



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FORAMINIFERA
University of Concepcion, Chile
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SESSION N° 7

SESSION TITLE	CONVENORS
Foraminiferal bio-monitoring methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frans Jorissen, University of Angers, France• Elisabeth Alve, University of Oslo, Norway• Emmanuelle Geslin, University of Angers, France• Sergey Korsun, University of St. Petersburg, Russia• Joachim Schönfeld, Geomar, Germany• Silvia Spezzaferri, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

SUMMARY

The main conclusions of the special session “Foraminifera as bio-indicators of anthropogenetic impact”, organized at the Forams 2010 Conference in Bonn, Germany, were twofold: 1) this field of foraminiferal research has become increasingly important, and 2) a wide range of very different methods are applied, which is at present hampering these methods to become an established bio-monitoring tool. Consequently, the proposers of the present session formed the FOBIMO-group, consisting of about 35 scientists, with the aim to develop a standardized methodology for Foraminiferal Bio-Monitoring. During a first workshop, in Fribourg, in 2011, a standardized sampling and sample treatment protocol was adopted, which

since has been published (Schönfeld et al., 2012, *Marine Micropaleontology*, vol. 94-95, 1-13). During the next two meetings (Fribourg, 2012; Wimereux, 2013), the members of the FOBIMO-group attempted to define the degree of pollution-sensitivity of common species from different geographical areas (Northern Atlantic, Mediterranean, tropical shelves and transitional/coastal environments). At the Wimereux meeting (June 2013), species lists will be finalized, and we will start to develop a standardized foraminiferal bio-indicator index. A pilot version of this index should be available in January 2014.

For this session, we invite examples of all types of field studies using foraminiferal assemblages and various biotic indices as indicators of anthropogenic impact and ecological quality status. We hope the session will offer an occasion for rich discussions, which will contribute to the further development of a generally accepted foraminiferal bio-monitoring method.