"Big Waves" for Marine Research in Germany: Science Year 2016-17 Seas and Oceans

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Marine Science Communication in Germany faces a huge challenge and opportunity because the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) announced the "Year of the Seas and Oceans" for 2016/17. These so-called "Science Years" dedicated to a specific overarching topic are known for many years but this one is special. Started June 1, 2016 it covers a period of almost 18 months until fall 2017. During a Science Year a great variety of activities, nationwide as well as regional or local are organized either by the BMBF or individual by research institutes or organizations. Thematically, the scope of the "Year of the Seas and Oceans" is very broad from actual research topics in natural sciences to aspects of economy, tourism or history.

Discover – Unknown species, unexplored depths, Use – Mankind depends on the seas, Protect – The future of the seas is also our future – these are the thress main subheadings, leading to questions like: What can we still expect to discover in the depths of the oceans? What is the importance of shipping routes for our prosperity? What can we do to tackle the pollution of the seas? How will rising sea levels impact on coastal regions?

Focus groups of the Science Year are the broad public, in particular young people as well as decision makers. Thus, the formats of the events are divers ranging from ocean clean-up actions, hands-on experiments for Kids, special exhibits to high-level events for politicians. The contribution to nationwide of the marine research institutes in Germany is organized through the German Marine Research Consortium (KDM). The presentation will provide a range of best-practice examples of this years' contribution and provide perspectives for 2017.

More information: www.wissenschaftsjahr.de/uebergreifende-infos/english.html