

International evaluering af DMU's forskning i iltsvind

Bestyrelsen for Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser (DMU) har anmodet Forskningsstyrelsen om at bistå med en international evaluering af DMU's forskning inden for iltsvind.

Forskningsstyrelsen har i den anledning afholdt møde med formandsskabet for Statens Naturvidenskabelige Forskningsråd (professor John Renner Hansen og professor Morten Pejrup) og formanden for DMU's bestyrelse (Hans E. Zeuthen) for at tilrettelægge evalueringen, der ønskes afsluttet senest den 31. maj 2003.

På mødet har man bl.a. drøftet rammerne for evalueringen ('terms of reference'). Vedlagt de rammer for evalueringen, man er blevet enige om.

Normalt varetages institutionsevalueringer af institutionernes bestyrelse eller daglige ledelse evt. med bistand fra det eller de relevante statslige forskningsråd. Nationale evalueringer af fag eller videnskabsgrene varetages derimod normalt af det eller de relevante statslige forskningsråd. Lov om sektorforskningsinstitutioner, § 10, fastslår, at forskningsministeren kan fastsætte regler for gennemførelse af uafhængige evalueringer af institutionens forsknings- og formidlingsvirksomhed.

I det aktuelle tilfælde er det DMU's forskning på iltsvindsområdet, der er genstand for evalueringen.

Forskningsstyrelsen, Statens Naturvidenskabelige Forskningsråd (SNF) og DMU's bestyrelse er enige om, at evalueringen bedst gennemføres på følgende måde:

1. DMU's bestyrelse varetager evalueringen og afholder udgifter til evalueringspanelet.
2. SNF foreslår et evalueringspanel. Forslaget til evalueringspanel kommenteres af DMU's bestyrelse.
3. På baggrund heraf beslutter SNF panelets sammensætning.
4. DMU's daglige ledelse fremskaffer det materiale, panelet ønsker.
5. Samtidig får kritikere af DMU mulighed for at fremlægge det materiale, de måtte ønske inddraget i panelets evaluering af DMU's forskning på iltsvindsområdet.
6. Panelet tager beslutning om behovet for yderligere materiale og interviews.
7. Panelet mødes og afgiver, inden de skilles, en rapport til DMU's bestyrelse.
8. DMU fremlægger rapporten på et pressemøde.

Yderligere oplysninger ved henvendelse til:

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Terms of reference for an evaluation of NERI's research on marine eutrophication

Background

NERI's research on marine eutrophication forms part of the scientific background for political decisions. However, NERI's credibility in this area has been questioned, and there is a political need for NERI's results to be substantiated.

Forskningsstyrelsen

Therefore, NERI's Board of Governors has decided to initiate an international evaluation of NERI's research on marine eutrophication, including oxygen deficiency.

Scope

The evaluation shall include scientific quality of NERI's research in marine eutrophication and oxygen deficiency, as well as the application of these scientific results in NERI's advisory activities.

Evaluation panel and form

The evaluation will be initiated through collaboration between NERI and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The evaluation will be carried out by an evaluation panel composed of three to five leading international scientific experts in marine eutrophication and oxygen deficiency. It is required that at least one of the panel members can read reports published in Danish. The panel will be assisted by a scientific secretary.

The basic principle of the evaluation will be peer review of NERI's research activities in marine eutrophication. NERI will supply the necessary background material to facilitate the evaluation. Also, possible background material from critics of NERI's research shall be included.

The evaluation includes a visit to NERI for the evaluation panel. A plan for the visit should be adopted by the evaluation panel well in advance.

Main tasks

The evaluation panel will prepare a report including considerations and conclusions about:

- The scientific quality of NERI's research on marine eutrophication. This point should also include an evaluation of whether there are professional or quality-related weaknesses or deficiencies in the activities.

- The relevance of NERI's research activities as a basis for NERI's advisory role.
- The technical and scientific quality of NERI's advisory reports.
- NERI's national and international collaboration with universities and other research institutes.

Procedure

NERI's Board of Governors calls The Danish Natural Science Research Council to appoint the chairman and members of the evaluation panel.

NERI will arrange a three to five day visit to NERI and supply practical assistance to support the evaluation, including travel arrangements and accommodation of the panel members.

Time schedule

The evaluation panel will be nominated and notified by the end of March 2003. The evaluation has to be completed May 31st. 2003.

Forskningsstyrelsen