

Annual activity report 2014

Dear friends,

Mundus maris looks back on a year full of activities in the thankfully growing chorus of initiatives to protect the ocean. We are part of the movements for change. We like to think that the ocean is made of many drops flowing together. We worked on listening also to what the ocean is telling us and to those voices too often drowned out. We engaged in developing and sharing new stories that blend different sources of knowledge and making sense of the world. We created spaces for conversations that matter. We experienced the beauty of learning more about the sea and from the sea and practising solidarity. Our website lets you join, all you need to do is click here.

Our work developed against the backdrop of development at scales from local to global. Sure enough, the EU Common Fisheries Policy reform entered into force making overfishing unlawful. A growing number of projects and initiatives celebrated World Oceans Day 2014. Huge crowds participated in the Global Climate March on 21 September pleading for a breakthrough in negotiations for a global climate treaty. Yet, it's been a difficult year in terms of protecting the ocean, the climate, decent living conditions for all fellow travellers on our Spaceship Earth. The politics are not yet on a track for living within the

regeneration capacity of our planet.

Enforcement of existing rules and agreements is not for granted and remains a major challenge as we can see in many marine protected areas. They should be a big bank account for rebuilding or even increasing the natural "capital". The more fish in the ocean, the larger is the "interest" we can safely harvest. But poaching is widespread, if not the norm.

Under conditions of still growing inequality and that sort of free riding, existing rights and responsibilities will only be upheld with active engagement of many more citizens. All eyes are on Paris end 2015 for a climate agreement keeping us below 2 degrees warming – that means a break with current trends projecting us into uncharted territories of 4 degrees or more. Protecting the ocean is protecting our climate. Getting a specific Objective about the Ocean into the Post-2015 Development Goals is still not a foregone conclusion, though promoted by several initiatives, including the World Ocean Commission.

We seize the opportunity to express our gratitude to all supporters for their help and collaboration to make these activities happen. Please continue volunteering and donating also in 2015.

The General Assembly elected a new Board composed of:

President: Dr Cornelia E Nauen, marine ecologist from Europe

Vice-President: Prof. Stella Williams, agricultural economist from Nigeria

Vice-President: Dr. Aliou Sall, socio-anthropologist with specialisation in fisheries from Senegal

Secretary General: Ms. Margereth Hammer, Dipl in political science and anthropology, Germany

Treasurer: Ms. Marianne Braun-Richter, Dipl. in sociology from Europe

Member: Ms. Maria del Carmen Patricia Morales, Dipl. in philosophy and ethics from Argentina

Here is a flavour of things to come: We are about to launch of an invitation to celebrate World Oceans Day 2015 together. We shall continue investing in people and institutions to strengthen our collective capabilities to listen to one another and act together. The task is to construct the knowledges, attitudes and values needed to adopt an “operating system 2.0” concerned not primarily with immediate grabbing at the expense of others, but with trusting and caring for others. Join us on the journey in 2015! We’d love to hear from you at info@mundusmaris.org.

Cornelia E. Nauen and the entire *Mundus maris* team

Highlights from different places and activities unfolding throughout the year

Course at the University of Uppsala, Sweden

What better start into project implementation than teaching a course module on “Sustainability and Change” at the University of Uppsala. The course “Actors & Strategies for Change – Towards Global Sustainabilities” for bachelor students with diverse study backgrounds appealed to some 50 students from four continents. Delivered by Stella Williams and Cornelia E Nauen through distance teaching, the module was enriched by lively interaction with the students. It was lovely to feel the energy and creativity. Congrats to the students and course organisers. An example ready to emulate and which you can read more about [here](#).



Participants at the University of Uppsala

Support for the “Inseparable” campaign event in Athens, Greece, 17 March

Now that the reform of the European Common Fisheries Policy has been agreed by the

institutions, the emphasis is shifting towards implementation. Maria Damanaki, Commissioner in charge of this portfolio until September 2014 knew it is about winning the hearts and minds of citizens, not just administrative rules. She wanted to create the conditions and to develop the moral purpose and the values necessary to take us collectively out of the crisis and onto a path of rebuilding, healing and enjoying again the beauty and wealth of the oceans and seas. The reform is pointing in the right direction. But it has some weaknesses, which can best be addressed through broad-based critical engagement of citizens. After all, who ‘owns’ the fish, if not the public, which needs to exercise stronger stewardship, making better use of research results and working across the spectrum to find robust solutions to the current crisis.



Kids grab info materials and MM fish rulers at the FishBase stand at the Inseparable event in Athens (courtesy Mairi Maniopolou)

This is why she hosted an event in Athens on March 17 seeking to engage citizens to “Let the juveniles become parents”. The event was part of the new pan-European campaign ‘Inseparable’, which aims at raising awareness on sustainable

practices of fishing, consuming and trading. It should also build even wider public support for implementing the reformed Common Fisheries Policy. *Mundus maris* contributed fish rulers in Greek indicating minimum sizes at which popular fish can reproduce. Our well-known baby fish book marks in Greek were also widely distributed encouraging people to use such web resources as FishBase, SealifeBase and *Mundus maris*. Read the full article [here](#).

Campus Plein Sud at the ULB, Brussels, Belgium



MEP Isabella Lövin during the lunch debate

We had a particularly interesting mix of contributions to Campus Plein Sud at the Free University of Brussels (ULB). The Lunch debate convened in collaboration with the Vice-Rector for International Relations of the ULB and SEDIF on “The international dimension of the implementation of the reform of the European Common Fisheries Policy”, Tuesday, 18 March, featured Isabella Lövin, Green MEP from Sweden, together with representatives from the

Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and the University, and Aliou Sall, Vice-President of *Mundus maris*. Participation in the NGO Forum and delivering the traditional Open Course were other much appreciated contributions. **Read more.**

Spaceship Earth – International Roundtable at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the UBC, Vancouver, Canada, 5 to 9 May 2014



World Café style conversations to dig deeper into key questions

Deliberately adopting an unconventional format for the gathering, we used art of hosting methods to create an especially productive space for

scholars, artists and practitioners. This allowed to discover together what was already known in the different fields and then go beyond for creating new insights and action lines. We premised the roundtable on the recognition that we need to bring about change, but need to tell new stories and look for new ways leading to sustainable

living with the ocean:

How do we live within the reproductive boundaries of our Blue Planet? It can be done! We therefore need to consider different ways of doing and being.

Prof. Rashid Sumaila, Director of the Fisheries Economics Unit at UBC, Vancouver; Dr. Cornelia E. Nauen, President of *Mundus maris* – Sciences and Arts for Sustainability, Belgium; and Assoc. Prof. Sarah K. Meltzoff of the Rosenstiel School of the Univ. of Miami convened the International Roundtable. We enjoyed the generous support by the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS).

We are now working on a book invited by science editor Springer to share this unique experience with others, who were not able to join. To make the book open access, we still need to raise approximately US\$ 10,000 and looking for support.

A **summary** of these five passionate days is on the websites of PWIAS and *MM*.



Spaceshipers pose for group photo on day 2

World Oceans Day, every day in Hann, Senegal

Mundus maris supported a series of sports and cultural activities in Hann, Senegal, to be part of the celebrations of World Oceans Day by addressing some very real, local challenges e.g. the pollution of the once beautiful Bay of Hann. A network of 23 organisations including 15 sports and cultural associations (ASC) started their own programme in May. The **programme** consisted of soccer and wrestling tournaments, beach cleaning and strengthening social organisation within the popular neighbourhoods.

As a corollary of working with the local associations in a sustained way over several months, the local *Mundus maris* team led by Aliou Sall noted that a number of teenagers were out of school because they did not have their papers in order. Abdoulaye Fall coordinated three collection points in September/October, which recorded 138 “cases”. In an initial effort, a dozen kids (9 girls) could get their papers sorted out and continue school in the new year. You will find more information about this activity on the **website**.

Conversation with the Ocean, World Oceans Day Celebration in Brussels, 11 June 2014

Under the auspices of Mrs. Maria Damanaki, Member of the European Commission in charge of Maritime Affairs, *Mundus maris* had invited schools and youth groups to submit a video or Pecha Kucha story to celebrate **World Oceans Day 2014** together. The initiative was also supported by FARNET, the Communication Group of the European Marine

Board and underwater videographer Danny van Belle. Danny also presided over the jury selecting the most interesting contributions. The celebration appealed to all senses: some good food and drinks, the solo exhibition by visual artist Irina Oancea and excellent music by the duo Béatrice Rentmeister (flute) and Pierre Clément Dubuisson (bassoon). In the welcoming atmosphere participants enjoyed the talks about the ocean and the award ceremony to recognise winners in the contest and other participants.



Danny van Belle hands awards to the winning team of the German International School in Brussels together with CEM Kayar, Senegal

Sustainability education meets development – *MM* at the General Conference of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), Bonn, Germany, 23-26 June

We reported on work with local partners towards greater awareness about sustainability and the linkage of institutionalised curriculum development in West Africa, carried out since the previous conference in York, in 2011. Environmental sustainability can be achieved in tune with social sustainability (e.g. food security, educational and other opportunities) and economic feasibility.

During the presentation, Margereth Hammer and Cornelia E Nauen pointed to the similarity of the principles underlying educational and development activities for different age groups, but also the need for nuanced and site-specific adaptation. The presentation concluded with proposals for action research to take the field practice to the next level. Read the article [here](#).



Margereth Hammer and Cornelia E Nauen during the presentation

Mundus maris at the FishBase Symposium in Vancouver

We were invited to give a talk at the 12th FishBase Symposium convened on 8 September in Vancouver under the catchy motto “Big Old Data for Shiny New Insights – Using FishBase in Research”. Our contribution was titled “Spaceship Earth” It focused on a summary of the International Roundtable we co-organised in May with sponsorship of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. Rashid Sumaila, Director of the Fisheries Economics Research Unit at UBC, and a principal investigator of the International Roundtable together with Sarah Meltzoff (U. of Miami) and Cornelia E. Nauen (*Mundus maris*) kindly delivered the **talk**.

YOUMARES 5.0 – Networking conference of young marine researchers

By now a well-established event, the YOUMARES conference attracted more than 100 students and young scientists from Germany and neighbouring countries in the beautiful setting of the Ozeaneum in Stralsund on the Baltic coast in Germany. The conference proper was preceded on 10 September by a workshop on game theory as applied to fisheries. Conference session themes were, among others: Small-scale fisheries, cold water research, and tools and methods supporting an ecosystem-based approach to marine spatial planning and much else. *Mundus maris* enjoyed interacting with the young colleagues about how advances in marine science could be combined with those in other fields of knowledge and shared in critically engaged ways with non-specialists. Read all about the conference [here](#).

Global people’s march to protect our climate, 21 September in many places



Mundus maris President Cornelia E Nauen at the climate march in Rome, Italy

We actively contributed to the People’s climate march on 21 September. 2646 solidarity marches

in 162 countries all demanded a breakthrough of the gathering at the UN in New York in preparation to a series of negotiations (2014 in Lima, 2015 in Paris) of a new global agreement to save us from run-away climate change. We contributed in Buenos Aires, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Galapagos Islands, Rome... more **here**.



Mundus maris at the climate march in Cologne, Germany

Environmentally conscious consumer behaviour in food - what can you do?

We produce enough food to feed up to 10 billion people worldwide. The estimated world population is currently slightly more than 7 billion. The expected increase in population by at least

another two billion people could therefore – in principle - be fed easily. However, the global totals hide the failures in the distribution and sustainability of the production. So roughly, about one billion people are malnourished, while about one billion people are obese. Many people are also suffering from food insecurity, seasonally or year round. What to do? This **MM** talk in Brussels aimed at avoiding the greatest of all mistakes: to do nothing because you can do little. It was an invitation to everybody to do what they can to achieve a lot together. The article on the **MM** website is found **here**.

A special challenge to science: engage critically, communicate or perish

Why are lessons from early warnings in science reports so often ignored? Among the most obvious reasons is that formal risk assessments of rapid technological innovations are typically based on a narrow definition of risk. They fail to address systemic features and complex interactions. This undermines the mandatory application of precautionary principles. This prolongs harm to people and the environment. Another major reason is that individuals extract short-term benefits, usually at the expense of common goods, such as climate, pollution of the land, the air and the ocean. Prices charged then do not reflect the true production and marketing costs. Profits are privately appropriated, while costs, particularly long-term damage, are forced on the public. So, it is not enough to publish results of marine research in reports. Scientists are invited to engage critically with society, not “sit on the fence”. This was the proposition of an invited talk by **Mundus maris**' Cornelia E Nauen at the Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT)

in Bremen in November. **Click here** to read more.

Special attention to young people and schools

We want to recognize the sense of initiative and the commitment of the teachers and school principals, but also the creativity and resourcefulness of the pupils and students. They participated in initiatives led by *Mundus maris*, but more often took the initiative themselves, which we were happy to support as much as we could. We can only mention a few here, particularly those documented on the website:

- The Collège d'enseignement moyen (CEM) in Cayar and the primary school Cayar 1 respectively led by Abibou Diop and Adama Ndiaye had a field day during the visit of Macky Sall, the President of Senegal, in January. They were able to showcase their systematic teaching efforts about environmental responsibility and sustainable living and attracted much attention from the president and the media. Read more **here**.



Adama Ndiaye (l), Director of the primary school Cayar 1, illustrates pedagogical work on ocean protection to the President of Senegal, Macky Sall (r)

- The Nacka Gymnasium in Sweden invited Cornelia E Nauen to give a “pep talk” about challenges to the ocean to the winter camp of ASEAN + 3 students for the gifted in science and their Swedish hosts end January. They also wanted to know about the contest for World Oceans Day 2014 and some groups participated as a result.



Students at the pep talk at the Nacka Gymnasium

- From 4 to 8 February, Aliou Sall paid a follow-up visit to the schools in Gambia involved in the pilot activities for FAO since 2012. Ground conditions had improved meanwhile with electrification of Gunjur and Tanji, so that two additional computers provided could be put to good use.
- The CEM in Cayar also celebrated a colourful cultural day on 22 April highlighting its engagement for the sea and its interest in international cooperation. In the presence of public authorities, the registrar of the marine protected area and many others, principal Abibou Diop urged greater

awareness about the marine environment and the need for involving everybody to



Girls in traditional dress during Culture Day at the CEM in Kayar courtesy Abibou Diop

achieve the mission of preserving this common heritage. The event drew large crowds and coverage by the local radio station. **More here.**

- Duudu Ndiaye, vice principal of the Santa Yalla school in Rufisque, reported on training for a group of teachers in Rufisque through a collaboration with Nantes. This article is found **here.**
- During the European Week, on 13 May 2014, Margareth Hammer of *Mundus maris* gave an invited talk at the European School in Kerpen, near Cologne, Germany. The theme of the workshop for 25 students of the 11th grade was „Land-Sea Interactions: What the Ocean gives us.“ It triggered lots of engaged discussions which you can read **on the website.**
- Students at the International German School in Brussels have prepared projects and activities to share with the school community on their Environment Day

on 9 July. For that occasion, they invited Cornelia E Nauen of *Mundus maris* to give talks to three age groups about the ocean and the work *MM* does to save it.

End 2012 Schuman Trophy, an association of officials of the European Commission supporting development activities, donated 2000 Euro towards a cyber space for a school in Hann, Senegal. As it took time to raise the remainder of funding estimated for the original pedagogical project the originally envisaged space was no longer available. Alternatives serving more schools were discussed in 2013, but did not attract strong leadership from local promoters, so action was put on the backburner. Instead, enabling the reschooling of drop outs by supporting the proper papers for the youths in 2014 appeared to meet a sense of higher priority among the families and local associations concerned (see above). We have therefore officially informed the local partners in some way involved with the cyber space project about its closure and will seek authorisation from Schuman Trophy to reallocate resources to reschooling or take out.

We are all connected

Many feel fragilised and are concerned about expanding conflicts, social inequality, environment degradation, overfishing, pollution and climate change. Yet, ask most people about their dreams and they will paint colourful pictures of healthy seas, lands and people. What can we learn from experiences elsewhere past and present? and how to adapt such lessons to each and every place now and in the future? We have added some interesting contributions to **the website** as resources to all.

Developing a course on fisheries and sustainability with University of Belgrano, Buenos Aires

As part of the cooperation agreement with the University of Belgrano, we are contributing to the development of a new post-graduate distance learning course on fisheries and sustainability. It is to cover fisheries in a wider ecological, socio-economic and institutional context to prepare participants. Marcelo Lino Morales Yokobori is in the lead.

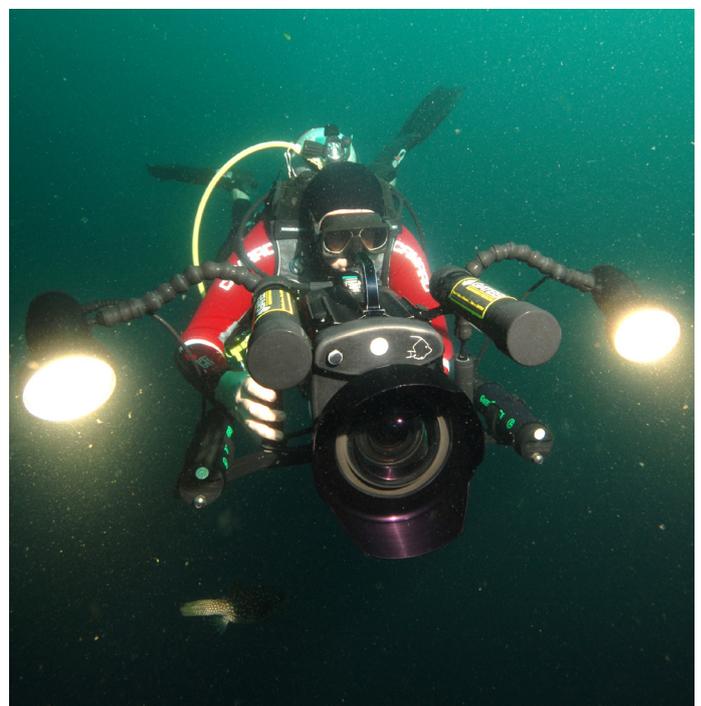
What do stakeholders say to attempts at fisheries reform in Senegal and obstacles to implementation?

We have started field research end November on perceptions and attitudes of fisherfolk and other stakeholders along the coast of Senegal about the on-going attempts of the government to reform its fisheries policy and practice. Social anthropologist Aliou Sall is in the lead. During the first interviews, the scepticism among different types of operators in the artisanal fisheries was palpable. They don't trust the process and the authorities. Should that have also something to do with what Malick Gueye, an old fisherman and community leader in Guet N'Dar, was denouncing in an earlier video-interview? That will be one of the foci for the New Year 2015. In the meanwhile **click here** to read the article.

Encounters and interviews with interesting personalities continued

We continued to interview people from different walks of life to discover their stories and

particularly what connects them to the ocean. So we started the year with an **interview** with all-round artist Oreste Baldini, following his solo exhibition "Mediterraneum" in the prestigious Trajan's markets in the historical centre of Rome. We also had the pleasure of interviewing Belgian underwater photographer and videographer Danny van Belle upon return from his last diving trip to the Pacific. He deplores that climate change with warming in sensitive tropical areas, such as the Andaman Sea, has led to massive bleaching of coral. And with the coral, the damselfish and all other reef creatures are gone as well. Some well-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) give hope. **Read on** to discover his story.



Danny van Belle, Belgian underwater photographer and videographer, who granted us an interview

We also posted three more video-interviews with leading marine scientists on our YouTube channel:

- **Prof. Daniel Pauly**, co-initiator of FishBase and Leader of the Sea Around Us Project at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.



Prof. Daniel Pauly during the interview

- **Dr. Rainer Froese**, FishBase Coordinator based at GEOMAR in Kiel, Germany.



Dr. Rainer Froese during the interview

- **Dr. Maria (Deng) Palomares**, SeaLifeBase Coordinator and collaborator in the Sea Around Us Project at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.



Dr. Maria Palomares during the interview

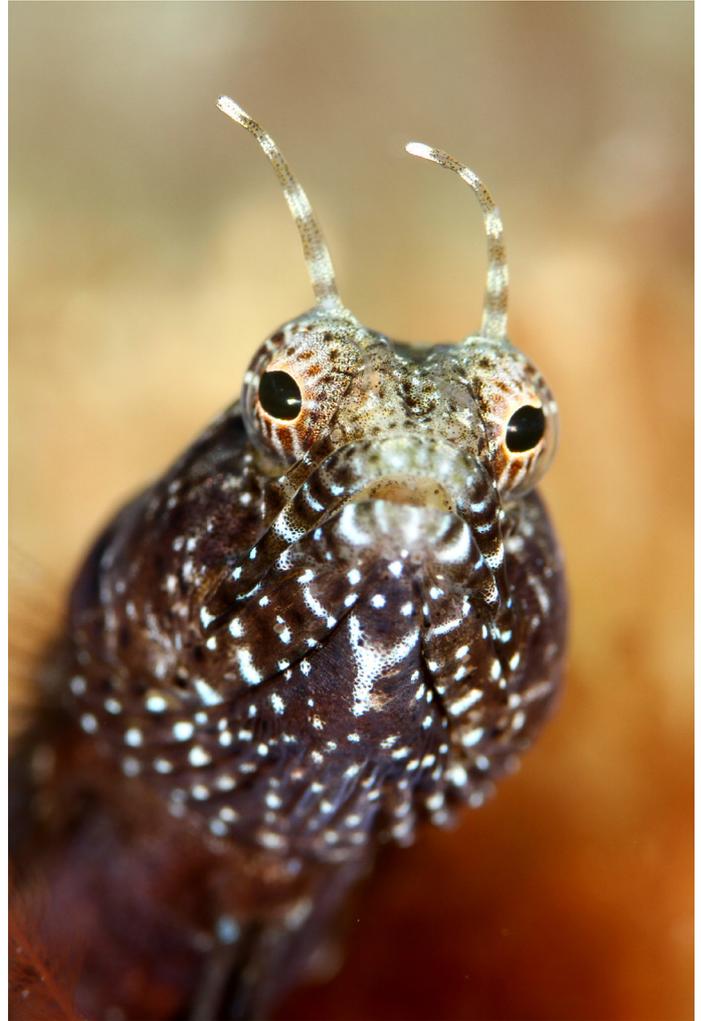
Other resources on the website

Among the particularly noteworthy updates of resources on the website is Lars Rydén's insightful review of journalist Isabella Lövin's landmark book "*Silent Seas*". The book addresses the contradictions and failures of fisheries management in Sweden, but sadly represents what's going on around the globe. Rydén writes: "After the publication of the book and very much as a consequence of her shocking findings, Lövin started a career in politics. Soon afterwards, she was elected a member of the European Parliament for the Swedish Green Party. Not only is she one of the best-informed politicians on the fishing policy issues, she has also been able to achieve quite a lot. The conditions for the seas in 2013 and 2014 are a little bit better than in 2007, when the book was published in Swedish. At the time of writing the review, a number of positive steps have been voted in the reform process of the European Common Fisheries Policy. Overfishing is now illegal. The big battle now is to implement the political reform at EU level and particularly in every single EU Member State bordering the sea." A must read book! The review is found **here**.

Homo sapiens FM, the radio station for culture and science at Belgrano University, Buenos Aires also aired an interview with Cornelia E Nauen.

The **review section** also contains a **summary account** of the BreMarE Day 2014 – the annual symposium in the Hanseatic city about major maritime research topics – with its thematic focus on hypoxia (low oxygen conditions). The increase of dead zones with low or even zero oxygen is a source of great concern for marine life, aggravated by climate change with associated warming and acidification. The presentations showed how different groups of marine animals have evolved adaptation mechanisms, but also their limits. The outlook is bleak unless we reduce CO2 release drastically.

The web resources in five languages (French, English, German, Italian and Spanish) together counted some 3.3 million hits. The average duration/visit was more than five minutes.



Fish portrait by Danny van Belle, HUGYCUP 2013.

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