

Martin Visbeck holds the physical oceanography chair at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and Kiel University, Germany. He received his PhD from Kiel University in Physical Oceanography on research about deep ocean convection in 1993. During a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT, Cambridge USA, his research interest focused on the interaction between ocean eddies and deep convection regions and their respective heat and density transports. As a Research Scientist at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and Associate Professor at Columbia University, New York, his interest shifted to more general aspects of the ocean's role in the climate system including work on the North Atlantic Oscillation and Deep Water formation off Antarctica. Since October 2004 he holds the chair in Physical Oceanography at GEOMAR and Kiel University.

Martin Visbeck's current research is concerned with ocean and climate variability and change with particular emphasis on the circulation of the Subpolar North Atlantic. Where he maintains direct current measurements to document the variability and change of North Atlantic Deep Water transport, a key component of the Atlantic Overturning Circulation. He works in the context of a Kiel based special research program on climate-biogeochemical interactions in the tropical ocean with a focus on the supply of oxygen towards the extensive tropical oxygen minimum zones. For his research on observations of ocean circulation and mixing he makes use of research vessel based expeditions but also is increasingly using and advancing modern robotic platforms including profiling floats and gliders, and the development of ocean observatories for long-term observations in the water column.

Martin Visbeck has served on several national and international advisory committees. Currently, he is member of the Scientific Steering Group of the World Climate Research Project CLIVAR (Climate Variability and Predictability), which facilitates global climate research in the atmosphere and ocean. He is a member of the German National Committee for Global Change Research, the German Research Foundations (DFG) Senatscommission for Oceanography, chairman of the German Committee Future Earth, in the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and is Speaker of the Kiel Research Cluster 'The Future Ocean' supported by the German Excellence initiative, which is advancing integrated marine sciences.