

## WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - ORAL & POSTERS - version June 4th 2026

### TUESDAY - 17 November 2026

MORNING (1)

#### PLENARY SESSION

*David Obura - Keynote - Conference Opening*

*Vidar Helgesen - Keynote Theme 1 - Challenges to achieve UN Ocean Decade goals*

Coffee break

#### Parallel sessions - Themes 1, 2, 4, 6, 7

MORNING (2)	1.1. Marine Life 2030: Advancing UN Ocean Decade Challenge 2 Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity	7.2. Integrating Novel Technologies Into Traditional Coastal Monitoring Programmes to Enhance Marine Biodiversity Knowledge	2.2. Marine Biodiversity at Risk: The Climate-Fisheries Nexus and the Future of Ocean Resources	General session	<b>Poster Session 1 (continuous Tue+Wed)</b>
Lunch break					* 1.1 *2.7 * 1.2 *4.2 * 1.3 *6.1 * 1.4 *6.2 * 1.5 *6.4
AFTERNOON (1)	1.2. Leveraging Public-Private-partnerships and Innovative Technology in Marine Ecosystem Restoration	7.1. The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON): Advancing Marine Biodiversity Observations and Data Management	2.1. Marine Mammals in the Anthropocene: Navigating Challenges, Shaping Recommendations	6.1. Strategic Knowledge Sharing: Unlocking the Potential of Marine Artificial Structures for Biodiversity	* 2.1 *6.5 * 2.2 *7.1 * 2.3 *7.2 * 2.4
Coffee break					
AFTERNOON (2)	1.3. Sustainable Ocean Biodiversity through Mapping, Technological Deployment, and Restoration Initiatives	4.2. Citizen Science: A Critical Lever for a Deeper Knowledge of and a Wide and Global Support for Marine Biodiversity	2.3. Towards a Holistic Understanding of Ecosystem Impacts of Renewable Eenergy Installations Across Space and Time	6.2. Science, outreach, capacity Building and Policy / Diplomacy the Role of the Global Network of Marine Stations	

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### WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026

MORNING (1)

#### PLENARY SESSION

*Daniel Lauretta - Keynote Theme 4 - Marine biodiversity enthusiasts for the future: who are they, where do they come from and what drives them?*

*Diva Amon - Keynote Theme 6 - Science that makes a difference: supporting knowledge-based policies*

Coffee break

#### Parallel sessions - Themes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

MORNING (2)	1.4. Minimizing the Impact of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity: The Way Forward	4.1. From Roots to Resilience: Bridging Science and Communities for Mangrove Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean	2.4. Assessing the Impact of Plastic Pollution on Marine Biodiversity	6.4. Bright Spots and Bridge Building: Co-Designing Marine Biodiversity Knowledge to Inform Conservation, Stewardship, and Action	<b>Poster Session 1 (continuous Tue+Wed)</b>
Lunch break					* 1.1 *2.7 * 1.2 *4.2 * 1.3 *6.1 * 1.4 *6.2 * 1.5 *6.4 * 2.1 *6.5 * 2.2 *7.1 * 2.3 *7.2 * 2.4
AFTERNOON (1)	1.5. Enhancing ocean data sharing: Addressing data gaps in marine biodiversity through the Ocean Decade	4.3. WE ARE OCEAN Blaupausen: The Impact of Art-Science Based Ocean Education	2.7. Challenges and opportunities of monitoring biodiversity through environmental DNA (eDNA): Understanding and Predicting the Behaviour and Fate of eDNA in Marine Environments	6.5. Science-Policy Synergy: Lessons from EU Marine Conservation Projects	
Coffee break					
AFTERNOON (2)	1.6 From Local to Global: Scaling National Marine Biodiversity Best Practices	4.4. Sensors, Stewards and Stories: A Low-Cost Revolution in Marine Biodiversity Monitoring	2.6. Integrating Biodiversity as a Measure of Seagrass Status in Monitoring, Conservation, and Restoration - Challenges and Opportunities	6.6. Preserve, Revive, Thrive: The Baltic Sea as a Test-Laboratory for the World's Oceans	

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### THURSDAY - 19 November 2026

MORNING (1)

#### PLENARY SESSION

*Leen Vandepitte - Keynote Theme 5 - Challenges and opportunities in marine taxonomic research: from specimens to genes*  
*Philippe Bouchet - Carlo Heip Awardee*

Coffee break

#### Parallel sessions - Themes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

<b>MORNING (2)</b>	5.1. Today's Challenges and Future Opportunities for Identifying the Evolution, Taxonomy, and Systematics of Invertebrates	7.3. Animal Movement, Behaviour and Biologging	2.5. Solving the Ocean Biodiversity Data Crisis... One Byte at a Time	6.7. Advances and Challenges in Developing and Applying Conservation and Restoration Science to Meet Societal Goals and Legislative Needs	<b>Poster session 2 (continuous Thu+Fri)</b>
<b>Lunch break</b>					* 1.6 * 5.4 * 2.5 * 6.3 * 2.6 * 6.7
<b>AFTERNOON (1)</b>	5.2. The Ocean Census: Collective Efforts to Accelerate the Discovery of New Ocean Life	7.5. New Technology for Biodiversity Monitoring Innovations and Challenges to Implementation	2.8. Keeping Your Cool - Polar Benthic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning in a Changing Ocean	6.8. Understanding Environmental Impacts of Deep-Seabed Mining: Science for Sustainable Ocean Governance	* 2.8 * 6.8 * 3.1 * 6.9 * 3.2 * 6.10 * 4.4 * 7.3 * 5.1 * 7.4 * 5.2 * 7.5 * 5.3 * General
<b>Coffee break</b>					
<b>AFTERNOON (2)</b>	5.3. The African Linnean Shortfall: Overview, Status and Opportunities in Capacity Building and Research in Marine Taxonomy	7.6. Innovative and Large-Scale Approaches for Biodiversity Observation in Pelagic Ecosystems	3.1. Bringing Marine Ecosystem Modelling in Operation to Predict and Protect Ocean Biodiversity	6.9. Biodiversity Benefits of Nature Based Solutions?	

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### FRIDAY - 20 November 2026

MORNING (1)

#### PLENARY SESSION

*Fei Chai - Keynote Theme 3 - Building e-oceans to help us filling our knowledge gaps*

*Lisa Levin - Theme 2 + 7 - Marine biodiversity: it's all about the baselines and trends; Taking the pulse of the ocean: measuring the current marine biodiversity state and how it impacts us*

Coffee break

#### Parallel sessions - Themes 3, 5, 6, 7

MORNING (2)

5.4. The World Register of Marine Species as a Catalyst for Understanding Marine Biodiversity

7.4. Plankton Biodiversity for Ocean Health

3.2. Digital Twins and AI Applications for Marine Biodiversity & Ecosystems: From Virtual Oceans to Real-World Impact

6.10. Biodiversity as a Source of Solutions: Unlocking the Societal Value of Marine Life

**Poster session 2  
(continuous  
Thu+Fri)**

Lunch break

AFTERNOON (1)

#### PLENARY - CLOSING SESSION

\* 1.6 \* 5.4  
\* 2.5 \* 6.3  
\* 2.6 \* 6.7  
\* 2.8 \* 6.8  
\* 3.1 \* 6.9  
\* 3.2 \* 6.10  
\* 4.4 \* 7.3  
\* 5.1 \* 7.4  
\* 5.2 \* 7.5  
\* 5.3 \* General