

# 'The BIG Questions'

## Lecture Series

# Can environmental planners save the oceans?

Prof. Michelle Portman

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology

05 September 2019 | 15:00 h

Venue: GEOMAR Westshore (Düsternbrooker Weg 20), Large Conference Room



Planning is part and parcel of our relationship with the sea, even though it has rarely been thought of as such until recently. The advent of marine spatial planning (MSP) is evidence of this perspective. Professional planners, originally focused on myriad types of terrestrial environments, are now realizing the need to think beyond the land's edge. This creates both opportunities and challenges and requires bridging the policy-science divide. *So, what is planning and how can it influence what happens at sea and to our oceans?*

The planning profession is a field dedicated to the balancing of interests. On a practical level, planning involves activities that lead to the identification, articulation and sometimes, quite plainly, the creation of a way to get from point A to point B. Environmental planning is the application of planning methods to the treatment and resolution of environmental problems. As we move forward in time, it is essential that scientists understand what this profession (and approach) involves and how it interfaces with other disciplines dedicated to either protection, or development, of our seas.

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