

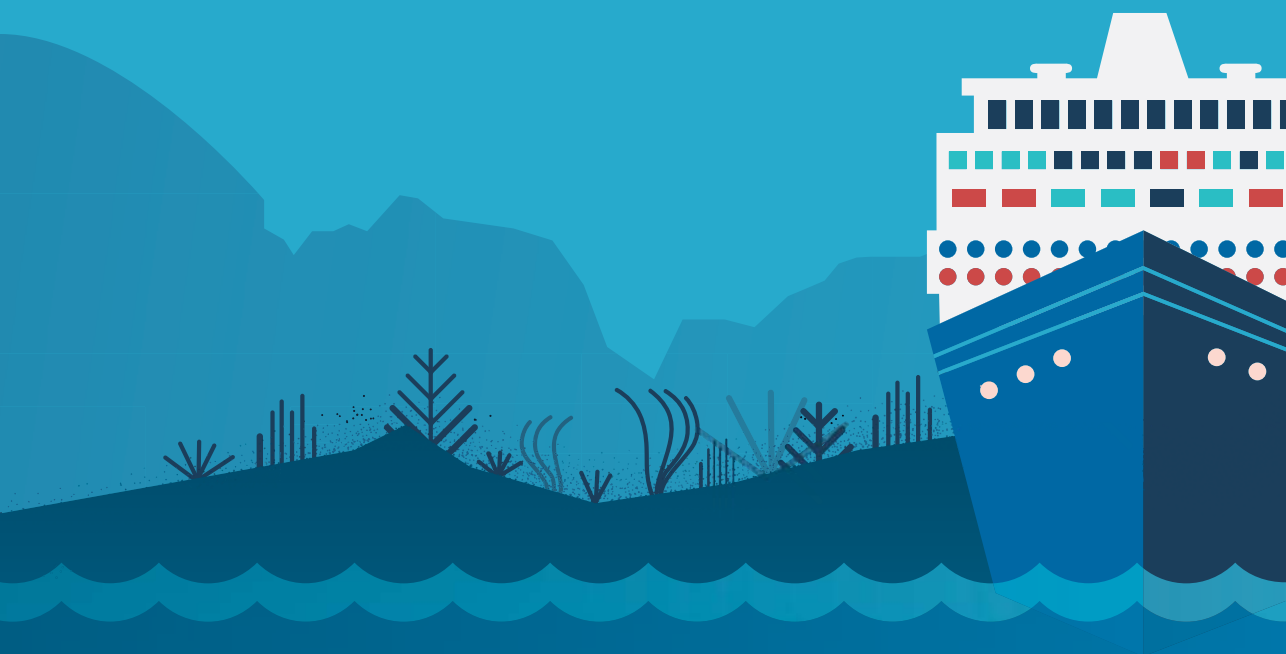
Centre for Maritime



Research

# Centre for Maritime Research (MARE)

Progress Report 2014-2019



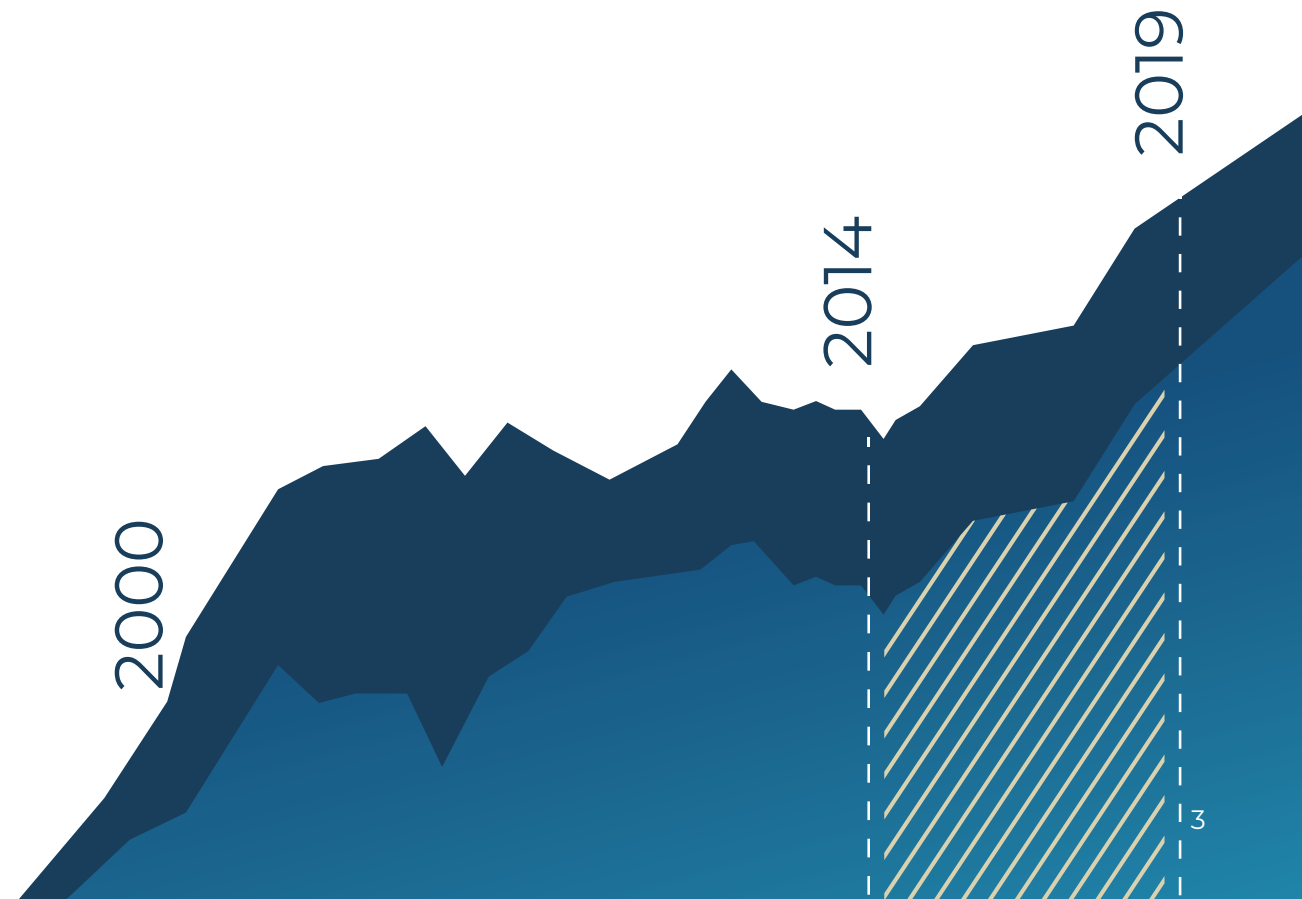
## Introduction

The social science Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) that was established in 2000 celebrated its jubilee (10th) international conference in 2019, thereby clinching almost twenty years of existence. The present ‘progress report’ covers a quarter of this period from 2014 to 2019.

The past period is primarily characterized by expansion. MARE has thus extended its institutional membership from four to six European institutes. Its activities too have expanded in scope. The People and the Sea Conferences in Amsterdam, which had 150 participants in 2013, boasted approximately 400 participants in 2019. We are delighted to see so many scholars engaging with marine social science topics, from all parts of the world – their numbers including early-stage researchers, mid-range professionals, and senior scholars. The journal MAST meanwhile has grown to now publish four issues a year, while the MARE Publication Series realized its 21st volume in 2019.

Important markers in the time period under consideration are the co-directorship of Jan van Tatenhove (2011 to 2018), and Derek Johnson’s managing editorship of MAST (2012-2019). Jan has been a key contributor to MARE throughout the years. He was the chair of two

conference committees (2013 and 2017), and the organizer of one policy day (2015), also playing an important role in MAST. The steadiness and thoughtfulness of his contributions have always been very much appreciated. Derek was managing editor of MAST from 2012 to 2019, thereby taking charge of much of the tiresome work that occurs behind the editorial scenes. His care and sense of responsibility helped not only to keep MAST afloat, but to move it forward too. To replace Jan and Derek – it wasn’t easy! – we recruited Marloes Kraan as co-director, and Joeri Scholtens as managing editor. Both Marloes and Joeri have a long history in MARE and know the Centre well. They will be playing key roles in adjusting MARE to the needs of the future.



## What is MARE?

The Centre for Maritime Research (MARE) is an interdisciplinary social science network organization devoted to expanding knowledge about the human dimensions of coastal and marine life, including their governance. Its objective is to provide a stimulating intellectual climate for academics and policymakers in Europe as well as in the South.

Although MARE limits its action radius to the social sciences, it seeks active collaboration with disciplines belonging to the natural sciences and the humanities. It strives to maintain a balanced mix of academic and policy-oriented research. MARE takes a global perspective and covers a broad spectrum of topics, drawing on expertise

from fields such as law, history, economics, political science, public administration, anthropology, and geography.

MARE was established at the University of Amsterdam (Governance and Inclusive Development programme group) in 2000, and was soon joined by Wageningen University (Social Sciences Department). To reflect MARE's expanding scope and ambition, it entered into a memorandum of understanding with two new partners in 2017: UIT Arctic University of Norway (Norwegian College of Fishery Science) and University of Aalborg (IFM-Centre for Blue Governance). Two other institutes joined MARE in 2020, making it a network of six: Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenforschung (ZMT) and University of Gothenburg (Centre for Sea & Society).

Being a European initiative, MARE takes Europe as its reference point and home base. However, being explicitly interested in trends in the world at large, and particularly eager to collaborate with social scientists in other parts of the world, it has always taken, and will continue to take a global perspective.



## Who is MARE?

MARE is organized by and around a group of six institutional partners. The MARE ‘staff’ consists of social scientists striving to understand human interactions with coasts and seas, taking a global perspective. They contribute to one or more of MARE’s ‘pillars’ (the People and the Sea Conferences, the Journal MAST, the MARE Publication Series). The Board of MARE consists of representatives of the supporting institutes. See table 1.

<b>University of Amsterdam</b> (Governance and Inclusive Development Group)	J. Gupta (Chair, 2015-present) M. Bavinck (Co-director since 2000) J. Scholtens (Treasurer since 2019)
<b>Wageningen University and Research Centre</b> (Environmental Policy Group)	M. Kraan (Co-director since 2019) J. van Tatenhove (Co-director 2011-2018)
<b>WUR</b> (Wageningen Marine Research)	L. van Hoof (2005-present)
<b>Aalborg University</b> (Innovative Fisheries Management)	J. van Tatenhove (2018 -present) A. Delaney (2015-2018)
<b>The Arctic University of Norway</b> (Norwegian Fisheries College)	J.P. Johnsen (2015 - present)
<b>Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenforschung</b> (ZMT)	A. Hornidge (2019)
<b>University of Gothenburg</b> (Centre for Sea & Society)	P. Knutsson (since 2019)

## Key contributors to the MARE conferences and policy days

**Conference committee chairs:** Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam); Jan van Tatenhove (University of Wageningen).

**Conference committee members:** Judith van Leeuwen (Wageningen University); Machiel Lamers (Wageningen University); Hilde Tonen (Wageningen University); Joeri Scholtens (University of Amsterdam); Alyne Delaney (Aalborg University); Jahn Petter Johnsen (UiT Arctic University of Norway); Maaïke Knol (UiT Arctic University of Norway); Anna-Katharina Hornidge (ZMT-Bremen); Marloes Kraan (Wageningen University); Fabio de Castro (University of Amsterdam); Sarah Coulthard (University of Northumberland); Derek Johnson (University of Manitoba); Iris Monnereau (University of the West Indies); Peter Arbo (University of Tromsø); Simon Bush (Wageningen University).

**Conference organizers:** Ali Brown; Remy Källér; Linde van Bets. Support by Liesbeth Robinson-Hasewinkel (UvA Conference Bureau).

**Other support:** Sarah Coulthard (University of Northumberland); I. Monnereau (Food and Agriculture Organization); Simon Bush (University of Wageningen).

**Policy Day organizers:** Jan van Tatenhove (University of Wageningen); Marloes Kraan (University of Wageningen); Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam).

## Key contributors to the journal of Maritime Studies

**Editor-in-chief:** Svein Jentoft (UiT Arctic University of Norway).

**Managing editor:** Derek Johnson (University of Manitoba).

**Associate editors:** S. Linke (University of Gothenburg); B. Blount (Socio-ecological Informatics); A. Schlüter (Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenforschung); K. St. Martin (Rutgers University & University of Tromsø); M. Sowman (University of Cape Town), S. Bush (Wageningen University), S. Coulthard (Northumbria University), M. Knol (UiT Norway); A. Menon (Madras Institute of Development Studies); Alyne Delaney (Aalborg University); Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam).

**Editorial assistants:** Phil Krogt and Silke Hoppe.

**Publisher:** Springer Nature.

## Key contributors to MARE Publication Series

**Series editors:** Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam); Svein Jentoft (UiT Arctic University of Norway).

**Publisher:** Springer Nature.

## MARE conferences

In the period from 2015 to 2019 MARE hosted three People and the Sea conferences. These were characterized by an expanding number of participants and increasing scope in terms of subject themes, attracting young and old, from all parts of the world, although participation of 'the South' has lagged behind due to lack of funding.



# MARE Conference

## People and the Sea VIII

### Geopolitics of the Oceans

June 24th-26th, 2015



2015

## MARE People and the Sea VIII

### Geopolitics of the Oceans

#### Themes

1. Geopolitics of the ocean
2. Maritime governance
3. Social relations and culture
4. Fisheries management
5. Knowledge production
6. Coastal threats and vulnerability

#### Keynote speakers

Prof. O.R. Young - The Evolving Public Order of the Oceans: The Interplay of Interests, deas, and Influence  
Prof. K. Kuperan Viswanathan - Employment Opportunities for Fishers in Southeast Asia  
Prof. K. Brown - Constructing Resilience:  
Unpicking the politics and process of building capacities for change in coastal communities

#### Scope

42 panels and 222 participants

#### Main organizers

Ali Brown & Maarten Bavinck

# MARE Conference

## People and the Sea IX

### Dealing with Maritime Mobilities

July 5th - July 7th 2017



2017

## MARE People and the Sea IX

### Dealing with Maritime Mobilities

#### Themes

1. Dealing with maritime mobilities
2. Maritime governance
3. Social relations and culture
4. Fisheries management
5. Knowledge production
6. Coastal threats and vulnerability

#### Keynote speakers

Prof. C. Stinger - Turbulent waters: slavery in the fishing industry  
Prof. E.H. Allison - The fluid and the fixed: maritime mobilities in the time of capitalism

#### Scope

55 panels and 315 participants

#### Main organizers

Linde van Bets & Jan van Tatenhove



2019

In 2019 MARE hosted its Jubilee Conference, celebrating 20 years of MARE and a total of 10 People and Sea events. The occasion was used to invite all keynotes of past conferences to reflect on the conference theme: 'Learning from the Past, Imagining the Future'. These reflections resulted in an ambitious Manifesto for the Marine Social Sciences, which will shortly be published in MAST, alongside a set of commentaries.

## MARE People and the Sea X

Learning from the Past, imagining the future

### Themes

1. Making a living from coasts and oceans
2. Framing, knowing, and dreaming coasts and oceans
3. Governing, steering, and managing coasts and oceans
4. Navigating, touring, and experiencing coasts and oceans
5. Appropriating, contesting, and criminalizing coasts and oceans
6. Innovating, technologizing, and tracking uses of coasts and oceans

### Keynote speakers

Prof. S. Jentoft - Life Above Water: Small-scale fisheries as a human experience  
 Prof. F. McCormack - Precarity and saltwater environments: inequality, wealth, and opportunity in quota fisheries  
 Prof. D. Parthasarathy - Anthro-po-Sea: Reassessing Ocean Grab and Coastal Squeeze in the context of Climate Change – Perspectives from Asia

### Scope

68 panels and 426 participants

### Main organizers

Remy Kaller & Maarten Bavinck





## MARE policy days

Each MARE People and the Sea Conference is preceded by a policy day that makes a link between the marine social science community, policy makers and stakeholders.

The 2015 Policy Day topic was 'Geopolitics of the Arctic Ocean: a Social Licence to Operate in the Arctic'. It brought together a wide range of Arctic and non-Arctic stakeholders to discuss the Social License to Operate with respect to the various economic activities in the Arctic region, including oil and gas, fisheries, tourism and shipping. Keynotes were held by people from science (University of Groningen), policy (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Industry (Shell, Royal HaskoningDHV) and NGO's (Greenpeace).



The 2017 Policy Day was titled 'Stakeholder participation in marine management: connecting practice with theory'. It was organized together with the Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs and focused on dilemmas of stakeholder participation in marine policy processes. Questions emerge such as: What is the best level to engage in situations of multi-level governance? How can stakeholder participation be organized in a meaningful way? How to prevent stakeholder fatigue? In some cases, stakeholder processes have apparently been 'successful', but nevertheless actors involved, policymakers or stakeholders, sometimes express disappointment with the outcomes. Alternatively, questions arise about whom has been invited to sit at the table (and who is not, and why). The insights of the day were applied in the Policy Process Noordzee 2030.

2019's Policy Day discussed the 'Social and Economic Value of Fishing in the North Sea' and how such values can better be incorporated into marine science and policymaking. The day was prepared in conjunction with the two new ICES working groups: WGSOCIAL and WGECON. Dutch and European policy-officers and fishers were invited to kick off discussions on what the core values are and how to measure them. Insights of fishers had also been gathered prior to the meeting via social media calls and fisher newsletters. One of the fisher participants contributed by screening a short film in which he reflects on what it is to be a fisher. Reports of the day were published in the Dutch fishers' newsletter and in Visserijnieuws (the Dutch fishing news). The outcomes have been taken up by ICES WGSOCIAL.



## Journal Maritime Studies (MAST)

### Background

MARE's flagship journal, Maritime Studies (MAST) began in the 1980s as a journal focused on Maritime Anthropology. After a publication hiatus in the 1990s, MAST was relaunched with a broader interdisciplinary social science mandate in 2002 with the aim to cover a wide range of topic related to human engagements with coastal, aquatic, and marine spaces.

### Past five-year trajectory

The major event of the past five years was the transition from an open access to a subscription platform in 2017. This shift took place out of necessity, with the very viability of MAST at stake. The editorial leadership of MAST did not take the transition lightly. It has been with great relief that the shift to the subscription model has triggered an increase in submissions and of published papers, as the table below shows. Growth in MAST's numbers has been strong enough that we were able to shift from a three issue per year publication schedule to a four issue per year schedule in 2020. Our rejection rate at the end of 2019 was 40%, a proportion which will likely continue to increase. MAST's position now looks more secure than it has at any time since the journal's relaunch in 2001. Indeed, it would appear that MAST is now poised for further growth.

It has become clear in recent years that a major contribution to our published output is special issues, which now account for more than half of our published papers.

Another notable event of the past five years has been renewal of the editorial team. In 2019, the journal added four editors (Maaïke Knol-Kauffman, Sebastian Linke, Achim Schlüter and Joeri Scholten) with the deliberate intention to strengthen involvement of the institutional members of the MARE network.





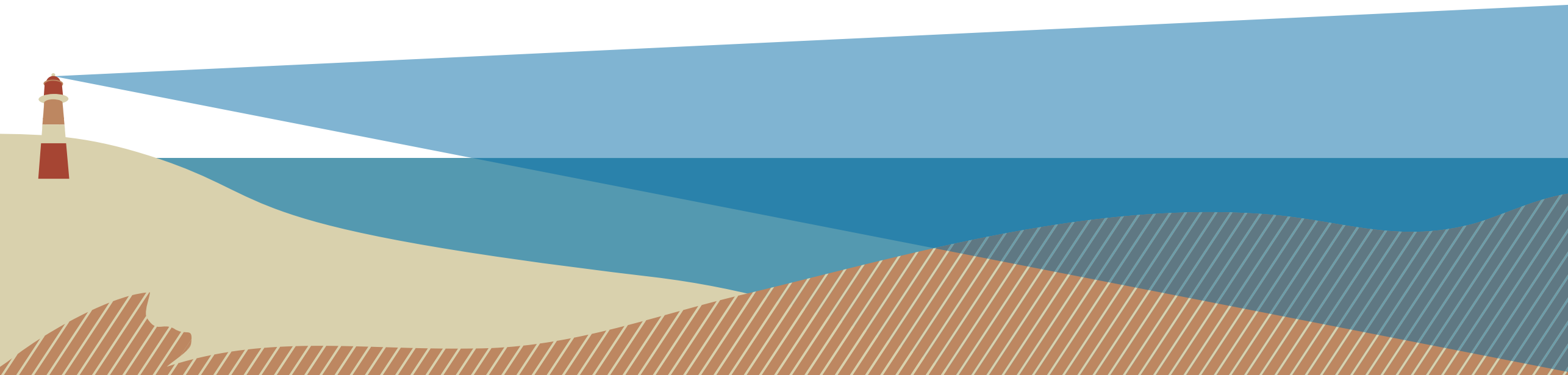
## MARE Publication Series

The MARE publications series is a collaboration between MARE and Springer Nature. It aims at the publication of a regular flow of high-quality monographs and edited volumes devoted to social science topics of contemporary relevance to the geographies of coasts and seas.

The period 2015 to 2019 witnessed a record number of 16 publications, involving authors and editors from across the globe. Social dimensions of marine fisheries figure prominently in the contributions.

The coming period will be devoted to continuing and diversifying the flow, so that other themes and geographical regions can be covered.





## Outlook to the future

MARE envisages a continuation of its three pillars of work. With the onset of the COVID19 pandemic in 2020 we are, however, expecting turbulence in relation to the next MARE conference and policy day. Whether or not we can have a physical meeting in Amsterdam is still uncertain. In this setting, a virtual or hybrid conference may be more appropriate.

In future we aim to make better use of our network, by setting up new communication and exchange channels. The launch of a newsletter is a first step. An enlarged presence in the virtual world (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc.) is another way to engage with our network, make new connections and better advertise our work.



MARE's network brings together scholars working on marine social science topics. Many of these scholars focus on fisheries and MARE is an important global hub for this section of work. In line with the



Manifesto for the Marine Social Sciences that was launched in the 2019 conference and is published in MAST, however, we hope to diversify our audience beyond fisheries. After all, the ocean and its coasts are becoming host to a much wider set of activities.

Most of the people in our network have a social science background but in the last years we have noticed a growing number of scholars with an interdisciplinary training and / or interest. We applaud this development and strive to contribute to the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary bridging effort.

## Impact

In the back-lying period, MARE has consolidated its position as the prime marine social science network organization in Europe and the world, assembling scholars and practitioners from a wide variety of disciplines and age-groups. Its international conferences, its journal Maritime Studies, and its book series constitute significant platforms for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge on human relationships with coasts and seas. Between 2014 and 2019 its activities have palpably expanded in reach, making vital contributions to academic debates on geopolitics of the oceans, maritime mobilities and the relevance of past experience for future action. The realization of a Manifesto for the Marine Social Sciences (published in MAST 19, 2020) has fueled imaginations on the future content and ambit of the marine social sciences. The three MARE policy days made valuable contributions to debates on the geopolitics of the Arctic ('Social license to operate'), the ongoing dilemmas of stakeholder participa-

tion, and the definition of social and economic value of fishing in the North Sea. These events have made a tangible impact on policy processes taking place in the Netherlands and the European Union.

## Join us:

Subscribe to our quarterly MARE updates and MAST alerts to stay informed by sending an email to **[info@marecentre.nl](mailto:info@marecentre.nl)**

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