

## **Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Germany**

Lead Scientists

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### **The Institute**

The [Alfred Wegener Institute](#) is Germany's leading institute for polar and marine research. The Institute was established as a public foundation in 1980. The Foundation Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and marine Research includes the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven the Potsdam Research Unit (1992), the [Biologische Anstalt Helgoland](#) and the [Wadden Sea Station Sylt](#). Polar and Marine research are central themes of global system and environmental Science. It co-ordinates Polar research in Germany and provides both the necessary equipment and the essential logistic back up for polar expeditions

### **Role in PLANKTON\*NET**

AWI is the Project co-ordinator. IT tasks e.g. achieving interoperability between PLANKTON\*NET nodes will be carried out predominantly at the AWI but in close co-operation with all other partners. The AWI computer center will also co-ordinate the linkage of PLANKTON\*NET to existing AWI resources such as [PANGAEA](#). The 2. co-ordination task will be that of populating PLANKTON\*NET with image material provided by partners and external collaborators.

### **Background**

PLANKTON\*NET@AWI was the first PLANKTON\*NET node and was established in February 2004. The rationale for establishing the AWI PLANKTON\*NET node was twofold: 1. to permanently archive the substantial information recorded in the course of the Helgoland Roads long-term monitoring series and to create a teaching and self study resource for the numerous courses in phytoplankton ecology visiting the Biological station Helgoland every year and also to the AWI school projects.

### **Data**

- Image material from the North Sea around the islands of Helgoland and Sylt
- Images from cultures of diatoms and dinoflagellates

In addition the AWI is assisting two external teams, the Max-Planck Institute for Limnology and the University of Madeira) to prepare their collections for online publication in PLANKTON\*NET. In the case of the the data from the Max-Planck Institute this also included considerable assistance with image digitizing and processing as well as with data input.