

# **New Monitoring Program—How to Increase the Level of Understanding**

**Bosse Norrman**

*Marine Environment Unit, Hörnefors, Sweden*

On July 1, 1993, a revised national marine monitoring program was started along the Swedish coasts. The program was decided on by the Swedish environmental protection agency, following an international evaluation. As a part of this evaluation, the marine research centres in Sweden were asked to propose a new monitoring program. The background for their role in this work is as follows.

Based partly on experiences of scientific and political confusion during episodes of seal deaths and toxic algal blooms in 1988, three centres of marine science were created that are connected to the universities of Göteborg, Stockholm and Umeå. These centres have a regional responsibility for marine research, education, monitoring and information. Their respective regions are defined as Skagerrak and Kattegat for Göteborg, the Baltic proper for Stockholm and the Gulf of Bothnia for Umeå. For the research community, the centres provides the infrastructure (i.e., laboratories, shiptime, instruments) necessary to perform marine research.

In the new monitoring program, the marine centres will both actively perform monitoring and act as coordinators of the evaluation procedure. The goal is that an annual environmental status report should be created for the respective basins. The national monitoring program should also be coordinated with the regional monitoring programs, which are run by the county councils but paid for by the Swedish EPA. This presentation will explain how the program has been implemented in the Gulf of Bothnia and how the Umeå Marine Sciences Center is planning to coordinate the evaluation process; in addition, some specific problems with monitoring in this area will be discussed.