

Towards transdisciplinary research supporting healthy ocean, healthy people and a sustainable economy

Prof. Jana Asselman, Deputy Director Marine@UGent, Belgium

In this presentation, Prof. Asselman focuses on the critical intersection of ocean health and human well-being. Highlighting the importance of coastal regions, where 40% of the global population resides, the presentation underscores the significant ecosystem services provided by the ocean and the growing pressures it faces due to human activities, such as climate change and pollution.

She highlights the role of Marine@UGent in pioneering transdisciplinary research to address these challenges. Emphasizing collaboration across various fields—ranging from marine biotechnology and environmental sciences to law and health sciences—Marine@UGent aims to develop sustainable solutions that balance ocean conservation with economic growth. Prof. Asselman specifically illustrated this approach using research on marine aerosols and its impact both on climate and health, highlighting the intricate connections between oceanic processes and human health.

In conclusion, Marine@UGent advocates for a reinforced interaction between humans and the oceans, fostering innovative research-driven solutions that support a sustainable future for both marine environments and global populations. Prof. Asselman encourages collaboration through Marine@UGent to further these goals, highlighting the initiative's potential to make significant contributions to the global effort in sustaining ocean health and the well-being of coastal communities.