

ForBio Course: Kelp communities - marine macroalgae and associated fauna and flora

Dates:	23 July – 1 August 2014
Venue:	Espeland Marine Biological Station (University of Bergen, Norway)
Level:	PhD-level course
Language of instruction:	English
Grade and credits:	Pass/Fail, 3 ECTS
Course materials:	ID keys and reading material provided
Course contact person:	Aino Hosia (aino.hosia@um.uib.no)
Instructors:	Kjersti Sjøtun (Macroalgae; University of Bergen) Christiane Todt (Molluscs & amphipods; Rådgivende Biologer AS) Arne Nygren (Polychaetes; Sjöfartsmuseet Akvariet, Gothenburg) Christoph Noever (University of Bergen)
Course fee:	Free for ForBio members and associates
Maximum no. students:	15
Admission:	Registration deadline 1. June 2014

Link to the station: <http://www.uib.no/bio/en/research/infrastructure-at-bio/espeland-marine-biological-station>

Summary

Macroalgae are significant structuring components of temperate near shore marine communities, providing food, shelter and substrate for a number of species. This course provides participants with both theoretical and practical skills in collecting samples and identifying macroalgae and their associated flora and fauna. The course aim is to provide the participants with taxonomical skills and other tools for conducting similar research independently.

Required previous knowledge

Preferred: Master's degree in biology.

Assessment

The course is graded as pass/fail. Students are assessed based on their participation in course work, and are also required to deliver a written report on their course project 1 week after finished course. Students are also requested to give a 15 min. presentation on their own ongoing research during the course.

Course program

The week will start with introductory lectures on macroalgae and their structuring effects on the community, and an introduction to the associated fauna. This will be followed by more specific lectures on the taxonomy, systematics and identification of selected taxa of associated fauna (polychaetes, molluscs and amphipods). Practical work will be in a key role all week, with daily collecting and processing of samples and identification sessions. We will dredge for kelp, as well as collect samples closer to shore by wading and/or snorkeling. During the last two full days participants

will get the opportunity to put their new skills to practice, completing small practical projects and presenting the results. In addition to lectures specified below, experts from the Natural History Collections of Bergen University Museum will provide an introductory lecture on collecting samples for and usage of genetic barcoding. We will also hold small seminars in the evening, where participants will be expected to give a short (15 min) presentation on their own ongoing research during the course.

Schedule (Preliminary)

Wed 23.7.	Arrival
Thu 24.7.	Introductory lectures on macroalgae, associated fauna, and their interactions (Kjersti Sjøtun, Christiane Todt). Sampling & processing, identification sessions
Fri 25.7.	Lecture on polychaetes (Arne Nygren) Sampling & processing, identification sessions
Sat 26.7.	Lectures on molluscs and amphipods (Christiane Todt) Sampling & processing, identification sessions We finish early – opportunity to visit Bergen centre to see the Tall Ships (http://www.tallshipsbergen.no/)
Sun 27.7.	Sampling & processing, identification sessions
Mon 28.7.	Sampling & processing, identification sessions
Tue 29.7.	Sampling & processing, identification sessions
Wed 30.7.	Practical project work
Thu 31.7.	Practical project work, project summary presentations
Fri 1.8.	Packing, cleaning etc.

Cost

There is no course fee for ForBio members and associates. ForBio will reimburse its members for course-related travel costs by bus/train/air (no taxi or private cars) and cover their accommodation and meals during the course. ForBio associates are welcome to participate but have to cover their travel and stay. Master students from Nordic universities may be eligible for support, provided they can show that the course is essential for their thesis work. See <http://www.forbio.uio.no/> for more information on ForBio and membership.

Travel

Espegrend (AKA Espeland) Marine Biological Station is located just south of Bergen, Norway. Participants can arrive to Bergen either by plane or train on 23 July. Transport from the airport (or railway station) will be arranged.

Accommodation and meals

Basic accommodation in shared twin rooms with en suite bathroom in the dormitory at Espegrend. The dormitory has common living, kitchen and dining areas as well as a sauna. Meals include self-

served breakfast, lunch (Norwegian style) and evening snack, as well as a basic warm dinner. Please let us know about any special diet requirements well in advance.

What to bring

Clothing suitable for field work, relevant literature. Snorkeling gear, if you have it. Note that the water can be chilly!

Registration

The registration deadline is 1 June, 2014. Please follow the following procedure:

1. Register as ForBio member or associate (if not already registered) at <http://www.forbio.uio.no/membership/>
2. Send a completed course registration form (see link on ForBio website, course announcement) by email to Aino Hosia (aino.hosia@um.uib.no)

In case of >15 applicants, ForBio members and applicants requiring the course for their research or professional work will have priority.