

**Today's Paper » IN SCHOOL****Want to participate in Ocean Sampling Day?**

DPA



Photo: N. Rajesh

Every drop of ocean water contains millions of micro-organisms.

On June 21 biologists will be out on boats round the globe, scooping up bottles of water and analysing the DNA they find in it.

They hope passengers on cruise boats and others at sea will chip in with extra data.

“The goal is to create the biggest data set in marine research that has ever been taken on one single day, like a huge snapshot of the world’s oceans,” said EU Research Commissioner. Maire Geoghegan-Quinn in Brussels

Volunteer researchers who want to help on the big day can record the state of the sea wherever they are and report this with a smartphone app.

Amateurs on boats can lower household thermometers overboard on a string, or check out phytoplankton levels by lowering a homemade, white, 30-cm disk into the water and recording how deep it is when it is no longer visible.

Even on coasts, people can help, for example by measuring air temperature, or scooping a bucket of seawater and measuring nitrates and nitrite using cheap tests sold in aquarium shops.

Ocean Sampling Day organisers say it’s optional what the citizen scientists measure, but time, longitude, latitude and your name or nickname are mandatory with reports sent in via the app.DPA