



Facts

Q: What is the problem and what are the causes of brownification?

A: The browning of lakes and streams in Sweden and elsewhere in the northern hemisphere is drastically increasing. This is caused by the high concentration of dissolved organic material and iron in the water. This causes problems in drinking water production since the brownification increases cost and the risk for toxic substances. Brown water in our lakes and streams is also negative for recreation and tourism as well as for bio-diversity. The increasing prevalence of brown water is caused by a combination of climate change (longer growing season and more precipitation), slow recovery from acidification (organic material less mobile at low ph-levels) and altered land use, in particular an increasing dominance of spruce trees.

Q: What is the purpose of the initiative?

A: The purpose was to gather researchers and other stakeholders to focus on what we know and don't know as well as understand what we need to find out about causes and consequences with a vision to find solutions to combat brownification.

Q: What will this result in?

A: The workshop kicked off work which will result in a scientific synthesis article targeted to researchers and other interested stakeholders. Based on the article, a conference will be held in the middle of February, which will hopefully lead to further research which can better answer questions on solutions and in the end, improved processes for better water quality.

Q: How can brownification be solved?

A: Climate change and sulfur fallout is beyond our regional control. This means that particular focus should be directed towards landscape changes that could influence the events/processes causing brownification.