Identification of areas for marine protection: the contribution from the BioProtect project

Hafrannsóknastofnun, Fornubúðir 5, 220 Hafnafjörður

4th of November 2026, 13.15 – 16.00.

Seminar

Iceland has committed to placing 30% of marine and coastal areas under active protection, management and monitoring by 2030. The Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (MFRI) has been assigned the task of identifying these areas and providing advice on them. But how to identify which areas should be prioritized? The BioProtect project is developing and testing methods and tools to help answer this question.

BioProtect is funded by the EU Commission under the Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030". Its objective is to co-develop and demonstrate adaptable ecosystem-based solutions to accelerate the effective protection and restoration of biodiversity in marine and coastal ecosystems. One of the project's main tools is the **BioProtect Marine Planner,** a web-based decision support tool for marine conservation and restoration planning. It brings together biodiversity data, human activities and conservation targets, allowing users to visualize the cumulative impacts from human activities in the marine environment. It also identifies potential priority areas for conservation measures. In doing so, it supports more transparent and inclusive decision-making.

The seminar aims to highlight the importance of marine conservation, present the advisory process towards marine protection, and introduce the BioProtect project and how it can support that process. Dr Oisín Callery from the University of Galway, Ireland, will present the BioProtect Marine Planner.

Agenda:

13.15 – 13.30: Christophe Pampoulie, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute
Welcome and introduction

13.30 – 14.00: Steinunn Ólafsdóttir, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute
An approach to identifying areas for conservation in Icelandic waters.

14.00 – 14.30: Julian Burgos, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute
Mapping biodiversity in Icelandic waters: the BioProtect approach

14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break

14.45 – 15.15: Oisin Callery, University of Galway
The BioProtect marine planner

15.15 – 16.00: Christophe Pampoulie – General discussion and Closing

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