

Blue Growth: Possibilities, constraints and trade-offs - How to move forward in the Arctic

The FAO defines blue growth as: “as economic growth and social development emanating from living resources of the oceans and inland waters and from related activities in the coastal zones, which minimize environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and unsustainable use of living aquatic resources.” An international and interdisciplinary team of researchers is currently exploring various perspectives linked to this concept through the project *GreenMAR* (Green Growth Based on Marine Resources: Ecological and Socio-Economic Constraints). This session summarizes some of the studies within *GreenMAR* that all focus on better understanding the definition, dynamics, and mechanisms of blue growth in the context of the Arctic. Specifically, the session will i) clarify what blue growth is ii) characterize some of the dynamics and mechanics of blue growth and iii) and describe its significance to current ocean governance.

The *GreenMAR* network and project is building upon the earlier Nordic Centre of Excellence, *NorMER* (Nordic Centre for Research on Marine Ecosystems and Resources under Climate Change).

Several of the studies summarized and discussed within these talks are part of the special issue on Blue Growth in *Marine Policy* (Eikeset et al 2018 and references therein).