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(Eds.)

Baltic Coastal Ecosystems

Structure, Function and
Coastal Zone Management

With 93 Figures and 29 Tables



Springer

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Preface

Between November 20 and 23, 2000, the workshop "Baltic Coastal Ecosystems – Structure, Function and Coastal Zone Management" took place in Rostock, Germany. The workshop was organised by the Institute of Aquatic Ecology of the University of Rostock and the Baltic Sea Research Institute Warnemünde on behalf of the Wissenschafts-Verbund Umwelt (WVU) at the University of Rostock.

It was the third trans-disciplinary event that tried to link ecological and socio-economical aspects with respect to the Baltic Sea. The first symposium was held in 1992, entitled "The Future of the Baltic Sea – Ecology, Economics, Administration and Teaching", and the second event took place in 1996, entitled "Sustainable Development in Coastal Regions – a Comparison Between North Atlantic Coast and Baltic Sea".

The workshop "Baltic Coastal Ecosystems – Structure, Function and Coastal Zone Management" tried to provide an interdisciplinary forum for discussions, the exchange of ideas and the presentation of scientific results with respect to the Baltic coast. Specific goals were

- the documentation of ecological knowledge, existing gaps as well as the recent state and practice in coastal zone management in the Baltic region;
- the analysis of potential conflicts in the south-eastern Baltic as well as the compilation of requirements and future challenges in coastal zone management;
- a promotion of information exchange in the Baltic region, the discussion of strategies for the establishment of a solid information base and the linkage of stakeholders involved in coastal zone management, and finally
- the compilation of suggestions towards an improved integrated coastal zone management in the Baltic region.

The workshop attracted 80 participants, mostly invited experts, from all Baltic countries: Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. The participants were scientists with different backgrounds, engineers, spatial planners as well as responsible persons in administrations and authorities. Beside the presentations, plenty of time was reserved for panel discussions, fruitful discussions in smaller groups and dialogues. We hope that the workshop and the resulting book, which reflects the main topics and conclusions, help to spread the ideas to a larger audience and promote further activities in this important interdisciplinary field.

Without additional external funding it would have been impossible to organise this kind of workshop. Therefore, we are very grateful to the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, the Umweltministerium Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the Bildungs- und Wissenschaftsministerium Mecklenburg-Vorpommern as well as the Baltic Marine Biologists (BMB) for their financial support.

We would further like to thank all members of the Organising Committee: Mrs Dagmar Heinrich, Dr. Torsten Rieling, Mrs Birgit Martin, Mrs Sibylle Müller, Mrs Mandy Wenzel, Ms Heike Simon, Ms Anke Hofmeister, Ms Andrea Fechter

(Rostock University) and Mr Tobias Dolch (Baltic Sea Research Institute). Our best thanks to our members of the editorial office Ms Anke Hofmeister and Ms Andrea Fechter, who took care of the layout and the language quality.

We finally express our gratitude to the Springer Verlag and especially to our authors for their co-operation, contribution, comments and reviews.

Rostock, Autumn 2001

Ulrich Schiewer and Gerald Schernewski

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