are some good restaurants, especially for fish.

Longer trips

- Coastal steamer: either part of in- or outward journey, or go from Tromsø to the North Cape or south of Tromsø (<http://www.hurtigruten.com>).
- Longer drives – eg to the North cape, or south to the Lofoten islands (highly recommended). Driving in any direction will take you through lovely scenery. You can stop anywhere and walk or fish from the shore.
- Camper van hire: Tromsø Bobil & Caravan: +47 776 89091, e-mail tromsoe.bobil.caravan@c2i.net. The minimum rent period is 3 days. Cost is kr 1390 per day (183 Eu), incl. insurance. kr 5000 deposit. 300 km day free, thereafter 2 kroners per extra km. Reduced rate for a whole week. There are only 2 vans for hire (4 pers and 6 pers) so be sure to book early.
- Car hire: most international hire companies have branches in Tromsø. Prices from about kr 550 per day (70 Euro).