

四海 and the challenge of synthesis of knowledge

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There is a striking similarity of the two East-Asian seas, the Bo and Huang Hai, and the two Northern European seas, the Baltic and North Sea. This similarity relates to the geography, the climatic regime, and the societal usage for shipping, fishing and other purposes. Therefore, the concept of “Four Seas” (四海; <http://www.baltic-earth.eu/events/nida2016/material/Memo.Four%20Seas.4.pdf>) was sketched in 2014, calling for a cooperation between (not only) Chinese and German institutions working in the field of analysis of change and management options in the regional seas.

For the Baltic Sea, an interdisciplinary and international community has been organized as “Baltic Earth program”. A significant achievement of this program is the building of two reports which describe the state of knowledge about climate, climate change and climate impact in the region of the Baltic Sea. The first part was published in 2008, the second in 2015. Both reports, which were assembled in the spirit of the IPCC are open-access available (https://www.academia.edu/2266407/BACC_Assessment_of_Climate_Change_in_the_Baltic_Sea_Basin); https://www.academia.edu/11965332/Second_Assessment_of_Climate_Change_for_the_Baltic_Sea_Basin). Additionally, a block has been set up at the “Oxford University Press Research Encyclopedia on Climate Change” (<http://climatescience.oxfordre.com/>), covering the Baltic Sea. Chances for setting up such blocks for the Bo and Huang Hai will be discussed at the meeting.