
Call for abstracts: Deadline extended

Conference on International Law and Marine Bioprospecting in a Nordic Context

October 12-13, 2020

at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg

In light of the challenges and uncertainty caused by COVID 19, it has been decided to also accept submissions for online presentations for the conference. To allow for such submissions, the deadline for the call for abstracts has been extended to June 15. Also abstracts for regular presentations are welcome. As for now, the plan is to go ahead with a physical conference in Gothenburg as originally planned and we hope that as many as possible will have the possibility to travel to Gothenburg. But if you are reluctant or unable to travel, there will be possibilities for participating and presenting online. The conference will in any event not be cancelled, but changed into an online only event if travel restrictions or other measures prevent a physical conference. A final decision on the form for the conference will be made in August.

As previously announced, the conference budget includes travel expenses and accommodation for speakers and publication of conference submissions in an open-access anthology by an academic publisher.

Abstracts of no more than 500 words including a short biography are accepted by June 15, 2020. Accepted speakers will be notified no later than July 1.

It would be most appreciated if you would help in spreading the call to colleagues who might be interested.

Please e-mail your abstract to: bioprospectingconference@law.gu.se

Call for abstracts

**International Law and Marine Bioprospecting in a Nordic Context Conference
October 12-13, 2020 at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the
University of Gothenburg.**

Co-organized by the Department of Law at the School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg, Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland and the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea.

Marine bioprospecting is increasing, as the result of technological improvements and new potential applications for the genetic diversity of marine organisms. There is an expectation that this new use of marine genetic resources will contribute to growth, in Nordic countries as elsewhere. Marine biotechnology however faces legal challenges. International environmental law, the law of the sea and intellectual property rights law raise incoherent obligations and questions on the patentability of marine bioactive functions and obligations to share results. These inconsistencies are likely to persist, in spite of the drafting of a new treaty under the law of the sea, encompassing deep-sea genetic resources. The legal challenges also reflect on the domestic side, where Nordic states are in the process of implementing or expected to draft new legislation relating to marine biotechnology.

This conference aims to enable a discussion among legal academics, including also policy officials and commercial actors involved in bioprospecting, on the prospects and challenges in the interface between marine genetic resources and different fields of international law, including its domestic implementation. It aims to spur discussion of what legal challenges bioprospecting is facing and promote discussion on the challenges and interests in negotiations as well as implementation of new treaties. A particular focus will be devoted to the Nordic context, including communalities and differences in interests, negotiations and national regulation within the region.

Contributions could cover – but does not have to be limited to - topics such as marine bioprospecting under different regimes of international law, genetic resources under a developing law of the sea, the Nagoya protocol in a marine context, legal challenges for marine bioprospecting and domestic regulation in Nordic states.
