FINMARI news flash

September 2026

Research visit in Hokkaido, Japan

Eeva Eronen-Rasimus is a Senior Researcher at the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke). She and her team – Dana Hellemann, Anna Kangas and Nicolas-Xavier Geilfus - visited Japan to study ice microbes in collaboration with Hokkaido University. The trip to Japan was part Eeva´s Fellowship project WICE (Wintertime greenhouse gas dynamics in the coastal polar seas – microbial pathways and processes in sea-ice methane and nitrous oxide cycling), which is funded by the Research Council of Finland.

Read more HERE

Eeva´s research team at work.

Testing DOM sensors in laboratory

Marine Research laboratory of Syke

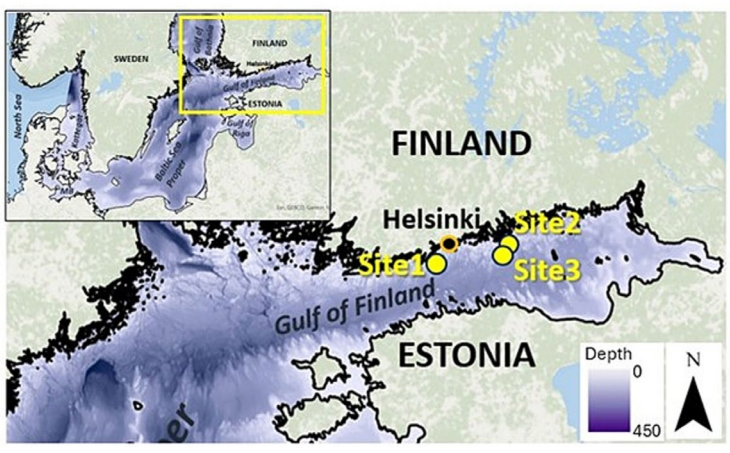
In summer 2026, we tested optical sensors for measuring dissolved organic matter (DOM), using seawater from different locations in the Baltic and North seas. The sensors produced slightly different results, highlighting the need for calibration and harmonized methods to support reliable monitoring of marine carbon cycle changes driven by climate and land-use change.

Read more HERE

Who´s who in FINMARI

Joonas Virtasalo
Senior Scientist, Marine Geolgy
Geological Survey of Finland

Dr Joonas Virtasalo is a Senior Researcher at GTK, and a docent in Geology at the University of Helsinki. Joonas is an internationally recognized expert in marine geology and Baltic Sea environmental change with >70 scientific publications, his research focusing on seabed sedimentary processes, marine geochemistry, climate and ecosystem history, and the sustainable use of marine resources. Joonas is a member of the FINMARI Management Group.
Read more HERE



Map of the sampling sites, and photographs of the concretion morphotypes: A crust; B discoidal; C spheroidal. Source: Environmental Microbiology 28 (7)

New publication

Different ferromanganese concretion morphologies host distinct microbial communities and metal accumulation patterns in the Baltic Sea.

By Renata Majamäki et al.

Microbes influencing metal accumulation and release in Fe-Mn concretions from the Gulf of Finland was studied in microcosm experiments using three concretion morphotypes. Microbes enhanced metal accumulation in the discoidal and spheroidal morphotypes. All three morphologies host distinct microbial communities. Understanding metal accumulation processes and how microbes contribute to them is crucial to elucidating their role in seafloor metal cycling.

This article is published in Environmental Microbiology (2026).

https://doi.org/10.1111/1462-2920.70390

A review

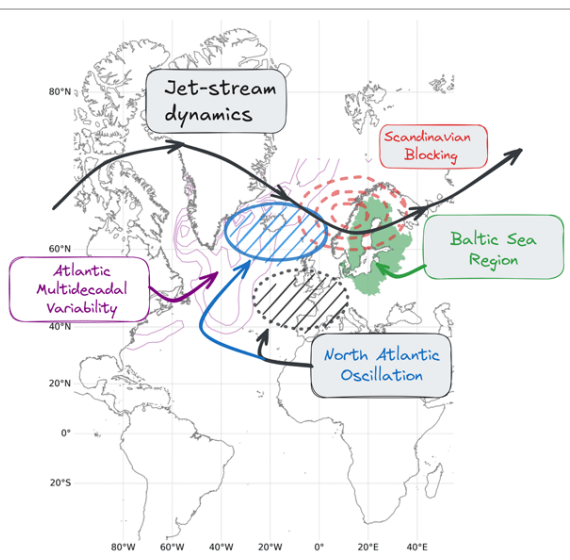
Large-scale atmospheric circulation and its impact on the Baltic Sea region: controls, predictability and consequences

By Florian Börgel et al.

The review shows that major Euro-Atlantic atmospheric circulation patterns strongly shape Baltic Sea climate and ecosystem dynamics, but significant uncertainty remains regarding how these large-scale climate drivers influence biogeochemical processes, highlighting the need for more focused research and modelling efforts.

The review is published in Earth System Dynamics 17.

https://doi.org/10.5194/esd-17-415-2026



Source: Earth System Dynamics 17

Recent and upcoming events

7.-10.9.2026 **SCOR 2026 annual meeting and pre-meeting symposium in Helsinki.**
Read more HERE

24.-26.11. 2026 **Nordic Marine Science Meeting in Stockholm.**
Read more HERE

28.10. 2026 **FINMARI Market place webinar** to present upcoming experiments, cruises, funding proposals across marine research institutions in Finland.
Read more and register HERE

On week 9 2027 FINMARI Researcher Days´27. Make a placeholder in your calendar!