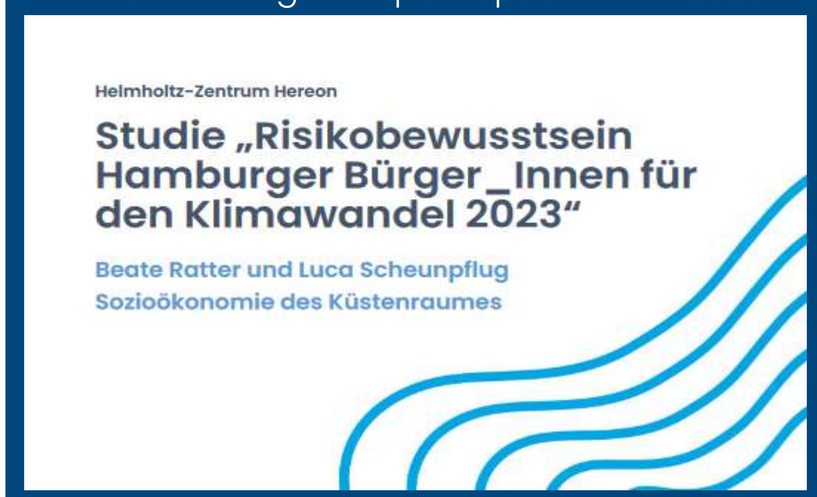
Human Dimensions of Coastal Areas (KSO)

Research Overview

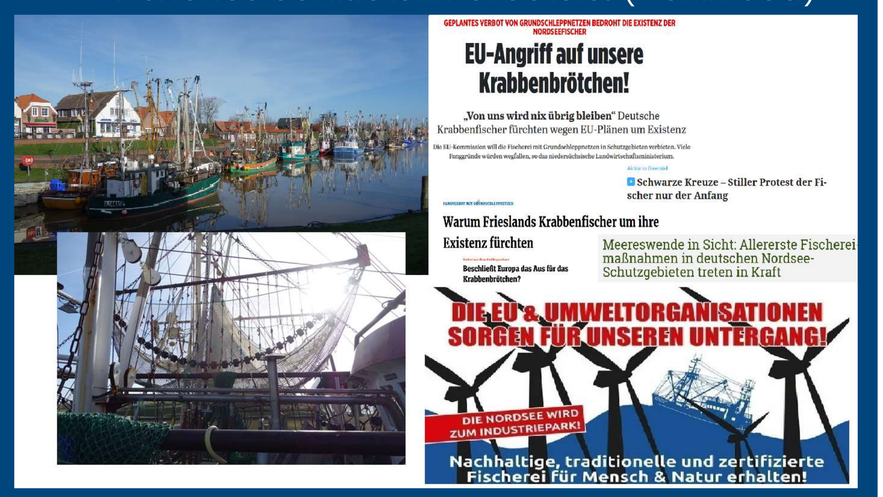
Helmholtz-Zentrum hereon

Climate change risk perception in HH 2023



Parlamentarisches Frühstück/Breakfast with members of national parliament

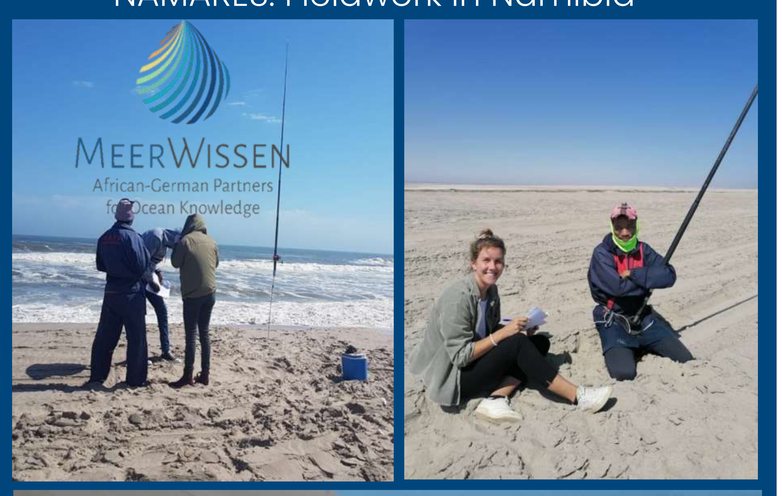
Fisheries conflicts in Greetsiel (North Sea)



Sustainmare MTC 2023

KlimaFit Symposium Berlin (© Bernd Lammel)

NAMARES: Fieldwork in Namibia



Critical analysis of coastal and marine governance

Can integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning act as enablers of sustainable development and just transformation?

Integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning aim to facilitate a multi-sectoral approach to ocean governance. Both are based on stakeholder participation and dialogue. But are these dialogues really participatory approaches to managing marine and coastal spaces? Are these approaches successful, and to what degree can they promote just transitions within society?

Saunders, F., Gilek, M., Ikauniece, A., Tafon, R.V., Gee, K., & Zaucha, J. (2020): Theorizing Social Sustainability and Justice in Marine Spatial Planning: Democracy, Diversity, and Equity. Sustainability 2020, 12(6), 2560, doi:10.3390/su12062560

Collaborative understanding and dealing with ecological and societal change

How do actors see climate change and marine use challenges, and where are actionable (policy) intervention points in social-ecological systems?

In examining drivers of conflicts and opportunities for synergies (e.g. offshore wind), we work with stakeholders to analyse socio-ecological systems and the risks that may be associated with different forms of change. We use a co-design approach and methods like the bowtie approach to highlight cause and effect pathways and to identify suitable intervention points. We have applied this approach in the context of sustainable livelihoods in Namibia, the tidal Elbe and for fisheries on the German North Sea coast.

Cormier, R., and Kannen, A. (2019): Managing risk through marine spatial planning. Maritime Spatial Planning: past, present, future. 10.1007/978-3-319-98696-8_15

Adaptive capacities of actors and societies in times of rapid change

How do values, risks and vulnerabilities contribute to resilience in a changing world?

Our research focuses on the social dimensions of adaptive capacity, for example of German coastal fishers. In times of climate change, increasing spatial competition, economic pressure and lack of succession, what factors can enhance the adaptive capacity of fishers and fishing communities to changing circumstances?

Lauerburg. R.A.M., Diekmann, R., Blanz, B., Gee, K., Held, H., Kannen, A., Möllmann, C., Probst, W.N., Rambo, H., Cormier, R., & Stelzenmüller, V. (2020): Socio-ecological vulnerability to tipping points: A review of empirical approaches and their use for marine management. Science of The Total Environment, Volume 705, 2020, 135838, doi:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.135838

Ongoing activities & outlook

- Analyzing multi-use strategies for increasing offshore wind and hydrogen development and science/policy dialogues with offshore users to address conflicts of use (offshore wind, conservation, fisheries)
- Reconstructing the history of integrative coastal management approaches and the issue of (re-)politicization of coastal planning in the context of just and sustainable governance
- Climate change risk perception in Hamburg (ongoing annually since 2008)

Collaboration and networks:

- ICES (SCICOM, WGMPCZM, WKOMRE), DAM (Deutsche Allianz Meeresforschung) / DAM Mission sustainMare / DAM project CoastalFutures, Strategy Group Social Sciences and Humanities of KDM (Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung)

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