

# AquaVIP Gdynia summer school

17-20 May 2021

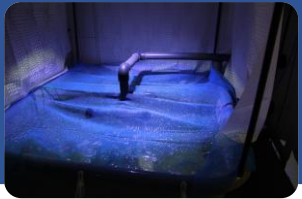
University of Gdańsk, Poland/online

All details & registration TBC March 2021



**Aquaculture – promising solutions of technologies  
for the South Baltic Region**  
**RAS – shrimps – aquaponics – algae**

Aquaculture virtual career development platform for the South Baltic region



**AquaVIP Gdynia summer school hosted by the University of Gdańsk** will help develop aquaculture skills and expand career opportunities among students and young professionals. **The 4-day course will introduce you to background theory and provide practical hands – on experience on modern aquaculture technology and innovative blue biotechnology.** The course will be based on ongoing aquaculture experiments carried out in the University of Gdańsk, and partner aquaculture institutions. The provision of scientific and technical skills will enable exchange of know – how and good practices between experts and participants.

Presentations/webinars & discussions will be focused on state-of play in innovative aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region in respect to facts, present problems, trends, solutions, and potential of recirculating aquaculture systems, aquaponics and algae cultivation, new solutions for aquaculture and the products.



**UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK**

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Communication Officer: Basia Dmochowska - [b.dmochowska@ug.edu.pl](mailto:b.dmochowska@ug.edu.pl)

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## Participation & prerequisites

**Undergraduate and graduate students** from the South Baltic region, from aquaculture departments or relevant, as well as professionals willing to improve their skills are welcome to apply.

Please note that we will have a limited number of places and will need to make a selection.

Basic knowledge of aquaculture, systems functioning, aquatic organisms is advisable.

## Registration

Registration and recruitment procedure will be available via project web site: [aquavip.edu.pl](http://aquavip.edu.pl), **in March 2021**

No participation fees apply.

## Methods & language of instruction

Modules for the summer schools:

- ✓ **presentations/webinars/discussions**
- ✓ practical training units (for local students only, if possible)
- ✓ study visits (possibly virtual)

Summer school program will be divided into thematic sessions. **English** will be used for online instructions and Polish – for onsite instructions.



## Main topics

- ✓ **Blue bioeconomy & aquaculture**
- ✓ **Innovative technologies in aquaculture**
- ✓ **Impact of covid19**
- ✓ **Recirculating aquaculture systems: salt – water; small – scale**
- ✓ **Shrimps' cultivation**
- ✓ **Aquaponics**
- ✓ **Macroalgae & microalgae cultivation**
- ✓ **Fish feed – alternative food sources**



## AquaYouth

### Aquaculture youth career development

The summer school is part of the AquaVIP project service: **AquaYouth – Aquaculture youth career development** – a complex service for students, of aquaculture and related fields, future employees willing to make a career in the aquaculture market, and micro, SMEs and self-employed entrepreneurs willing to improve their skills.

## University of Gdańsk – summer school host

The **University of Gdańsk** is a dynamically developing institution of higher education, and one that combines respect for tradition with a commitment to the new. It offers education in nearly all fields of academic knowledge, in sought-after professions on the job market and in state-of-the-art facilities.

[ug.edu.pl](http://ug.edu.pl)



The University of Gdańsk is the largest institution of higher education in the Pomeranian region and **the leading Polish university with regards to maritime research** and education in the fields of natural and social sciences as well as the economics and law of the sea.

**The Institute of Oceanography at the University of Gdańsk** educates students in oceanography, geology, offers doctoral program in oceanography and conducts interdisciplinary research into all aspects of marine science in the open sea and coastal zone of the shelf seas. IOUG is actively involved in implementation of the ecosystem approach into the development and management of marine areas.

## Aquaculture: Business & Technology Bachelor's degree program

The main goal of the Aquaculture: Business & Technology Bachelor's degree program is training for careers at companies and science laboratories related to aquaculture, as well as highly specialized administrative staff taking care of aquaculture business.

Students develop knowledge and practical skills during classes of biology, physiology of breeding organisms (fish, invertebrates and algae), food processing and aquaculture products. The content of education also includes legal aspects of aquaculture and the basics of business management.

The course is practical, and students acquire their first professional experiences during two 7-week internships in companies connected with broadly defined aquaculture.

[en.oig.ug.edu.pl/studies\\_and\\_admission/bachelors\\_degree](http://en.oig.ug.edu.pl/studies_and_admission/bachelors_degree)



# AquaVIP Gdynia summer school

## Draft curriculum (part 1)

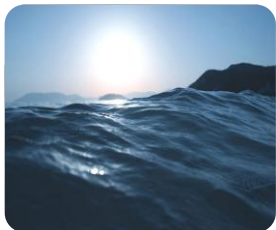
Title	Presenter	Duration
<b>I – Presentations/webinars &amp; discussions</b>		
<b>Introductory topics</b>		
AquaVIP project presentation in the frame of blue bioeconomy	Hanna Łądkowska, University of Gdańsk	30+15 min.
State of play: innovative technologies in aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region countries	Konrad Ocalewicz, University of Gdańsk	45+15 min.
Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the aquaculture and fish processing sectors	Konrad Ocalewicz, University of Gdańsk	45+15 min.
<b>Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)</b>		
Saltwater RAS: some biological, technical and economic aspects of brackish, marine and geothermal water applications	Nerijus Nika, Klaipeda University	45+15 min.
Small scale shrimp RAS system: design, operation, parameters, results	Halina Kendzierska, University of Gdańsk	45+15 min.
<b>Aquaponics</b>		
Aquaponics: system design, technology, applications	Adrian Bischoff-Lang, Rostock University	45+15 min.
<b>Algae</b>		
Macroalgae harvesting and cultivation: macroalgae in the Baltic Sea, system design, technology, and application practices in the region	Aleksandra Zgrundo, University of Gdańsk	45+15 min.
Microalgae cultivation: system design, technology, application	Filip Pniewski, University of Gdańsk Marek Klim, University of Gdańsk	30+15 min.
<b>Alternative food</b>		
Native and non-native invertebrates from the Baltic Sea: as a food source for humans or in the future fish farm	Urszula Janas, University of Gdańsk	45+15 min.
Worms... – about the use and benefits of worms in aquaculture	Adrian Bischoff-Lang, Rostock University	45+15 min.
TOTAL I		App. 10h

# AquaVIP Gdynia summer school

## Draft curriculum (part II)

Title	Presenter	Duration
<b>II – Participants’ module - presentations/webinars &amp; discussions</b>		
<b>Various topics</b>		
Aquaculture topics of interest: in studies/research/work	AquaVIP summer school participants & Facilitators: Hanna Łądkowska, University of Gdańsk , Konrad Ocalewicz, University of Gdańsk	7 - 10 min each/ 3h in total
TOTAL II		App. 3h
<b>III – Laboratory practice/video on laboratory practice AquaVIP experiments</b>		
Growth and nutritional value of <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> from the small-scale laboratory culture	Halina Kendzierska, University of Gdańsk	2h onsite/group 1h video
Aquaponic experiment with <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> and macroalgae	Aleksandra Zgrundo, University of Gdańsk	2h onsite/group 1h video
Aquaponic experiment with <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> and microalgae	Filip Pniewski, University of Gdańsk Marek Klin, University of Gdańsk	2h on site/group 1h video
TOTAL III		App. 6h
<b>IV – Study visits/virtual tours</b>		
Visit to the small-scale RAS laboratory	Halina Kendzierska, University of Gdańsk	30 min./group 15 min. virtual tour
Visit to 2-3 facilities in the region	TBC	1-day long study tour/ 2-3 virtual tours
TOTAL IV		TBC
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>TBC</b>

# I – Presentations/webinars & discussions – Introductory topics



## *AquaVIP project presentation in the frame of blue bioeconomy*

Hanna Łądkowska,  
University of Gdańsk  
30 min./ 15 min. Q&A



## *State of play: innovative technologies in aquaculture in the Baltic Sea Region countries*

Konrad Ocalewicz,  
University of Gdańsk  
45min./15 min. Q&A



## *Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the aquaculture and fish processing sectors*

Konrad Ocalewicz,  
University of Gdańsk  
45 min./ 15 min. Q&A

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders and promote the objectives of AquaVIP project, blue bio economy concepts, the place of AquaVIP in the blue bioeconomy framework, outreach activities related to stakeholders.

There is a significant demand for a high-qualified personnel and knowledge in modern aquaculture. In order to develop innovative aquaculture sector and move the focus into the South Baltic region, competencies and knowledge are crucial. This is where AquaVIP has a field for action. AquaVIP project objective is to boost aquaculture labour market within the South Baltic area by fostering human resources capacity: students and companies along the aquaculture value chain through cross-border training and networking, which will result in an increased number of skilled professionals and future employees in the blue economy sector.

**Aim:** To illustrate the state of play and trends of new solutions present in the region of the Baltic Sea: open cages, IMTA, RAS systems, aquaponics, and algae cultivation farms, and to familiarize stakeholders with the current situation and future potential.

Looking at the demand for seafood consumption in Europe, together with considering economy risks showed by the pandemic situation, aquaculture pollution, exploitation of the living resources, climate-change, quality of food from, wild stocks vs. farmed stocks, fish welfare, the sector needs sustainable solutions that which are already present or can be applied within the Baltic Sea Region. Innovative aquaculture encompasses many different production methods and target organisms.

**Aim:** To present and discuss how pandemic situation changes aquaculture sector, costumers demand and fish and seafood processing industry.

The covid-19 has affected producers of fish, fish processing business and fish costumers. The entire pandemic situation caused several issues including health of people involved in the aquaculture sector and consumers, logistical problems (transportations, border restrictions) and problems with market access of the aquaculture products (hotels, restaurants and markets closed due to lockdown) what resulted in decline in demand for fresh aquaculture products, problems with selling of such products, problems with storage of unsold fish and sometimes decline of their prices. On the other hand, in the recent months increased popularity of processed fish has been observed. Small local aquaculture producers and fish/seafood processing plants have survived recent time quite well. Opposite has been noticed for those that based on the import/export activities.

# I – Presentations/webinars & discussions – Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)



## ***Saltwater RAS: some biological, technical and economic aspects of brackish, marine and geothermal water applications***

Nerijus Nika,  
Klaipeda University  
45 min. /15 min. Q&A

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with a good practice of an innovative, sustainable saltwater RAS production by applying different source and salinity water, available in the Baltic Sea Region.

Regarding recently increasing limitations for off-shore marine aquaculture development due to its environmental impacts, one of the solutions for saltwater aquaculture is to go on-shore. Saltwater RAS technology offers an innovative, sustainable productions possibility of different fish and crustacean species, including salmonids, marine and, freshwater species. The saltwater RAS technology differs from common freshwater technology, as some additional water treatment and preparation processes are necessary. At Marine Research Institute of Klaipeda University experiments with different salinity and source water (artificial, Baltic and geothermal) are implemented to test for biological, technical and economic aspects and its advantages or limitations. At Fishery and Aquaculture Laboratory, the potential of brackish water for freshwater and euryhaline fish species cultivation is tested (on growth, harvested biomass, meat quality etc.), as it is known that some freshwater or euryhaline species perform better in brackish or marine water vs. fresh water. The other tested technology is a saltwater RAS for whiteleg shrimp cultivation. Our task is to acquire the shrimp aquaculture knowledge and optimize technology to local conditions. One of the main concerns is related to the artificial preparation of marine water, what may become a major limitation for this technology. As one of solutions, the geothermal water application to prepare artificial marine water is tested for biological, technical and economic aspects. The knowledge acquired during the testing of the new technologies is used to support new business activity and to increase competitiveness for the Lithuanian aquaculture industry.



## ***Small scale shrimp RAS system: design, operation, parameters, results***

Halina Kendzierska,  
University of Gdańsk  
45 min./ 15 min. Q&A

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with a design and operation of a small-scale shrimp RAS, together with parameters and results of the experiments obtained in InnoAquaTech and AquaVIP projects, to show the potential for applications

The first demonstration facility for crustacean production in RAS in Poland has been established at the University of Gdańsk. Two white leg shrimp breeding experiments were carried out within InnoAquaTech project. Shrimps (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) were grown at 25°C and with a salinity of 28 PSU. Their nutritional value, i.e., contents of protein, fat, energy, fatty acids and soluble vitamins, protein digestibility, as well as chemical contaminants: mercury, lead, cadmium, organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls, were examined and compared with market shrimp species from different geographical regions. The purpose of the pilot in Pomerania was to raise the awareness of potential consumers to the fact that cultured crustaceans are characterized by a similar nutritional value to those of imported crustaceans and contain higher levels of polyunsaturated fatty acids. The facility is now further developed and used for AquaVIP experiments and demonstrations.

# I – Presentations/webinars & discussions – Aquaponics & Algae



## ***Aquaponics: system design, technology, applications***

Adrian Bischoff-Lang,  
Rostock University  
45 min. /15 min. Q&A

**Aim:** To introduce the concept of the Fish Glasshouse, the combination of fish and plant production among stakeholders, to show the potential for applications.

Aquaponics refers to systems combining conventional aquaculture, breeding, fish, crayfish or shrimps in tanks with hydroponics, growing plants in water. The aquaponic system, feeds water from the aquaculture system to the hydroponic system, where the by-products are broken down by nitrifying bacteria into nitrites and then into nitrates, which are absorbed by plants as nutrients. The water is then recirculated back to the hydroponic system. Aquaponic production at Rostock University, combines African catfish breeding with plants breeding. The fish are farmed in the recirculating aquaculture systems, whereas plants are grown on fish metabolic products. The process can be monitored and processed scientifically at Rostock University, since FishGlassHouse is situated at the university campus, and then transferred to the commercial sector. Since aquaponics is considered as one of the most promising innovative and sustainable food production technology the advanced research at Rostock University has a huge potential for the aquaculture and agriculture sectors.



## ***Macroalgae harvesting and cultivation: macroalgae in the Baltic Sea, system design, technology, and application practices***

Aleksandra Zgrundo,  
University of Gdańsk  
45 min. /15 min. Q&A

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with system design, technology, and application practices of various macroalgae species in the Baltic Sea Region.

There are app. 300-400 macroalgae species in the Baltic Sea. Although conditions in the Baltic are not optimal for large-scale commercial production of macroalgae for global markets, macroalgae have potential if their production is linked to ecosystem services. For example, their ability to effectively remove nutrients from the water can help with reduction of eutrophication. The lack of traditions related to exploitation and cultivation of macroalgae can also be considered as one of the factors limiting the popularization of the idea of mariculture of these organisms. In the Baltic region, macroalgae are mainly cultivated and harvested in Sweden, Denmark and Germany, which accounts for around 3% of the European production. Macroalgae production and harvesting of natural populations is also not popular in Europe and remains at a very low level. As market research indicates, macroalgae are seen as nutritionally very wealthy, being claimed as a great source of valuable compounds as polysaccharides, minerals, proteins and vitamins. Macroalgae have good publicity and good promotion – their consumption in Western cultures is in line with the increasing awareness of consumers' perceptions towards organic products and of environmentally sustainable products. Hence the increased interest in the production and consumption of high-value products from macroalgae also in the Baltic Sea region.



## ***Microalgae cultivation: microalgae in the Baltic Sea, system design, technology, application***

Filip Pniewski, Marek Klin, University of  
Gdańsk  
30 min./15 min. Q&A

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with background information on Baltic microalgae, cultivation methods and applications.

University of Gdańsk has established a Culture Collection of Baltic Algae (CCBA) which maintains the strains of Baltic and freshwater microalgae from a wide range of habitats. The collection specializes in the Polish region but constantly includes new strains from further sources. Strains are available for research and education, as well as for the commercial use. There are numerous commercial applications of microalgae. They be used to enhance the nutritional value of food and animal feed, they can be used in cosmetics, production of pigments, lipids and their use as an additive to plant biomass for biogas production, wastewater treatment, and they play a crucial role in aquaculture and to name a few. Some strains cultivated at the University of Gdańsk will be used for removal of nutrients from the shrimp recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) wastewaters.



## I – Presentations/webinars & discussions – Alternative food



***Native and non-native invertebrates from the Baltic Sea: as a food source for humans or in the future fish farm***

Urszula Janas,  
University of Gdańsk  
45 min. /15 min. Q&A



***Worms... - about the use and benefits of worms in aquaculture***

Adrian Bischoff-Lang,  
Rostock University  
45 min. /15 min. Q&A



***Aquaculture topics of interest in studies/research/work***

Hanna Łądkowska, Konrad Ocalewicz,  
University of Gdańsk  
7 - 10 min/presentation

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with the potential of Baltic native and non-native crustaceans for aquaculture.

In aquaculture efforts are made to reduce fish meat use by replacing it by microalgae or krill meal. However, these alternatives are still too expensive or environmentally unsustainable. Thus, searching for species suitable for cultivation and possessing for high value feed ingredients is a new challenge which will help to reduce the environmental impact of feed production. Crustaceans or bivalve are living in most aquatic habitats and are important food items for many fish and other invertebrates. Crustaceans could be used as food for fish farming with a high market price: mainly turbot, salmonids and sturgeons or cod, in production of functional food (products with health benefits beyond their nutritional value), alive should be used in fish aquaculture for conservation projects.

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with the potential of worms for aquaculture.

Worms is the colloquial term for many different invertebrate animals. A total of about 57,000 different species have been described so far, which belong to different phylae, such as the flatworms (Plathelminths), nematodes (Nematoda), scratch worms (Acanthocephali), or annelids (Annelida). Common to all these worms is their similar anatomy, which is characterized by an elongated and tubular body structure and no external extremities. The size spectrum ranges from a few micrometers to a body length of about 30 meters. An increasing number of different worms are now used in aquaculture, which is simply the controlled farming of aquatic organisms to provide food and protection from disease and predators. The use and benefits of these different worms range from live food organisms for fish larvae, to the recycling of excreted and thus unused nutrients of fish and shrimp culture, to a high-quality brood stock feed to stimulate the targeted spawning of aquaculture organisms. Likewise, worms are used to mitigate the environmental impact of aquaculture.

**Aim:** To familiarize participants with the activities of co-participants, which hopefully will result in future cooperation. The feedback from presentation will also give more insight into potential interests, solutions and problems, and the ground for future AquaVIP actions.

Participants' auto presentations on aquaculture activities and potential projects related to innovative aquaculture (research or commercial): such as recirculating aquaculture practices, technologies, applications, innovations in all kinds of aquaculture productions, algae and mussels cultivation and/or harvesting, application of products coming from fish, shrimps, mussels or algae production, market (marketing and communication) experience on marketing and communication of new product coming from innovative aquaculture.

### III – Laboratory practice/video on laboratory practice – AquaVIP experiments

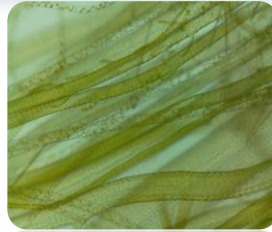


#### **Growth and nutritional value of *Litopenaeus vannamei* from the small-scale laboratory culture**

Halina Kendzierska,  
University of Gdańsk  
2h onsite/1h video

**Aim:** To develop skills in experimental work and familiarize stakeholders with a potential of crustacean aquaculture based on combination of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and recirculating aquaculture technology (RAS).

The experiment focuses on a challenge to develop the potential of crustacean aquaculture based on combination of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and recirculating aquaculture technology (RAS). It is a follow-up of the already performed research under the Interreg South Baltic Programme project InnoAquaTech. Previous experiments on *Litopenaeus vannamei* in RAS system were carried out at the University of Gdansk within InnoAquaTech project. A report and video material on previous experiments, analysis, and results are available at: [https://www.submariner-network.eu/images/Crustacean\\_Production\\_in\\_RAS.pdf](https://www.submariner-network.eu/images/Crustacean_Production_in_RAS.pdf) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH62LT1vS1o>. For the experiment, a system called RAS 500 is used. The system consists of two sets of inland aquaculture systems with closed water circuit – RAS. The experiment design predicts five phases: cultivation preparation, transport and placing of *Litopenaeus vannamei* shrimps in the tanks, cultivation, harvesting, and analysis.



#### **Aquaponic experiment with *Litopenaeus vannamei* and macroalgae**

Aleksandra Zgrundo,  
University of Gdańsk  
2h onsite/1h video

**Aim:** To develop skills in experimental work and familiarize stakeholders with a potential of algae scrubber cultivation based on combination of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and macroalgae.

Algae scrubber experiments series is based on Baltic Sea water, and *Litopenaeus vannamei* culturing water (from RAS 500 experiments), and the assumption that organisms and propagules included in the water will develop into algal communities in experimental conditions. The assumption is based on wide use of "algae scrubber" systems in aquaria. The Algae Turf Scrubber was patented in 1980. A high development of algae scrubber systems for fish-keeping has been observed among amateurs. Still, there is little research in the scientific literature on the application of this system. Experiment's series will include testing the system known as "algae scrubber" using Baltic water and local organisms, testing the "algae scrubber" for culturing of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and selected strains of *Ulva* sp.



#### **Aquaponic experiment with *Litopenaeus vannamei* and microalgae**

Filip Pniewski, Marek Klim,  
University of Gdańsk  
2h onsite/1h video

**Aim:** To develop skills in experimental work and familiarize stakeholders with a potential of microalgae application based on combination of *Litopenaeus vannamei* and algae strains.

The experiment will focus on the selection of local strains – selection of strains that will grow efficiently using *Litopenaeus vannamei* culturing water as a medium. Special focus will be put on salinity and a nitrogen source influence. Biochemical characterization of biomass will be performed with the purpose to determine the possibilities of commercial use for wastewater treatment, production of pigments, lipids and their use as an additive to plant biomass for biogas production, or protein-rich biomass to be used as a feed additive. An assessment of algae growth in bioreactors and preparation of inoculum for cultivation on a semi-technical scale is planned in the further stage of the experiment, as well as the reassessment of growth rate and biochemical composition to determine the stability of biomass characteristics when changing the way algae are grown.

## IV – Study visits/virtual tours



### Visit to the small-scale RAS laboratory

Halina Kendzierska, University of Gdańsk  
30 min.onsite/15 min. virtual tour



### Visit to facilities in the region (2-3)

2-3 farms onsite or virtual tours

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with the technology of a small-scale laboratory RAS system and its applications.

**Aim:** To familiarize stakeholders with the technology, practice, product, farm management and job opportunities in aquaculture

The RAS-500 has been specifically designed and installed for the purpose of cultivating shrimps in closed recirculating aquaculture system and to carry out experiments which determine how different factors in various combinations effect survival, basic physiological processes, protein content and weight gain of the pacific white shrimp. Simultaneously data for the recommendation of the facility set up and shrimps' cultivation are collected and processed. RAS-500 consists of 3 separate tanks: water preparation tank, main unit (containing: electric cabinet, electronic cabinet, mechanical filtration, protein skimmer, UV and ozone sterilization, biological chamber, heating, filter sump, aeration) and a shrimp tank. There are two sets of the equipment specified and the sets differ in the biological filtration systems. Biological filtration in RAS 1 is typical wet/dry filtration (trickle filter). Biological filtration in RAS 2 is based on fluidized media fully submerged in the water column. Both systems are used simultaneously. The two sets work independently. It allows us check both filtration systems.

### Farms TBC



Source: [www.maphill.com](http://www.maphill.com)

# AquaVIP experts (1)



**Hanna Łądkowska, University of Gdańsk**

Host of the event. Experienced project manager of international research projects founded within EU (FP5, FP6, FP7, LIFE+, INTERREG, BONUS EEIG, EOG) and national programs, with the background in marine science (MSc in Marine Physics), strongly engaged in science-policy integration, technology transfer and international cooperation, especially under Blue Growth (UG representative in SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG), responsible for funding opportunities, capacity building, application procedure, and project implementation, working at the Institute of Oceanography University of Gdańsk. Professional interests include innovative aquaculture, application of System Approach Framework into practice of Integrated Coastal Zone Management and triple helix model of innovation.



**Urszula Janas, University of Gdańsk**

Dr. Urszula Janas is an Associate Professor at the Department of Experimental Ecology of Marine Organisms at the Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdansk. Her research interests include ecology and ecophysiology of benthic organisms; effect of hypoxia and other environmental stressors on different levels of biodiversity and the Baltic Sea ecosystem functioning. She is a coauthor of over 50 scientific publications and several dozen of other reports and publications. She has been engaged in numerous bilateral and international projects (Interreg, BONUS, EU FP). She is experienced in educating and tutoring.



**Konrad Ocalewicz, University of Gdańsk**

Dr. Konrad Ocalewicz received his M.Sc. in the field of biotechnology in animal breeding from University of Agriculture and Technology in Olsztyn in 1998 and his PhD in agriculture and fisheries from University of Warmia and Mazury in 2002. Results of his research on the spontaneous and induced chromosome mutations in the rainbow trout were part of his D.Sc. dissertation defended at the Department of Biology and Biotechnology, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn in 2011. Since 2013, Konrad Ocalewicz has been an assistant professor at the Department of Marine Biology and Ecology, Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk. He also serves as an Assistant Editor in the Journal of Fish Biology, the official journal of The Fisheries Society of the British Isles (FSBI). Konrad Ocalewicz completed two years (2003-2005) of postdoctoral research in Laboratoire de Genetique des Poissons, INRA, Jouy-en-Josas, France where he studied functionality of L-gulonolactone oxidase gene in fish. He was also involved in the international project *Control of sex in Atlantic halibut: Towards production of monosex all-female stocks* conducted in The University of Nordland (Bodo, Norway) and University in Stirling (UK) (2006). His scientific interests cover a range of issues such as aquaculture, sex determination and differentiation in fish, development of the isogenic and clonal fish lines, production of sterile triploid and all-female stocks of salmonids, dynamics of telomeric DNA and telomerase in fish cells, among others.



**Halina Kendzierska, University of Gdańsk**

Dr. Halina Kendzierska is an assistant professor, research and didactic employee of the Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk. She has a master's degree in Oceanography (Marine Biology) and a PhD in Earth Sciences, the discipline of Oceanology. Her research interests include the impact of environmental factors, especially oxygen deficiency in the bottom zone on the functioning of benthic syndromes, the impact of marine organisms on biogeochemical processes occurring at the water and sediment border, the importance of non-native species in the structure and functioning of macrozoobenthos, diversity. She co-authored peer review papers, reports and conference presentations. She is experienced in fieldwork – both in coastal zone and onboard of research and navy vessels. She participated in national and five international projects.

**Filip Pniewski, University of Gdańsk**

Dr. Filip Pniewski is a researcher on ecophysiology of marine plants, involved in studies on microalgal photoacclimation and photoprotection, focusing mainly on diatoms from various marine benthic habitats, employed at the Institute of Oceanography University of Gdańsk as an academic teacher. His professional interests also include genetic diversity and molecular taxonomy of microalgae, metabarcoding, and application of microalgal strains in wastewater treatment.

## AquaVIP experts (2)



**Aleksandra Zgrundo, University of Gdańsk**

Dr. Aleksandra Zgrundo is a marine biologist whose interests focus on the ecology and taxonomy of microalgae and seaweeds and their use in aquatic ecosystems status assessment and biotechnology. She is currently employed as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk. She has extensive research experience as principal investigator in various research and educational projects on topics such as: aquaculture, biodiversity, effects of environmental pressures on plant communities, trophic networks in marine waters, lifelong learning and open science data. She is also the founder and CEO of the company Officina Baltica spin-off (<https://www.officinabaltica.pl/>).

**Marek Klin, University of Gdańsk**

Marek Klin is a doctoral student carrying out PhD thesis on lipids of algal origin and energy use of algal biomass as a substrate for biofuel production. He is an employee of the Culture Collection of Baltic Algae, at the Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk. He is experienced in culture and isolation of microalgae by different techniques. His interests are broadly defined applied phycology with emphasis on effective algae cultivation using natural resources and wastewater.



**Adrian Bischoff-Lang, Rostock University**

Dr. Adrian A. Bischoff-Lang is an experienced scientist and project manager (15 years) of national and international research projects with partners from the EU, such as Poland, Lithuania, Denmark, or Norway as well as Asia, such as China and South Korea. The scientific background is in Aquaculture and Fisheries Biology, Zoology and Marine Chemistry (PhD in Fisheries Biology), strongly engaged in the educational sector at the University of Rostock (Master study course Aquaculture) as well as a member of the HELCOM CG Aquaculture. His scientific interests are diverse ranging from the nutrient budgets of aquaculture production, to the integration of nutrient extracting organisms (e.g. worms) into the aquaculture process, the culture of pikeperch larvae with live feed, but also the transfer of these research into the aquaculture production.

**Nerijus Nika, Klaipeda University**

Dr. Nerijus Nika is an expert in fish biology, fishery management and conservation. His recent involvement is mostly related to aquaculture and blue bioeconomy sector development. Expert has an experience in national and international research projects, related to aquatic ecology, fish ecology and aquaculture, stock assessment, fishery management and blue biotechnology application (11 projects). The expertise and the field of interests include marine recirculating aquaculture technology, animal biology and physiology research and application in aquaculture technology optimisation, experiments in aquatic ecology and aquaculture, like testing of probiotic effects in RAS and open pond aquaculture systems, physiological response to water salinity etc.

*See you in May*