

MEER:STARK Final Event: Bridging Science and Policy- Exploring the Marine Protection and Climate Adaptation Nexus

3.-4. November 2025 – Berlin (partly hybrid)

03. November 2025, 12:15 – 17:00 Uhr, hybrid

Program Day 1: 03. November 2025	
Session 1: Understanding the Nexus between Marine Protection & Climate Adaptation	
11:30 – 12:15	Registration, welcome coffee & finger food
12:15 – 12:30	Welcome & Introduction (Nico Stelljes, Ecologic & Cordula Maguire, AquaEcology) - Opening remarks and objectives of the final workshop - Tour de table: getting to know participants and perspectives
12:30 – 13:00	Exploring the Marine Protection–Adaptation Nexus (Gregory Fuchs, Ecologic) - Overview of the MEER:STARK project and key outcomes - Introduction to nexus concepts: linking marine biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation Discussion: What does the nexus mean for policy, research, and practice?
Session 2: In-depth topics / Discussion of Recommendations	
13:00 - 14:00	Eutrophication - Presentation of MEER:STARK preliminary Recommendations (Cordula Maguire, AquaEcology) Impulse: - Stephanie Helber (UBA): Eutrophication and its impacts on the marine environment - Joel Lindholm (Under Ytan, Finland): “Combating Eutrophication, a passive or active management approach that needs to be considered in coastal protection.” Discussion & thoughts on our MEER:STARK recommendations
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:00	Ecosystem-based coastal protection - Presentation of MEER:STARK Recommendations (Nico Stelljes, Ecologic) Impulse: - Julia Strahl (BUND): “Protecting Nature for Coastal Resilience – insights from METAscales” - Giulia Costa (IUCN): “From practice to policy: Lessons for scaling up coastal ecosystem restoration for climate adaptation” (virtual) - Gonzalo Gutiérrez Goizueta (Global Program on NBS for Climate Resilience, The World Bank): “Nature-based Solutions for Beach Stabilization” (virtual) Discussion & thoughts on our MEER:STARK recommendations

16:00 – 17:00	Climate-Ready Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) ○ <i>Presentation of MEER:STARK Recommendations (Gregory Fuchs, Ecologic)</i> ○ Impulse: • <i>Franziska Drews-von Ruckteschell (Submariner): “MPA Community Network: Strengthening Impact Through Cross-European Collaboration”</i> • <i>Belinda Bramley (CLIMAZUL, MPA Europe): “Insights from the MPA Europe project”</i> ○ Discussion & thoughts on our MEER:STARK recommendations
18:00	End of the event and a get together dinner

04. November 2025, 9:00 – 13:00 Uhr, only in person

Program Day 2: 04. November 2025	
Session 3: Working Sessions on recommendations	
08:45 – 09:15	Welcome coffee
09:15 – 09:30	Summary of the first day, introduction day 2
09:30 – 10:00	Keynote: Nexus presentation ○ <i>Jannica Haldin (Helcom): “Under pressures: Baltic Sea MPAs, expectations, potential and reality”</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Working Session I – Eutrophication ○ <i>Discuss and refine the MEER:STARK recommendations on integrating eutrophication control with climate adaptation measures.</i> ○ <i>Identify policy and governance levers to strengthen coherence between water management, agriculture, and marine protection frameworks.</i> ○ <i>Explore opportunities for scaling solutions across the North and Baltic Sea.</i>
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:00	Working Session II – Ecosystem-based Coastal Protection ○ <i>Collaborative refinement of the MEER:STARK recommendations</i> ○ <i>Identify key enablers and barriers for practical implementation</i> ○ <i>Explore opportunities to scale up nature-based and hybrid solutions along the North and Baltic Sea coasts</i>
12:00 – 12:45	Working Session III – Climate-ready Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) ○ <i>Discuss the recommendations for climate-ready MPA design and management</i> ○ <i>Identify potential policy linkages (e.g. EU Ocean Pact)</i> ○ <i>Collect ideas for transfer and uptake across governance levels and sea basins</i>
12:45 – 13:00	Final Plenary: Synthesis & Next Steps ○ <i>Summary of key takeaways from all working sessions</i> ○ <i>Reflection on cross-cutting lessons for integrated marine protection and adaptation</i> ○ <i>Agreement on follow-up actions and legacy pathways for MEER:STARK</i>
13:00	End of the event and a light lunch