Importance of biological diversity and connectivity to deep-seabed mining management

Dr. Sabine Gollner
Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research

Dr. Saskia Brix
German Center for Marine Biodiversity Research (DZMB, Senckenberg Research Institute)

Dr. Anna Metaxas
Dalhousie University

Dr. Sabine Gollner is a deep-sea biologist at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research. Her research interests include the ecology of deep-sea hydrothermal vents and abyssal plains, deep-sea faunal biodiversity, and faunal community response patterns to disturbance events. She has participated in the projects MIDAS (Managing Impacts of Deep-sea Resource exploitation) and Mining Impact (Environmental Impacts and Risks of Deep-Sea Mining) and has participated and/or led eight research expeditions in the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean.

Dr. Saskia Brix is responsible for faunal samples from German expeditions at Senckenberg am Meer. She worked on international projects such as CeDAMAR (Census of the Diversity of Abyssal Marine Life) and is now leading the IceAGE project (Icelandic marine Animals: Genetics and Ecology). Her scientific focus lies in the isopod fauna and peracarid crustaceans from the deep sea worldwide. Next to the management of expeditions and samples, her scientific aim is integrative taxonomy to understand the role of species in their habitats and their distribution.

Dr. Anna Metaxas is a Professor in Oceanography who studies marine benthic populations of ecological and economic importance, using a combination of approaches, such as field sampling, laboratory experiments and mathematical modelling. She has worked in habitats from shallow rocky subtidal regions to the deep sea, including hydrothermal vents and deep-water corals, in temperate and tropical regions of the world. Her research has implications for marine conservation, such as the establishment and success of conservation areas. She is currently involved in many national and international initiatives that have as an ultimate goal the translation of scientific outcomes into information that is relevant to policy. She has held leadership roles on several national and international initiatives including the Biogeography of Deep-Water Chemosynthetic Ecosystems (ChEss) project, InterRidge, INDEEP, and the InterRidge Working Group on "Ecological Connectivity and Resilience".

Lunch to be provided

DATE: Thursday February 20th 2020
LOCATION: Delegates Dining Room, ISA
TIME: 13:10 - 14:10