



Sveučilište u Zadru
Universitas Studiorum
Jadertina | 1396 | 2002 |



AQUARIUM PULA



Institut
Ruđer
Bošković

INVITE YOU TO THE
**INTERNATIONAL 7th SCIENTIFIC
AND EXPERT CONFERENCE**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRESERVATION OF MARINE
ECOSYSTEMS OF THE ADRIATIC SEA**

Importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in considering marine ecosystem vulnerability and possible adaptations to the speed of climate change



Climate change and preservation
of marine ecosystems in the
Adriatic Sea

Brijuni, October 1st to 4th, 2026
www.adria-climate.hr



GENERAL INFORMATION

ORGANIZERS

Department of Ecology, Agronomy and Aquaculture, University of Zadar
Marine Educational Center Pula, Aquarium Pula
Ruđer Bošković Institute

CO-ORGANIZERS

Scientific Council for Adriatic Natural Science Research, Croatian Academy of Science and Arts

Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Rijeka

Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Zagreb

Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb

Faculty of Engineering, University of Rijeka

Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, University of Dubrovnik

Croatian Veterinary Institute Zagreb

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split

Faculty of Natural Sciences, Juraj Dobrila University in Pula

University of Defence and Security "Dr. Franjo Tuđman"

Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

Public Institution Natura Histrica

PARTNER OF THE CONFERENCE : Brijuni National Park



VENUE

Hotel Neptun, Brijuni National Park, Croatia

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Prof. Tatjana Bakran-Petricioli, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

Dr. sc. Mirna Batistić, Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, University of Dubrovnik

Dr. sc. Nina Bilandžić, Croatian Veterinary Institute, Zagreb

Dr. sc. Nikola Biliškov, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb; McGill University, Montréal, Canada

Prof. Dalibor Carević, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Zagreb

Dr. sc. Irena Ciglonečki Jušić, Division for Marine and Environmental Research, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb, **president**

Assoc. Prof. dr. sc. Slavica Čolak, Department of Ecology, Agronomy and Aquaculture, University of Zadar

Prof. Matej Dolenc, Department of Geology, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Prof. Dario Đerđa, Department of Administrative Law, Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka

Dr. sc. Rade Garić, Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, University of Dubrovnik

Prof. Sanja Gašparović, Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb

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Dr. sc. Silvija Kipson, SeaFan Zagreb

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Dr. sc. Romina Kraus, Center for Marine Research, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Rovinj, Croatia

Prof. Davor Lučić, Institute for Marine and Coastal Research, University of Dubrovnik

Dr. sc. Vesna Mačić, Institute of Marine Biology, University of Montenegro, Kotor, Montenegro

Dr. sc. Daniela Marić Pfankuchen, Center for Marine Research Rovinj, Ruđer Bošković Institute

Assoc. Prof. Dragan Mišetić, University of Defence and Security "Dr. Franjo Tuđman"

Dr. sc. Željko Pavlinec, Aquarium Pula

Assoc. Prof. Kristina Pikelj, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb

Assoc. Prof. Igor Ružić, Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Rijeka

Assoc. Prof. Tomislav Šarić, Department of Ecology, Agronomy and Aquaculture, University of Zadar

Dr. sc. Vjekoslav Tičina, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split

Dr. sc. Ivica Vilibić, Division for Marine and Environmental Research, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Zagreb

Dr. sc. Barbara Zorica, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr. sc. Milena Mičić, Aquarium Pula, president

Tamara Sović Čalić, Aquarium Pula

Rina Milošević, Department of Ecology, Agronomy and Aquaculture, University of Zadar

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

e-mail: conference@adria-climate.hr

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Milvana Arko-Pijevac /098 323 454/

CONFERENCE AIM AND PROGRAMME

The Adriatic Sea is very small in relation to the surface of all seas, constituting only 4.6% of the total surface of the Mediterranean Sea. The Adriatic is a semi-enclosed and shallow sea, extremely sensitive to the increasingly intense impacts of human activities: tourism, fisheries, maritime traffic, mariculture, hydrocarbon exploitation, and the strong impacts of climate change. With the increase of sea temperature in

the Adriatic, various non-indigenous thermophilic species of fish, algae, bacteria and gelatinous organisms are more frequently appearing. We are witnessing extremely high sea temperatures, up to 30°C as recorded in recent years (2022-2024) during the summer months. Phytoplankton blooms appear earlier and more frequently, and various pathogens cause mass mortalities of organisms. There is also a change in the abundance and distribution of species within the Adriatic Sea. The changes are visible in sea currents as well as in inflows of freshwater and nutrients from rivers, resulting in salinity changes. Dust storms are becoming increasingly frequent and intense, which can further affect biological activity in the sea. The sea level is also rising, and the circulation of water in the Adriatic is changing. Due to human activities, larger amounts of nutrients and various harmful substances with the tendency of bioaccumulation and biomagnification reach the sea and become part of the food web.

The Adriatic Sea is a natural resource necessary for life, both, for organisms and humans. The changes occurring in it impact the economy and the quality of human life. So, the implementation of active protection of the Adriatic Sea is vital and the only solution to support sustainable development. However, to effectively implement the protection of the Adriatic, it is necessary to understand the connection between the functioning of all sea-land processes and to present scientific knowledge to decision-makers at all levels. It is very important to familiarize the broader society, including the youngest members, with the fundamental knowledge of the impact of climate change on the sea, its processes, and its living organisms, as well as with the potential consequences for humans of not taking this issue seriously.

To achieve the awareness of the broader social community about the impact of climate change in combination with other negative human activities on the Adriatic Sea, and in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (Ocean Decade), we plan to organize the 7th International Scientific-Expert Conference: Climate Change and Conservation of the Marine Ecosystems of the Adriatic Sea. The conference will address the negative impacts - from human activities to climate change - on ecosystems of the Adriatic Sea, as well as possible adaptations to rapid changes occurring in the seas and the necessity of active protection of marine ecosystems.

The conference's emphasis is on scientific research, educational, socio-economic, and humanistic approaches to considering adaptations, measures, and best practices in addressing issues caused by climate change, particularly from the perspective of protecting and conserving marine ecosystems. The organizers aim to motivate participants to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experiences with the possibility of collaboration on existing projects and initiating new multi- and interdisciplinary projects. Another aim is to disseminate knowledge to the broader community, especially to local and state-level governance bodies, which is encouraged by organizing the Conference each year on a different location along the Adriatic coast.

Clearly defined conclusions of the Conference on the importance of these topics will be presented to the general public through the media and brochures, with the aim of raising awareness of the need to implement blue and sustainable development.

The programme of the Conference will include plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations in the field of natural, biotechnical, technical, social and humanistic

sciences addressing the following topics:

- The role of marine protected areas in climate change adaptation
- Climate change and its impact in the Adriatic Sea, speed of climate change
- Impact of climate change on vulnerability of mariculture and fisheries sectors and possible measures of adaptation; overexploitation of natural marine resources
- Examples of good approaches to climate change; possible adaptations to climate change and measures in practice; blue economy
- Marine pollution and contamination, including noise and bio pollution with invasive non-indigenous species
- Mechanical destruction of marine benthic habitats and benthic communities
- Climate change impact on marine ecosystems in school curricula
- Marine ecosystems and climate change in the legislation of the Republic of Croatia
- Adaptation strategies and measures for preservation of habitats and species of the Adriatic Sea
- New technologies in marine research dealing with climate change; climate modelling
- Ocean literacy, citizen science, and synergy between science and arts
- Social ecology and social mechanisms of climate change; synergy between ecology and economy; environmental protection and defence security

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE CONFERENCE ARE CROATIAN AND ENGLISH

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Abstracts of presentations will be published in the Book of Abstracts of the 7th International Scientific-Expert Conference: *Climate Change and Conservation of the Marine Ecosystems of the Adriatic Sea*.

Participants with presentations are requested to submit abstracts with the indicated topic, in Croatian and English, according to the instructions, by May 15th, 2026, to the email address: conference@adria-climate.hr. The final decision on the acceptance of an abstract and the way it will be presented (oral or poster) is made by the Scientific Committee of the Conference.

KEY DATES

February 3rd, 2026 - invitation to participants, the First announcement

May 1st, 2026 - a reminder for registration

May 15th, 2026 - submission of abstracts and final registration

July 20th, 2026 - notification about the acceptance of presentations and a possible need for revision

September 7th, 2026 - deadline for the submission of revised abstracts

September 14th, 2025 - the Final announcement, including the Conference program

October 1st to 4th, 2025 - Conference, Brijuni National Park

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- Welcome cocktail on Thursday, October 1st, 2026
- Conference dinner on Friday, October 2nd, 2026
- Professional field trip on Sunday, October 4th, 2026

ACCOMMODATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Accommodation options are available at: <https://www.np-brijuni.hr/hr/smjestaj>

For conference participants, the following accommodation units have been reserved:
Hotel Istra – Standard double room (€101), Superior double room (€128)
Neptun Annex – Superior double room (€123), Apartment (€130)
Karmen Accommodation Facility – Single room (€55), Double room (€74)

* The listed prices include breakfast. For an additional €25 per person, a half-board meal plan can be arranged. The number of reserved accommodation units is limited; therefore, early booking is recommended.

** If accommodation on Brijuni is available during the period from October 1st to 4th, but participants choose to stay in Fažana or nearby towns, they will be required to pay a daily boat ticket in the amount of €12 for students and €17 for adults.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ABSTRACTS PREPARATION

Abstracts in Croatian and English should be prepared according to instructions/template which could be found on the web page of the Conference: <https://www.adria-climate.hr> under the Abstracts Submission.

Participants with presentations are requested to submit abstracts with the indicated topic and preferred way of presentation (oral or poster), in Croatian and English, according to the instructions/template, by May 15th, 2026, to the email address: conference@adria-climate.hr.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Plenary lectures are scheduled to last 30 minutes (including a short discussion within this time framework), and the other oral presentations will last 15 minutes (including a possible short discussion after each presentation within this time framework). Common discussion of oral and poster presentations will be held at the end of each program topic. A final joint discussion is planned after all the presentations have been completed. The time allocated for the presentation have to be strictly respected and in case of exceeding it the presentation will be interrupted and stopped by the moderator. Oral presentations should be prepared as a PowerPoint presentation, preferably in English, and authors decide in which language they will speak (Croatian

or English). Presentations should be sent until September 26th 2026, to the e-mail address: conference@adria-climate.hr or on USB memory sticks to the technical service no later than 30 minutes before the official start of the Conference.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The provided area for displaying the poster is 100 cm high x 70 cm wide; adhesion tape will be provided, and the posters will be displayed for the entire duration of the Conference. Posters must be put up on Thursday afternoon (or on Friday morning before the start of the Conference at the latest) and taken down on Saturday after the last section. Posters should contain the title, names of authors and institutions, address and contact.

