Objective

The marine food web is at the centre of both the climate-related CO2 cycle and food production in the marine environment. It plays a key role in regulating the climate system and is highly sensitive to climate change and other stressors. OCEAN-CERTAIN will investigate the impact of climatic and non climatic stressors on the food web and the connected biological pump, and the important feedback mechanisms. OCEAN-CERTAIN will identify and quantify multi-stressor impacts and feedbacks and how these alter the functionality and structure of the food web and efficiency of the biological pump in different bio-geographical regions. This will be done by utilizing existing ecosystem models employing existing data, in addition to mesocosm, lab-scale experiments and field study. The resulting knowledge will then be used to assess socio-economic vulnerabilities and adaptive capacity by using indicators of food-web functions as responses to particular changes by way of
indicators of food-web functions as responses to particular changes by way of stressor combinations. OCEAN-CERTAIN will then address socio-economic policy and management issues by using highly interactive participatory stakeholder workshops to create models of user group resilience and adaptability. These will show how potential climate-driven physical, chemical and biological changes may affect relevant economic activities and human welfare and help to identify adaptation pathways. This information and knowledge will reduce of epistemic uncertainty and help policy makers chose among management options, which in turn will be treated as additional feedbacks to the food web. The stressors, key feedback mechanisms and indicators, form the basis for the design of an integrated Decision Support System (DSS).

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

FP7-ENV-2013-two-stage

Funding Scheme

CP - Collaborative project (generic)

Coordinator

NORGES TEKNISK-NATURVITENSKAPELIGE UNIVERSITET NTNU

Address

Hogskoleringen 1
7491 Trondheim
Norway

Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

EU contribution

€ 2 091 604,40

Website

Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact

Stefan De Graaf (Dr.)

Participants (10)

UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

Norway

EU contribution
€ 1 081 386
Address Museplassen 1
5020 Bergen
Activity type Higher or Secondary Education Establishments
Website Contact the organisation
Administrative Contact Liv-Grethe Gudmundsen (Ms.)

HELMHOLTZ ZENTRUM FUR OZEANFORSCHUNG KIEL
Germany
EU contribution € 1 027 440
Address Wischhofstrasse 1-3
24148 Kiel
Activity type Research Organisations
Website Contact the organisation
Administrative Contact Alexandra Drossou-Berendes (Dr.)

VLAAMSE INSTELLING VOOR TECHNOLOGISCH ONDERZOEK N.V.
Belgium
EU contribution € 798 840
Address Boeretang 200
2400 Mol
Activity type Research Organisations
Website Contact the organisation
Administrative Contact Guy Engelen (Mr.)

DOKUZ EYLUL UNIVERSITESI
Turkey
EU contribution € 559 710,25
Address Cumhuriyet Bulvari 144
35210 Alsancak Izmir
Activity type Higher or Secondary Education Establishments
Website Contact the organisation
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Food and Environment Research Agency

United Kingdom

€ 645 765,25

Address
Area 1A, Nobel House, Smith Square 17
SW1P 3JR London

Activity type
Private for-profit entities (excluding Higher or Secondary Education Establishments)

Website
Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Janice Robinson (Mrs.)

UNIVERSIDAD DE TALCA

Chile

EU contribution
€ 124 050

Address
2 Norte 685, Casilla 721
3465548 Talca

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Contact the organisation

Administrative Contact
Ivan Palomo Gonzalez (Dr.)

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