

News from SLU Water Forum. We bring together water-related education, research and environmental monitoring and assessment at SLU.

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Newsletter

SLU Water Forum

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Hi!

The summer holidays are now over for most of us, and life is slowly returning to normal, except that we are still limited by the corona pandemic. It has been about a year since I took over as coordinator for SLU Water Forum, and therefore I think it's due time for a newsletter summarizing what has happened and what is going on within the forum.

As usual, time flies furiously fast, but I have learned a lot about our great work and knowledge concerning water at SLU. Many thanks to everyone for your involvement in SLU Water Forum so far, it makes life as a water coordinator much easier!

Water is always a top topic on the national and international agenda, not least because of the attention given both in the political discussion and in media. My hope is therefore that SLU Water Forum will contribute to increase the collaboration on water at SLU, preferably with a transdisciplinary focus, and that our research, environmental analysis, education and collaboration facilitate the transition to a society in line with the global sustainability goals leading to reduced impact on ecosystems and climate. Please take a look at Kevin Bishop's [blog](#) in connection to the World Water Day about how SLU:s water work, among other things, contributes to achieving the global sustainability goals. Learn more about [SLU Water Forum](#).

Jens Olsson, coordinator for SLU Water Forum

Activities of SLU Water Forum during the past year

As all other activities at SLU, the work within SLU Water Forum has been affected by the corona pandemic. We are nevertheless active, and during the past year we have created a coordination group for water issues at SLU which we call "WaterCOG". Here water-focused departments, platforms and research groups at SLU are represented. The purpose of WaterCOG is to create a smaller group of people that can support the coordinator in strategic and operational issues. [Here](#) you can see the people currently in WaterCOG, and take part of notes from the meetings held within the group.

SLU Water Forum participated with a poster at "Vattendagarna" in Västerås in the fall of 2019. We also had a visit from a delegation from the Sichuan Province in China, provided input to SLU:s upcoming strategy from a water perspective, and initiated a dialogue with Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) on possible future collaborations. This spring, we recruited Lisa Beste for communication support within SLU Water Forum. After the summer, SLU participated in this year's [World Water Week At Home](#), and produced a [news post](#) about SLU:s work related to the Baltic Sea during the Baltic Sea Day on the 27th August. Additional news and events are listed below.

If you want more information about the activity within SLU Water Forum, please take a look at the [activity reports](#).

If you want to contribute to upcoming newsletters, contact SLU Water Forum at water@slu.se.

Feel free to go visit [SLU Water Forum's website](#) for regular news updates, or follow us on Twitter, @SLUwater.



[Successful news drive during World Water Day](#)

Despite that all physical events were canceled due to the corona pandemic, SLU Water Forum launched a news drive during the days around World Water Day, March 22. During the days of this news drive, the attention on SLU:s Facebook page increased from just over 5,000 to just over 22,000 people/day, and on SLU:s central Twitter account from around 2,000 to just over 7,000 views per day. Thank you all for your contribution! [Read more ...](#)

[Collaboration on water with Uppsala municipality](#)

In February 2020, SLU signed a collaboration agreement with Uppsala municipality for the years 2020-2022. A focal area within the agreement focuses on "integrated water resource management and aquatic ecosystems" in order to create synergies between the municipality's work and SLU:s research. An activity-plan for the collaboration with the focal area has been outlined between SLU, Uppsala municipality and Uppsala vatten och avfall AB. [Read more ...](#) (in Swedish).



[Proposal from Formas: a national research program on sea and water](#)

Formas proposes a new national research program on sea and water. [Read more](#) (in Swedish) for a detailed suggestion and justification for the proposal.



[New center for hydropower, environment and society](#)

The S- and NJ faculties have decided to establish a faculty-wide center for hydropower, environment and society. Kjell Leonardsson (Department of wildlife, fish and environmental studies) has been appointed acting director and Erik Petersson (Department of aquatic resources) as deputy director. Contact: [Kjell Leonardsson](#).



[Four pilot projects on water are granted "seed-money"](#)

In the spring of 2020, SLU Water Forum launched a call on "seed-money" for projects aiming at increasing collaboration on water at SLU. In focus for the call was projects that potentially could increase transdisciplinary collaboration at SLU, and at the same time increase the chances for attracting external funding in the future. Of the seven project proposals submitted, four were



[Baltic Sea Science Center at Skansen](#)

More than 700,000 people have visited Baltic Sea Science Center (BSSC) since the opening of the exhibition in April 2019. SLU together with Stockholm University serves as knowledge guarantors for the content of the exhibition, and SLU is also responsible for collecting the fish in the aquaria of the exhibition. Over the past year, we have focused our activities at BSSC on

granted funding: 1) Internal SLU Symposium on: Future perspectives on Source-to-Sea, 2) Fiskhälsa i fokus, 3) Kan läkemedel i Östersjön bidra till torskens dåliga kondition? and 4) Innovative water purification technology for peri- and polyflouroalkyl substances in drinking water.

updating its content, delivered a model of [R/V Svea](#) to the exhibition, marketed Baltic Sea-related education at SLU and SU, participated in the first "thematic days" at BSSC focusing on "What is the status of the Baltic Sea", developed a station for citizen science related to the Common murre nest on Stora Karlsö, and developed a station in the exhibition that displays recent research news from SLU and SU. We additionally participated in this year's Sci-Fest in Uppsala where R/V Svea and BSSC was showcased for the visiting students. [Read more ...](#)

Coming activities within SLU Water Forum

Collaboration with Uppsala municipality on integrated water resource management and aquatic ecosystems

During October, the first dialogue meetings on future collaboration will be held between researchers at SLU, Uppsala municipality and Uppsala vatten och avfall AB. The five planned dialogue meetings will focus on 1) Sustainable drinking water supply, 2) Future water and sewage system, 3) Sustainable water resource management in local catchment areas, 4) Techniques for stormwater treatment and 5) Management of flood risks from rural to urban areas.

Survey of knowledge-needs on water at SLU

To strengthen cooperation at SLU, raise important water issues and inform potential financiers and stakeholders, we are performing an analysis of future knowledge needs about water related to current and future challenges for the environment and society.

Do you want to contribute to the survey? Send your contribution to water@slu.se.

Collaboration with Uppsala University on water

To better integrate their research across disciplines, Uppsala University has taken the initiative [Uppsala University Sustainable Initiatives \(UUSI\)](#). One of the focus areas for UUSI is water and more specifically groundwater, contaminants in water, and water conflicts. UUSI is very interested in collaborating with SLU to enable joint research initiatives and applications. Contact water@slu.se if you want to know more about this or make contacts within the framework of UUSI.

Thematic days at Baltic Sea Science Center

If the corona pandemic allows, SLU will, together with Skansen, Stockholm university and Stockholm vatten och avfall AB, organize the second thematic days at BSSC during the fall (week 48) with a focus on the future Baltic Sea. Read more and please contact water@slu.se if you want to know more or participate in the theme days.

Policy briefs on water

Marine and coastal fisheries in a development context

<https://www.slu.se/en/ew-news/2020/5/policy-briefmarine-and-coastal-fisheries/>

Hazardous substances in drinking water (in Swedish)

<https://www.slu.se/centrumbildningar-och-projekt/futurefood/publikationer/policy-briefs/halsofarliga-kemikalier-i-dricksvatten/>

Fish welfare and sustainable food production (in Swedish)

<https://www.slu.se/centrumbildningar-och-projekt/futurefood/publikationer/policy-briefs/fiskvalfard-och-hallbar-matproduktion/>

Publications

Every year, SLU is publishing several hundreds of scientific articles on water in international and peer-reviewed journals. This trend seems stable also in 2020. Here are a few selected examples of recently published articles on water with SLU affiliation.

[*Spatial and seasonal trends of organic micropollutants in Sweden's most important drinking water reservoir*](#)

By Rehl et al. in Chemosphere 2020

[Effects of climate and land-use changes on fish catches across lakes at a global scale](#)

By Kao et al. in Nature Communications 2020

[The Net Landscape Carbon Balance-Integrating terrestrial and aquatic carbon fluxes in a managed boreal forest landscape in Sweden](#)

By Chi et al. in Global Change Biology 2020

[Ocean acidification does not impair the behaviour of coral reef fishes](#)

By Clark et al. in Nature 2020

[Carbamazepine Ozonation Byproducts: Toxicity in Zebrafish \(Danio rerio\) Embryos and Chemical Stability](#)

By Pohl et al. in Environmental Science and Technology 2020

[Particulate phosphorus and suspended solids losses from small agricultural catchments: Links to stream and catchment characteristics](#)

By Sandström et al. in Science of the Total Environment 2020

Do you want to know more about how SLU:s research contributes to Agenda 2030 and the UN's sustainability goals for marine and marine resources? [Take part of the summary here](#) (in Swedish).

[Events and conferences](#)

On the [SLU Water Forum webpage](#) you find a calendar for upcoming events. If you would like to add something here, please contact water@slu.se.

[Recent PhD-theses](#)

[Temperature- and body size scaling: effects on individuals, populations and food webs](#) by Max Lindmark at the Department of aquatic resources.

[Soil Erosion and Mass Movement in Agricultural Drainage Ditches](#) by Daniel Avilés at the Department of soil and environment.

[Size-dependent predator-prey interactions, distribution and mortality in salmon: effects on individuals and populations](#) by Philip Jacobsson at the Department of aquatic resources.

[Coming PhD-dissertations](#)

Rene van Dorst at the Department of aquatic resources: *Warmer and browner waters: fish response vary with size, sex, and species* on [the 4th of September](#).

Baoling Wang at the Department of aquatic sciences and assessments: *Mercury methylation in boreal peatlands: Influence of geochemistry and biology* on [the 11th of September](#).