




WEBINAR

Sargassum in the Caribbean and West Africa: *Key Challenges, Responses and Collaboration* Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM East African Time

SPEAKERS: (In order of speaking)

	<p><u>Habib El-Habr</u></p> <p>Habib El-Habr is the Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) in the UNEP Ecosystems Division. Prior to this, Habib served as Director and Regional Representative of UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia in Bahrain. He joined UNEP in 1988, becoming Deputy Chief of the Freshwater Unit in Nairobi and Deputy Director of the UNEP International Environment Technology Center in Japan. He worked as a water research specialist at the National Scientific Research Council in France. He has a long experience in coastal and marine management, waste-water management, and environmental health and assessment.</p>
	<p><u>Henrik Enevoldsen</u></p> <p>Henrik Enevoldsen is Head of the IOC Science and Communication Centre on Harmful Algae which is hosted by the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He has a background in aquatic ecology and has for more than 25 years worked with development and implementation of international research and capacity building in marine science. He has published on harmful algae ecology, international capacity building and programme development. He coordinates several international scientific working groups and regional networks in marine science, including the joint IOC-SCOR international research programme GlobalHAB and the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB). He is IOC UNESCO Technical Secretary of GESAMP. He was a contributing author and part of the report Team for the first Global Ocean Science Report (2017), contributing to the 2nd edition to be released in 2020, and is actively involved in the preparations for the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030.</p>
	<p><u>Peter J. Kershaw</u></p> <p>Dr Peter Kershaw has been an independent consultant based in eastern England since 2013. This follows a 30-year research career working for a UK Government marine science agency (Cefas), on a wide variety of marine environmental issues. He has been a member of GESAMP (Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection) since 2008. GESAMP is an inter-agency body of the United Nations, bringing together scientists from around world to address pressing issues affecting the marine environment, and provide independent advice to the ten UN agencies that support the organisation. He led the development of a GESAMP scoping paper on <i>Sargassum</i> inundations, in the eastern and western central Atlantic, presented in April 2017. This set out a summary of the then extent of knowledge and listed some of the main research groups and other</p>

	<p>organisations involved in investigating the causes and consequences. Most recently, GESAMP has been asked to assemble a Task Team, to provide an updated status report of the current situation to inform relevant UN Agencies (e.g. IOC-UNESCO, UNEP, FAO, UNDP, WMO, IAEA) and contribute towards an Open Science Meeting, organised jointly with SCOR-IOC GlobalHAB, to be held once travel restriction related to Covid-19 have been relaxed.</p>
	<p><u>Brian E. Lapointe</u></p> <p>Brian E. Lapointe is internationally renowned for his research on water quality and harmful algal blooms in tropical and subtropical seagrass and coral reef ecosystems. He has worked at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and is currently a Research Professor in the Marine Ecosystem Health Program at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) - Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) in Ft. Pierce, FL. Since 1974, Dr. Lapointe has assessed nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms in coastal waters of South Florida and the Caribbean region. Although his current work focuses on the declining health of the Indian River Lagoon and the Sargassum influx to the Caribbean region, he has led numerous research expeditions in Bermuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Martinique, Trinidad & Tobago, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Lucia, Barbados, and the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.</p>
	<p><u>Ileana Catalina Lopez</u></p> <p>Ileana Catalina Lopez is a Programme Officer responsible for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) sub-programme at the UNEP Regional Seas for the Caribbean, Cartagena Convention in Kingston, Jamaica since April 2018. In this role, she is responsible for the overall coordination, implementation and further development of the SPAW Protocol and its regional programme on biodiversity management. Over the last seven years she supported UNEP at the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Unit, Law Division in Nairobi, Kenya addressing biodiversity issues at the global, regional and national level.</p>
	<p><u>Sandrine Pivard</u></p> <p>Sandrine Pivard is the Director of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) since 2016 Director. The Centre is dedicated to the Specially Protected Area and Wildlife protocol of the Cartagena Convention, an international organization hosted by France in support of UNEP Caribbean Environment Program. She previously served in offices of the French Ministries in charge of environment and of research. In particular, she served for 10 years as Department Heads for Biodiversity, followed by Natural Resources in regional offices and later co-directed water management and sustainable energy cooperation projects with Switzerland. Dr. Pivard graduated from Ecole Polytechnique and holds a PhD in Ecology from University Paris Sud – Paris Saclay. RAC-SPAW is based in Guadeloupe.</p>

	<p><u>Jacques Abe</u></p> <p>Jacques Abe is the Coordinator of the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME) at the Abidjan Convention of UNEP. The project provides vital food and economic resources for coastal populations bordering the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and for much of West Africa. It provides one of the largest fishing productions among African countries and as well as important goods and services to coastal countries, including critical habitats for fish, wood from mangroves and spaces for coastal and marine ecosystems for agriculture, aquaculture, urban development, tourism and transportation.</p>
	<p><u>Elisa Berdalet</u></p> <p>Elisa Berdalet is a Scientific Researcher at the Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM-CSIC), in Barcelona, Spain. Her studies have focused on plankton ecology, in particular on physical-biological interactions and on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Her current research is centered on the benthic dinoflagellate <i>Ostreopsis</i> blooms, and ice-ocean interactions on phytoplankton ecology in the Antarctica. Since 2008, she has been involved in the IOC/UNESCO and SCOR programs GEOHAB and GlobalHAB, aimed to the coordination of the international research on HABs. At present she is Chair of the GlobalHAB SSC.</p>

FACILITATORS:

	<p><u>Joana Akrofi</u></p> <p>Joana Akrofi is a Programme Management Officer at UNEP's Science Division, Big Data Branch. Currently she the Technical Secretary for UNEP coordinating activities to support the sponsorship of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) an advisory body, that advises the United Nations (UN) system on the scientific aspects of marine environmental protection.</p>
	<p><u>Mahesh Pradhan</u></p> <p>Mahesh Pradhan has been with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) since August 2019, where provides the Secretariat function for the Global Partnership for Nutrient Management (GPNM). Prior to this, Mahesh was based at UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) in Osaka, where he focused on holistic waste management, waste to energy, and disaster waste management.</p>