



*Meeting with stakeholders (Public talk "Café Scientifique")
19 August 2011, Nida, Lithuania*

Goal of the event was to introduce to the general public the history of the formation of the Baltic Sea reefs, their importance for the marine biodiversity, threats and conservation options.

During the first part of the meeting **a presentation on the following topic was made:**

- **What do we know about Baltic Sea reefs?** Dr. Darius Daunys of Klaipeda University explained the morphology of different types of reefs, their importance to the ecosystem and latest research findings. Underwater images and video recordings were demonstrated and commented during the presentation.

Discussions and outcomes:

The presentation was followed by a questions and answers session between the audience and the presenter. Participants wanted to know more about types of reefs, artificial reefs and marine pollution, as well as ways of remediation applied in the marine environment. Questions about quality of the fish stock and dynamics of the marine biodiversity in the Curonian lagoon versus the Lithuanian Sea were asked. Aspects of major energy infrastructure related impacts and marine research and education were also touched upon. The evening was wrapped-up with the discussion on the results of sociological surveys showing that Lithuanian population rarely relates their time spent at the sea with the sea itself and is not willing to contribute financially to its protection. Participants concluded that lack of information in schools and natural history museums with focus on Baltic Sea ecosystem is obvious.