

Wilfried Gunkel

Biologische Anstalt Helgoland (Zentrale); Notkestr. 31, D-22607 Hamburg, Germany

CLOSING ADDRESS

Dear Colleagues,

Our Symposium has come to an end! Six days of hard work, interesting discussions, worthwhile meetings, and some parties, are over; 470 scientists from 36 nations participated. We learned about the beginning of the activities of marine stations and ideas about their intended work. Papers were presented on current work in the Wadden Sea, the German Bight, and in other parts of the world, both in the laboratory and in the field.

We heard papers on ecophysiology, and research programmes, as well as on applied modern methods, such as molecular biology. We were informed about the results in ecosystem research, early-warning systems and monitoring. We discussed some further needs of research. You saw visiting research-ships and made excursions. A highlight of the Symposium was its opening by the Minister for Research and Technology, Dr. Riesenhuber, and the introductory speech by Prof. Banse from Seattle; also the lectures from this morning.

It is difficult to pick out other highlights: there were so many. I personally was especially impressed by the papers of Jannasch and Reise.

The most important, however, were the personal meetings. The meeting with old colleagues and new ones, who were here for the first time. Let us strengthen these contacts and the exchange of ideas.

This Symposium clearly showed the urgent need to increase the work with regards to long-term series, the research in vulnerable areas like the Wadden Sea, but definitely also in special areas of basic research. It further showed the necessity to increase the number and size of protected areas and research in order to be able to introduce early-warning systems. It showed that it is necessary to reduce, and omit, the introduction of anthropogenic poisonous substances. It demonstrated the responsibility of the scientist to society.

I thank you all, who have come from far and near and helped to make this Symposium a success.

I herewith close the Symposium, "The challenge to marine biology in a changing world", and wish all participants a safe journey home – and please come back!