

Marine Centre – for a better Baltic Sea



Marine Centre



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Simrishamn – a marine centre

The Baltic Sea, one of the world's most sensitive waters, faces great challenges. To meet these challenges it is necessary to create a shared approach and a common agenda. Simrishamn Municipality wants to take its share of responsibility for the Baltic's environment and contribute to improvements. One element in these efforts is the founding of a Marine Centre.

The Baltic Sea is a prioritised issue, both in Sweden and the EU. A better marine environment and positive developments for the Baltic Sea require national efforts and international cooperation, as well as active commitment on a regional and local level. Simrishamn Municipality considers a local, bottom-up perspective essential as a complement to other initiatives. The Municipality wants to take its share of responsibility for the Baltic environment and participate in measures for improvement.

A clean sea is a prerequisite for a dynamic Baltic region. The aim is to strive for a clean sea in ecological balance, with continued commercial fishing, safe shipping and healthy waters for future generations. The foundation of a Marine Centre is part of the Municipality's work for an improved Baltic Sea environment.

Simrishamn and the region Österlen offer unique conditions for this. It is an area that by tradition has great marine

knowledge and a great commitment to the sea. The municipality has 50 kilometres of coastline, mainly consisting of beautiful sandy beaches, and several picturesque fishing villages. Simrishamn Municipality, with nearly 20,000 inhabitants, is a very attractive tourist destination with approximately two million visitors each year. Simrishamn also has Sweden's largest fishing harbour. Simrishamn is also close to international transport links, universities and high-tech companies. In addition, Simrishamn has a strategic location in the southern Baltic Sea region.



Marine Centre – for the Baltic's future

During the period 1 October 2008-30 September 2009 a preliminary study is being carried out to determine the future content of the Marine Centre and put together an action plan for its establishment. The analysis work includes interviews, workshops, field trips, investigation of financing possibilities etc. The work on concept development and identifying the Marine Centre's aims is based on the following points:

- The Marine Centre will be an international meeting place focusing on the Baltic Sea's environmental situation – an arena for dialogue between researchers, decision makers, the business community, organisations, entrepreneurs and other Baltic stakeholders. In view of commercial fishing's leading role in Simrishamn, the sustainability of the Baltic fisheries is a prioritised issue.
- The Marine Centre will link together research, innovations and the business community by initiatives such as providing space for companies in related fields, instigating temporary research and field study activities, science in

Our vision is to create a meeting place with information, expertise, knowledge, enterprise, culture and experiences linked to the Baltic's marine environment.

residence etc. The aim is that the Marine Centre shall function as an expertise cluster and a growth engine that generates new companies and increased job opportunities in the region.

- The Marine Centre will work to communicate research in the marine field and make it accessible to the public, through exhibitions and aquaria, as one way of creating a greater commitment to the future of the Baltic Sea. By being a site for science-based education activities and experiences that attract a wide audience, the Marine Centre will fulfil an educational role as well. All these activities are clearly linked to the further development of the tourism industry – year-round – in the Österlen region.

- The Marine Centre will act as a meeting place and arena for activities such as cultural events, conferences and lectures etc. The Marine Centre will thus offer a wide range of activities and become an interdisciplinary hub and venue for various events in the region.



2009 – an eventful year for the Marine Centre

Sea Voyage 2009 – Simrishamn's marine heritage

The seabed off Simrishamn's coast is relatively uncharted. Between 4-17 May, the seabed environment in this area will be mapped and catalogued. A seminar will be held on 14 May for guests including representatives from coastal municipalities. Parties involved in the project include the University of Lund/Lund Institute of Technology, the Coast Guard, Malmö Museums, Swedish Administration of Shipping and Navigation, Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and a large number of companies in marine environmental technology.

Bio-inspired Forum

How can we experience and learn from nature? The future's architecture, design, products and processes will need to incorporate a deeper understanding of nature's principles. A seminar and exhibition will be arranged in August on the theme of how nature can inspire art, design, architecture and entrepreneurship. Students from the Royal Institute of Technology's School of Architecture and the AA School of Architecture in London will present their conceptual models and ideas for a Marine Centre. In addition, students from Art, Culture and Communication at Malmö University will present their degree projects on how interaction design can be used to create commitment for the environment, and how research in the natural sciences can be presented in an exciting and accessible way. Furthermore, it is hoped to arrange workshops in cooperation with Region Skåne's design initiative within the MINC

framework. We are also planning to invite the American project AskNature – a place where biology and design inspire each other.

Pilot project for aeration of the Baltic

Simrishamn Municipality is planning a project with The Swedish Environmental Research Institute and The Royal Institute of Technology to investigate the potential of wave-energized aeration to counteract hypoxia in the Baltic. The project, which includes the building of a pilot plant off Simrishamn, is expected to start in January 2010. A seminar to be held in Simrishamn this September will present and discuss the project.

Conference on sustainable fisheries

Simrishamn Municipality will arrange a conference on 15-16 October on sustainable fishing and long-term management of marine resources. The aim is to create a forum for discussing the future development of Baltic fishing. It is hoped the conference will bring together researchers, authorities, fishermen, environmental organisations etc. and create a foundation for future communication and cooperation. Part of the conference will be devoted to selective fishing equipment and establishing a project on this subject.

Fishery Area

Simrishamn Municipality, along with the municipalities of Ystad, Kristianstad and Sölvesborg, is preparing the creation of a Fishery Area, which will administer support from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) for local projects. The aim is to find new possibilities in the Fishery Area, including the creation of new job opportunities, both within and outside the fishing sector. One of the main priorities will be the promotion of diversified activities within the fishing business, including development of fishing-related tourism. Activities start in the autumn of 2009.

Simrishamn Municipality's representatives in the Marine Centre: Head of the Project, Municipal Chief Executive Officer, Staffan Tellman; Director of Ports and KIMO-Coordinator, Jan Lundmark; Business Developer, Lars Persson and Project Coordinator Marine Centre, Madeleine Lundin.



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