

Activity report SLU Water Forum 2021-05-22 - 2021-09-20

Below follows a summary of the activities and work within SLU Water Forum between late May and mid September 2021. After this there is a short outlook on future plans and activities of the forum.

Havs- och vattenforum

25-26/5. The conference focused on *Future fisheries and sustainable oceans, water resource management, knowledge and digitalization* and provided valuable information regarding priorities, strategies and plans for Swedish water authorities, including presentations from ongoing initiatives and research projects. An observation is that SLU's footprint and engagement in the conference could be more significant in the future.

Spring 2021-meeting WaterCOG

1/6. The meeting focused on the knowledge needs on water at SLU, as well as how to foster future internal cooperation and create consortia for upcoming research calls. WaterCOG suggested that the existing summary of knowledge needs on water at SLU is not comprehensive enough for future action (scientific publications and reports), but should rather be used as the basis for an open digital and popular science-oriented seminar series on water at SLU. The meeting also discussed the upcoming call from the Swedish EPA on "Multifunctional landscapes" and future financial support for SLU Water Forum. See the notes from the meeting for more information (<https://internt.slu.se/globalassets/mw/riktade/vattenforum-internt/watercog/minnesanteckningar/anteckningar-watercog-2021-06-01.pdf>).

Formas world-ocean day

8/6. Formas arranged a shorter webinar (<https://formas.se/analys-och-resultat/seminarier/2021-06-15-varldshavsdagen.html>) focusing on the Swedish commitments for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Meeting SMI at SLU

11/6. The sixth meeting with the internal group for coordination of SLU's work related to SMI (Smartare miljöinformation). At the meeting it was decided that Jens Olsson will be replaced in the group by someone else representing aspects of monitoring and assessment related to water at SLU.

Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun

1/7. The research proposal *Rest till Bäst - Biokol som lösning och produkt i det cirkulära och klimatpositiva samhället* as partly developed within

”Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun” was granted funding from Vinnova during 2021-2023. Researchers from the departments of Biosystems and Technology, Energy and Technology, and Aquatic Sciences and Assessment is part of the funded application.

Films on water at SLU

June-August. To further highlight and showcase SLU’s research on water, a web page (<https://www.slu.se/en/Collaborative-Centres-and-Projects/slu-water-forum/videos-about-water/>) hosting films with water research was created on the SLU Water Forum web.

SLU Water Forum at World Water Week 2021

25/8. Eleven senior- and junior researchers and students from SLU Water Forum arranged a session “*SLU’s sustainable solutions on water management from source to sea*”

(<https://worldwaterweek.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/aeyeRXuZGYgcsRJP5>

) at the 2021 digital edition of the World Water Week. More than 90 people from all over the world attended the session. A recorded version of the session can be viewed at Youtube

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXOAsfjNSlg&feature=youtu.be>).

Baltic Sea Day 2021

26/8. SLU Water Forum highlighted the Baltic Sea Day by publishing an interview with professor Anna Gårdmark from the Department of Aquatic Resources

(<https://www.slu.se/ew-nyheter/2021/8/ostersjodagen-2021/>), and co-arranging a

seminar at Skansen, focusing on sustainable food production in the Baltic Sea

region (<https://itameripaiva.fi/sv/garningar/ostersjodagen-pa-skansen/>). SLU Water

Forum was also extra active in social media this day.

Örjan Östman (lecturer at the Department of Aquatic Resources) and Anders Kiessling (professor at SLU Aquaculture) gave presentations during the seminar at Skansen. The event was moderated by Annsofie Wahlström (SLU Future food).

Statistics from Twitter revealed that tweets from @SLUwater (SLU Water Forums twitter-account) were viewed over 5 700 times during the 26/8 as compared to on average 550 views per day during the last 28 days, and approximately 3 000 views during the Baltic Sea Day in 2020.

New contract for collaboration at Baltic Sea Science Center

Spring-summer. Jens Olsson participated in a meeting with Samverkansrådet at

SLU on the 30/8 to discuss a new contract for collaboration between SLU,

Stockholm University and Skansen at the Baltic Sea Science Center (Skansen)

during coming years. Samverkansrådet supported a continuation and a new

contract. Rektors Ledningsråd will soon decide on the resource allocation from

SLU for future collaboration. The funding for collaboration at the Baltic Sea

Science Center have also covered the costs for the operation of SLU Water Forum

during recent years.

Linnédagarna at Baltic Sea Science Center

31/8. Stefan Skoglund and Jens Olsson (both Department of Aquatic Resources)

participated with presentations for 50 invited biology students (second grade at

high school) during Linnédagarna 2021 (<https://biologilararna.se/linnedagarna/linnedagarna-2021/>), held at the Baltic Sea Science Center (Skansen). The presentations included the state of the Baltic Sea, how to become a researcher, as well as showcasing water related work at SLU (research, educational programs and courses).

Letter of support SLU Water Forum

June-August. WaterCOG developed a letter to support central funding for SLU Water Forum beyond 2021 (Appendix 1). The letter was signed by the heads of six departments working with water at SLU, and submitted to Rektors Ledningsråd.

News feed and Twitter

May-September. From 22/5 to 21/9, 39 news/press-releases related to water at SLU has been posted in the news feed at the SLU Water Forum web. These posts and other relevant issues on water related to SLU have routinely also been posted at SLU Water Forum's Twitter account (@SLUwater).

Information on water related funding opportunities and events

April-May. During this period, four e-mails on upcoming funding opportunities and events related to water have been distributed to the SLU Water Forum mailing list.

Plans/activities during fall 2021

Third newsletter from SLU Water Forum

Will be released in late September and aim to summarize the activities within SLU Water Forum during spring and summer 2021.

Samverkansforum SLU och Uppsala kommun

Fall 2021. Following a period of low activity, the collaboration between SLU and Uppsala kommun on integrated water resource management is anticipated to be revitalized. The first step in this process is a meeting on the 27/9 between the coordinators for the collaboration at Uppsala kommun and Uppsala vatten och avfall, and the coordinator for SLU Water Forum.

Call from Mistra *Blue economy*

October, Mistra will open a call for a research program on Blue economy (<https://www.mistra.org/nyhet/hallbar-bla-ekonomi-fokus-for-ny-utlysning/>) including improved environmental conditions and improved resilience in Swedish marine waters. SLU Water Forum will aim at establishing a consortium that can develop a competitive proposal for the call.

Digital seminar series on water

Together with a few key persons in WaterCOG, we will start planning an open, digital and popular science-oriented seminar series focusing on showcasing the expertise and knowledge on water at SLU. The first seminars are anticipated to be held during late fall 2021.

Meeting WaterCOG

November-December. The fall 2021 meeting with WaterCOG will tentatively focus on how to strengthen education on water at SLU.

2nd SLU seminar on water

25-26/1 2022. As a follow up of the SLU-internal seminar on water in mid February 2021, we plan a second seminar in late January 2022. The seminar will focus on younger researchers and have the preliminary title “*Future water research at SLU – a seminar on perspectives from younger scholars*”. We plan for a physical seminar with possibilities to participate via video during two half days including a poster/mingle session in the evening of the first day of the seminar.

SLU Water Forum on Wikipedia

As a “low-hanging fruit” for branding and showcasing the expertise on water at SLU, we plan to encourage experts within SLU Water Forum to contribute with texts and literature to relevant subjects on water at Wikipedia during fall 2021.

Additional plans/activities if feasible

Publication-record SLU Water Forum

List of publications from people included in the SLU Water Forum mailing list. Following this, the selected publications will be visualized and communicated both internally and externally to highlight water related research at SLU.

List of “water-experts” at SLU

A list of experts on water at SLU to be displayed on the Water Forum web are planned. The current list of “Baltic Sea-experts” at SLU (<https://www.slu.se/om-slu/pressrum/ostersjoexperter-slu/>) will serve as the basis for the “water-expert” list.

Outline and structure of the SLU Water Forum web

Update of the web to make it more accessible, structured and informative.