

Off to future coasts - A modern education-centric concept for a marine biological station

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The Biological Station Helgoland (BAH) as part of the Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar- and Marine Research (AWI) has attracted naturalists and scientists for more than 120 years. The Wattenmeerstation (Sylt) was founded in 1924 to investigate the decline of oyster stocks. Both stations have evolved into a modern complex of laboratories with guest researcher accommodation and rooms for courses and scientific meetings.

Changing demands in research, newly established scientific working groups, re-definition of guest research interests, alignment to university courses, as well as the need to interlink with public interests and governance has led to a committal to capacity building and a modern educational concept for the BAH and the Wattenmeerstation (Sylt).

We present the concept for the German Academy of Marine Science (GAMS). The interests of the German marine scientific community, the AWI and its stations as well as the NF-POGO Centre of Excellence provide the overall scientific framework for this German Academy of Marine Science. Core scientific sectors are embedded in research and supporting services. These core sectors include university courses held at both stations. Here we present this new concept and its international linkages in marine research.