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SYM14: Bioprospecting for algae: the profitable side of collecting algae (organizers: Robert Andersen, Eneko Ganuza)

ACCESS TO ALGAE: LEGISLATION, SCIENCE AND ETHICS

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Both micro- and macroalgae are already widely commercialized and many products are already on the market. With their high levels of oils, carbohydrates, sugars and proteins, algae are used by humans for wide range of applications such as food, renewable fuel, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals and aquaculture application. Billions of dollars are being invested in the research and development of algae-based technologies. This remarkable growth of algae-based industry in turn enhance marine bioprospecting activities, which have the potential to sustainably deliver considerable wealth and business opportunities to local economies. Various international conventions and protocols emphasize development of fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of marine resources with the local communities and aim to secure supplier or user countries. This presentation will shed some light on the access and/or use of Macro-and Microalgae, in high sea or territorial waters, through presentation of the CIESM Charter on Access and Benefit Sharing, providing robust ethical context for further bioprospecting activities.