

SUMMARY REPORT
on the 2009 Baltic Floating University cruise
and related activities in the framework of the Training-Through-Research program
of IOC/TEMA on board the sailing catamaran “Centaurus II”
(July 13 - July 24, 2009)

The “Baltic Floating University” project started in 1993. In 2009 the 16th Training-Through-Research cruise was held onboard the sailing catamaran “Centaurus-II” in the Eastern part of the Gulf of Finland (Baltic Sea). It was carried out by the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU) between 13-24 July 2009.

Three RSHU teachers and seven students plus two students from the University of Bogota (Colombia) were involved. The scientific and educational program on board included measurements of hydrological, hydrochemical and hydrobiological parameters, assessment of meteorological situation as well as lectures and seminars on environmental problems of the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland in particular. Complex oceanographic surveys were carried out in the Neva Bay, Luga and Koporye regions and in the Vyborg Bay in the area of the new oil terminals of the cities of Vysotsk and Primorsk. A mid-cruise seminar was held onboard where Colombian students presented the projects they were involved in their home universities. During the cruise the students were trained in pre-processing and preliminary analysis of field data. After the cruise the students presented their preliminary results at a post-cruise seminar held in St. Petersburg. The BFU activity in 2009 also included cultural programs in the cities of St.-Petersburg and Vyborg where students went sightseeing and visited many historical places, famous museums and cathedrals.

The data collected during the BFU 2009 cruise will be used by the students in their future research. The database of the cruise participants was created in the OceanExpert system (www.oceanexpert.org) and the cruise summary report can be found at the BFU web-site (www.rshu.ru/eng/bfu/cruises).



1. BFU-2009 students onboard the sailing catamaran “Centaurus-II” together with two RSHU teachers, Dr. S. Gordeeva (left) and Dr. M. Shilin (right)



2. Students at work: field observations (upper left and bottom left); work in the onboard hydrochemical laboratory (upper right); summer phytoplankton bloom in the Gulf of Finland (bottom right)