



ForBio marine field course Greenland September 9-27, 2013

The field course will take place at the Arctic Station, Qeqertarsuaq (Godhavn) at Disko Island on the West coast of Greenland. University of Copenhagen maintains and funds the Arctic Station. A variety of marine habitats can be investigated during the course, featuring well-sorted sands for meiofauna studies, diverse hard-bottom communities, peculiar areas dominated by globular *Lithothamnion* aggregations (red calcareous algae), and more.

The course will include sampling trips on the research vessel "Porsild" (see preliminary schedule below).

The first five days will be spent to get an overview over the marine fauna and flora (including benthic and planktonic organisms). The rest of the time will be dedicated to specific projects. Applicants are asked to propose projects or to indicate interest in certain organism groups or habitats. Then we will work out small projects that are of interest and use for your respective PhD/postdoctoral projects. The course instructors are both marine zoologists (focus areas: meiofauna, general macrofauna, mollusks, cyclophorans, tardigrades, micrognathozoans, rotifers), but project suggestions in any other fields (including e.g., parasites, plankton, algae,...) are welcome. We might not be able to offer close supervision for all projects, but we will give our best to make them possible.

Here is a list of available sampling gear: CTD, Niskin water samplers (3x 10l), "hops" (sediment corer), Van Veen grab, triangular dredge.

We will bring plankton nets and other (small) gear can also be taken care of, as necessary for projects.

We will have field and compound microscopes and equipment for micro- and macrophotography (and -video).

Organisms can be kept in aquaria/other containers for several days and short-time experiments with invertebrates/algae can be set up.

ECTS: 8

Language of instruction: English

Course materials: reading list (concerning background on marine biodiversity in Greenland and on topics concerning the specific projects), suggested online material

Assessment: Two short oral presentations: on own PhD/postdoctoral project and on the results of the specific projects, project report, contribution to course blog; grade pass/fail, ForBio certificate over participation

Required previous knowledge/course specific requirements: obligatory reading list (we will discuss papers); this is an advanced course and good general knowledge of marine fauna and flora is desired

Course start: we will meet in Copenhagen on September 9th to travel to Greenland on September 10th

Course end: we will leave Greenland on September 27th, additional night in Copenhagen if necessary

Locality: Arctic Station, Godhavn (Qeqertarsuaq), Disko Island, Greenland

<http://arktiskstation.ku.dk/english/about/>



Application deadline: 31.01.2013

Please use the course application form posted on

<http://www.forbio.uio.no/events/courses/ForBio-CourseRegistrationForm.doc>

Course contact: Christiane Todt (christiane.todt@um.uib.no)

Aim of the course

This course will offer the opportunity to get to know the marine fauna and flora of Greenland and to train identification of marine organisms. Small projects will be specifically designed with the participants to forward the skills or provide material they need for their PhD or postdoctoral projects. We aim to produce publishable species lists from at least part of our sampling trips. Publication of project results is encouraged.

Instructors

Peter Funch, Department of Bioscience - Genetics and Ecology, Aarhus University, Denmark; Peter was scientific director of the marine station in 1996-1997

Christiane Todt, University Museum of Bergen, Norway

Accommodation and meals: Arctic Station, shared rooms and bathroom facilities; in part self-catering (shopping organized); please take into account that the availability of vegetarian food is somewhat restricted in Greenland

Preliminary program

- 10.9. arrival at Arctic Station
- 11.9. Introduction to Greenland (bio)geography and habitats
Introductory talks by the participants (about their thesis/project work)
Setting up the laboratories
- 12.9. First sampling trip on Porsild (macrofauna and - flora, plankton)
- 13.-15.9. Identification of organisms; species lists; short trips with small motor boats are possible
- 16.-18.9. 3-days sampling trip on Porsild to Disko Fjord; 2 nights camping
- 19.-21.9. Laboratory work, own projects
- 22.-24.9. 3 days of sampling on Porsild to the Eastern coast of Disko Island; either single day trips or with overnight stay(s), depending on need for the projects
- 25.-26.9. Laboratory work, finishing projects; short presentations of project results
- 27.9. Packing, cleaning, and departure

Please note that sampling in arctic climate and with a relatively small vessel, such as Porsild, is depending on weather conditions and that we will have to be flexible with the program and the projects.