

SESSION 14: From the ecology to the societal impact of harmful algae (GdR PHYCOTOX)

This session will focus on interdisciplinary research around harmful and toxic microalgae. Accumulation of toxic algae in fish and shellfish has led to severe poisoning incidents in the past, involving dozens to thousands of people per event. Direct contact with toxic algae and aerosolised toxins may also affect beachgoers and practitioners of aquatic sports and thus devastate tourism in certain areas. Micro-algae also can affect the marine ecosystem or parts thereof directly: environmental risks and impacts on aquaculture and fisheries are priority areas of research to sustainably maintain a healthy food supply.

Particular focus will be given to research networks at national, regional and international level and recent efforts in integrating stakeholders and scientists to overcome major health and economic problems arising from harmful algal blooms (HABs).