

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

TUESDAY - 17 November 2026 - morning

PLENARY SESSION

David Obura - Keynote - Conference Opening

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

Coffee break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
		The Marine Life 2030 Programme and Ocean Decade Challenge 2	Frank Muller-Karger	5
		Action planning for marine protection and restoration: the OCEANIS framework	Lina Mtwana Nordlund	5
		MINKA Citizen Science Observatory	Teresa Madurell	5
		Powerful Partnerships for Ocean Knowledge: The case study of the BMAP in the central coast of Peru	Ximena Velez-Zuazo	5
		Coordinated mapping of Atlantic seafloor biodiversity through the Challenger 150 Programme	Kerry Howell	5
		Enhancing Marine Biodiversity through Integrated Conservation Strategies	Liban Jama (unconfirmed)	5
		A new operational pathway for effective marine conservation: translating international commitments into ecologically meaningful, context-relevant MPA goals	Rita Trabulo	5
		Coordinated Ocean Observing for a Healthier Planet: Building on the GOOS Essential Ocean Variables Framework to Understand and Forecast Marine Life	Audrey Darnaude	5
		Financing scientific monitoring in high seas marine protected areas: evidence from large-scale MPAs for BBNJ implementation	Elisa Coccoresese	5
		Harnessing Seagrass for Biodiversity: Empowering the Vanga Community through Conservation and Biodiversity Credits	Meali Mohamed	5
		Societal Extinction of Marine Life: Media Representations and Implications for Marine Biodiversity Conservation	Sandrine Lage	5
		Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority: Expanding the IUCN Red List to better protect marine invertebrate biodiversity	Julia Silva Beneti	5
		The Salvamares Program of the National Society of Fisheries: Development, Impact, and Contributions to the Peruvian Marine Ecosystem	Gabriela Lecca (unconfirmed)	5
		Strengthening Sustainable Ocean Biodiversity in Africa through Integrated Mapping, Technology, and Community-Based Restoration.	Shawa Fifteen (unconfirmed)	5
		Global habitat suitability of mangrove species based on an ensemble of species distribution models	Alvise Dabalà	5
		Promises and pitfalls of novel technologies for marine biodiversity assessments – the OBAMA-NEXT project	Peter Staehr	10
		The best of both worlds: Optimising benthic impact studies by combining morphological and DNA-based monitoring.	Annelies De Backer	5
		Nematode community monitoring in the Southern Baltic Sea: morphotaxonomy vs multiplex barcoding and metabarcoding	Justyna Falkowska	5
		Integration of environmental DNA metabarcoding as a complementary tool for benthic monitoring programmes in the German EEZ of the North Sea	Silke Laakmann	5
		Combining satellite remote sensing and hydroacoustics with traditional and eDNA monitoring for the assessment of shallow-water ecosystems in Mauritania, Africa	Kai Pfenning	5
		AI-Enhanced Monitoring of Rocky Reef Ecosystems in the Gulf of California, Mexico	Alberto Rieva	5
		KIFA: Integrating AI Assisted Video Analysis into Coastal Fish Monitoring Programmes	Asri Lestari	5
		Seeing, filming and sequencing: complementary approaches for monitoring rocky fish communities.	Gaëlle Legras	5
		Better together: integrating beam trawl, eDNA metabarcoding and animal tracking data for elasmobranch distribution modelling	Jolien Buyse	5
		From bacteria to fish: Coral reef spatio-temporal biodiversity patterns through three global mass bleaching events	Susana Carvalho	5
		Past, Present and Future of Cyprus' Shallow-Reef Biodiversity Revealed by Integrated Traditional and Novel Monitoring	Louis Hadjioannou	5
		Integrating Passive Acoustics and eDNA Metabarcoding to Enhance Coastal Monitoring of Dolphin-Prey Interactions	Maria Silvia Labriola	5
		Simplifying Marine eDNA Biodiversity Monitoring for Coral Reef Conservation and Community Science	Patrick Nichols	5
		Beyond the water: Sponge eDNA as a complementary tool for coral reef biodiversity assessment	Mary Williams	5
	1.1. Marine Life 2030: Advancing UN Ocean Decade Challenge 2			
	Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity			
	<i>Chairs: Frank Müller-Karger & Audrey Darnaude</i>			
	7.2. Integrating Novel Technologies Into Traditional Coastal Monitoring Programmes to Enhance Marine Biodiversity Knowledge			
	<i>Chairs: Annelies De Backer & Jasmin Renz</i>			

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

TUESDAY - 17 November 2026 - morning

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
		Opening the gates for European eels: Ten years of adjusted tidal barrage management at the Belgian coast	Isaac Vermeulen	6
		Intersecting impacts of climate change and fishing on global marine fish communities	Daniel van Denderen	6
		Baseline Data and the Climate-Fisheries Nexus: Lessons from the "Bojeo a Cuba" National Reef Expedition	Valerie Miller	6
		Discovering Coral Reef Regimes in the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve via the Coupling of Benthic and Fish Subsystems	Joshua Kilborn	6
	2.2. Marine Biodiversity at Risk:	Data on fish landings may not be sufficient when discussing conservation and management policies for elasmobranchs	Daniel Gómez-Lobo Camacho	6
	The Climate-Fisheries Nexus and	Long-term change in the diets of marine fishes in response to climate change and commercial fishing	Elizabeth Gillie	6
	the Future of Ocean Resources	Time Series Analysis of Genetic Variation in Atlantic Herring: Responses to Fishing Pressure and Climate Variability Over a Century	Violaine Dolfo	6
		From plankton to fish: climate-driven redistribution of marine biodiversity and shifting contributions of rare species	Elena Couce	6
	<i>Chairs: Kit Yue Kwan & Khor Waiho</i>	Risk-based biodiversity prioritization in a warming Mediterranean Sea	Antonella Consiglio	6
		Two decades of fish community change reshape fish-mediated biogeochemical functioning in the Mediterranean Sea	Jérémy Carlot	6
		Linking physiological and proteomic responses to assess vulnerability to climate-driven stressors in the Peruvian scallop	Rebeca Campos-Cuellar	6
		Range shifts and secondary contact in commercially important hake species (Merluccius): a genomic perspective on hybridization under global change	Carmen Blanco Fernandez	6
		Environmental Drivers and Recruitment Dynamics of Sardinella spp. in the Canary Current Upwelling System	Bocar Sabaly BALDE (unconfirmed)	6
		Marine biodiversity under pressure: climate change, species range shifts, and conservation in the Pacific Arctic	Irene D. Alabia	6
		A trait-based multicriteria analysis to identify biodiversity hotspots at global level.	Matteo Bolzonella	6
		Assessing the impact of marine sand extraction on epibenthos and fish communities using Generalized Linear Latent Variable Models (GLLVMs)	Charlotte Van Moorleghe	6
		Biodiversity baselines at extreme depths: video-derived observations to characterise abyssal and hadal features.	Denise Swanborn	6
		Characterizing the impact of sea use on biodiversity : the case of seaports.	Catherine Lalongé	6
		From sea to stream: genomic evidence for life-history divergence between migratory river lampreys and resident brook lampreys.	Stan Coppis	6
	General session	Ghost estuaries on the continental shelf: hidden drivers of benthic biodiversity in the southwest Indian Ocean	Fiona MacKay	6
		Highly productive and diverse marine habitats? Think pink!	Aimee van der Reis	6
	<i>Chairs: Tobias Musschoot & (tbc)</i>	Mammals and Their Cultural Values: Intangible Heritage, Sacred Status, and Ocean-Human Relations	Ana Vitória Tereza de Magalhães	6
		The Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2025	Tom Dallison	6
		Trophic accessibility in estuarine food webs: implications of copepod digestibility for larval fish feeding	Sara Degrande	6
		Using AI to detect Migrating Whales in Satellite Images, Map their Migration Route and Design a Multinational Marine Protected Area	Esteban Rodofili	6
		Warming and species interactions shape feeding and fatty acid dynamics in estuarine meiofauna	Anna-Maria Vafeiadou	6
		From Illusion to Insight: Is Marine Biodiversity Really Lower Than Terrestrial?	Craig McClain	6
Lunch break				

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

TUESDAY - 17 November 2026 - Afternoon, part 1

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	1.2. Leveraging Public-Private-partnerships and Innovative Technology in Marine Ecosystem Restoration	Marine Forest Restoration in Madeira Island: a CLIMAREST case study	Susanne Schäfer	10
		Offshore oyster reef restoration in Belgian waters: pioneering deployment in the BELREEFS project	Pooja Mahapatra	10
		Securing finance for nature restoration in the Belgian part of the North Sea	Elinka De Leener (unconfirmed)	10
		<i>Moderated panel discussion</i>		
	<i>Chairs: Deniz Tekerek & Flo Janin</i>			
	7.1. The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON): Advancing Marine Biodiversity Observations and Data Management	The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) and the Ocean Decade Marine Life 2030 Programme	Frank Muller-Karger	5
		Reviewing 7 years’ activity of Asia-Pacific Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (APMBON)	Masahiro Nakaoka	5
		Towards a Western Indian Ocean Marine Biodiversity Observation Network: stereo-BRUVs as a backbone for regional fish biodiversity monitoring	Kaylee Smit	5
		Unveiling the benthic cryptobiome of the Northern Adriatic Sea using Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures	Federica Costantini	5
		Co-designing the Foundations of Southern Ocean Monitoring: Stakeholder Integration and FAIR Data in the WOBEC Project	Anton Van de Putte	5
		Multivariate Trajectories and Eigenvector Maps for Essential Ocean Variable Surveillance Across the US National Marine Sanctuary System	Joshua Kilborn	5
		Long-term ecological monitoring reveals hidden biodiversity declines across trophic levels in the Galápagos Marine Reserve	Inti Keith	5
		Better insights into pelagic ecosystems through AI-accelerated quantitative plankton imaging	Jean-Olivier Irisson	5
		Marine animal tracking for informed decisions: mobilizing standardized animal movement data from ATN for biodiversity assessment and management	Megan McKinzie	5
		Informing the future of global animal tracking: standardizing data sharing and collaborative action	Cassandra Hartery	5
		ROV-based interoperable marine biodiversity observations in post-eruption coastal habitats: the DELTA approach at the Tajogaite lava deltas	nalu franco gerent	5
		Leveraging GIS and community-led approaches to strengthen coastal resilience and marine conservation in Papua New Guinea	Judah Wamamberi (unconfirmed)	5
		Protecting and Restoring Coastal Ecosystems through Climate-Smart Shrimp Aquaculture: A Scalable Nature-Based Solution from East Java, Indonesia	Burhanuddin Burhanuddin	5
		Strengthening the participatory conservation and ocean literacy of blue carbon ecosystems in Santiago Island, Cabo Verde	Edita Magileviciute	5
	Integrating Environmental DNA, Benthic Habitat Surveys, and Participatory Monitoring to Establish Baseline Marine Biodiversity in Southern Somalia	Nafisa Mohamed	5	
<i>Chairs: Isabel Sousa-Pinto & Frank Müller-Karger</i>				

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

TUESDAY - 17 November 2026 - Afternoon, part 1

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	2.1. Marine Mammals in the Anthropocene: Navigating Challenges, Shaping Recommendations <i>Chairs: Krishna Das & Ursula Siebert</i>	Marine mammal post-mortem examinations as indicators of anthropogenic and natural stressors affecting marine ecosystems in the Basque Coast	Andrea Estarrona	10
		Five decades of Southern right whale monitoring: from stalled recovery to sentinels of climate-driven reorganization of the Southern Ocean (eco)system	Anne Grundlehner	10
		Towards an ecosystem-based underwater noise limit value: a precautionary framework to support marine mammal protection under the MSFD	Helena Eicher	10
		Long-term trends in space use, trophic ecology, and social structure of common bottlenose dolphins in a rapidly changing estuarine ecosystem	Jessica Carde	10
		Fin Whale as a Sentinel of Anthropocene Ocean Health: First Integrated Chemical Exposomics and Gene Expression Analysis in Cetaceans	Maria Cristina Fossi	10
		Pelagic Processes Drive Mercury Bioaccumulation in Arctic Fjord Seals	Marianna Pinzone	10
		Protecting the future: how cetacean diversity will be included in future MPAs	Alice Turchi	5
		Trawling Activity Shapes the Fine-Scale Distribution of Bottlenose Dolphins in a Mediterranean Coastal Ecosystem	Maria Silvia Labriola	5
		The largest gathering of baleen whales occurs in a region of industrial krill fishing	Matthew Savoca	5
		Determining the effects of operational offshore windfarms on harbour porpoise presence and foraging behaviour.	Sofya Aoufi	5
		A global database and assessment of pinniped abundance trends strategizes conservation efforts	Terrance Wang (unconfirmed)	5
		Distinguishing focal whistles in small odontocetes: Navigating challenges, shaping recommendations	Xavier Raick	5
	6.1. Strategic Knowledge Sharing: Unlocking the Potential of Marine Artificial Structures for Biodiversity <i>Chairs: Steven Degraer & Henk van Rein</i>	Is there an absence of evidence for decision-making around marine artificial structures?	Antony Knights	10
		Examples of science communication approaches for successful science-policy learning	Georgina Roberts	7
		From conflict to collaboration: A consultation driven approach to offshore wind farm development in a marine protected area	Steven Degraer	7
		A multi-criteria decision-making framework for sustainable decommissioning of marine artificial structures	Pim Somers (unconfirmed)	5
		Strategic Knowledge Sharing for Nature-Inclusive Offshore Energy: Learnings from Biodiversity Projects in the Dutch North Sea	Oskar van Megen	5
		Creating a single voice for nature in regional policy through the North Sea Alliance	Eline van Onselen	5
		3D Visualisations of Reef-Like Communities at Offshore Energy Structures and Their Utilisation for Stakeholder Engagement	Megan Squire	7
		Assessing the Conservation Potential of Decommissioned Subsea Pipelines in Thailand: An Evaluation of OECM Criteria Using Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species	Alethea Madgett	7
		Advancing Quantification of Marine Ecosystem Impacts: The Marine Ecosystem Performance Framework for Offshore Industries	Annelies Boerema	7

Coffee break

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

TUESDAY - 17 November 2026 - Afternoon, part 2

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	1.3. Sustainable Ocean Biodiversity through Mapping, Technological Deployment, and Restoration Initiatives <i>Chairs: Peter Teye Busumprah & Ruby Hansom</i>	The Africa Ocean Biodiversity Atlas: Using Local Technologies to Protect Blue Carbon Ecosystems and Fisheries.	Peter Teye Busumprah	7
		Unlocking Africa's Coastal and Marine Ecosystems for Biodiversity, Climate, and People through Integrated Mapping and Knowledge Co-Production	Clea Abello	7
		Conserving the Hidden Depths of the World's Ocean via a 3-D Biodiversity Assessment for the Mesopelagic Realm	Yulia Egorova	7
		Identifying marine climate refugia to advance climate-smart conservation	Marina Sanz-Martín	7
		PMRF: Probabilistic Multimodal Reef Fusion pipeline	Sofie Boggio Sella (unconfirmed)	7
		Analysis and modeling of spatial distribution of coral communities under climate change: contribution of remote sensing and artificial intelligence (DINOv2 & CNN)	Yves Amoros Mitondrasoa (unconfirmed)	7
		Harnessing Local Ocean Technologies in Africa for Deep-Sea Biodiversity Imaging within BBNJ Frameworks	Kwasi Wiawe	7
		Blue Mapping: An Integrated AI-Drone Intelligence System for Ocean Biodiversity Mapping, Marine Plastic Prevention, and Coastal Restoration in West Africa	Ekundayo Solomon	7
		Indigenous Knowledge to Preserve and Protect Africa's Biodiversity	Mavis Adwoa Essilfie	7
		Integrating Earth Observation, Modelling, and In-Situ Data for Advancing Coastal Biodiversity and Blue Carbon Management	Rainer Ressler	7
		Assessment of changes in mangroves and wetlands through earth observation time series data analysis in relation to climate parameters in the coastal areas of Togo	Akote Ahounga	7
	4.2. Citizen Science: A Critical Lever for a Deeper Knowledge of and a Wide and Global Support for Marine Biodiversity <i>Chairs: Jan Seys & Nancy Fockedeey</i>	BiodivOcean: Observing and Reporting Marine Life	Juanita Zorrilla-Pujana	5
		Islands of Knowledge, Oceans of Data: A Scoping Review of Marine Citizen Science in SIDS	Justin Whittle (unconfirmed)	5
		The Big Seashell Survey, a citizen science project on European beaches: a proven concept	Jan Seys => Nancy Fockedeey	5
		Fostering local marine stewards to expand sea turtle stranding detection in Northern Brazil	Daniel Oliveira Cutrim (unconfirmed)	5
		Integrating imaging and eDNA to enhance quantitative, high-resolution coastal biodiversity assessment through citizen science campaigns	Rocío Nieto Vilela	5
		Citizen Science driving whale research and protection in Australia	Jan-Olaf Meynecke	5
		Pelagos Observe: A Scalable AI-Enabled Biodiversity Observation Network Built on Global Diving Activity	Gregory Maes	5
		Observing species interactions and responses to the foreshore marine microclimates – the MOOREV project	Nadine Le Bris	5
		Citizen science in studying cephalopod biodiversity and ecology	VLADIMIR LAPTIKHOVSKY	5
		Citizens for past ocean's biodiversity: two examples from Belgium	Stijn Goolaerts	5
		Delivering FAIR Marine Citizen Science in the UK Through Guidance, Training and Community Networks	Chloe Figueroa Ashforth	5
		Bridging biodiversity knowledge and social inclusion through citizen science: exploring microscopic biodiversity on Basque beaches	OIHANE DIAZ DE CERIO	5
		<i>Discussion</i>		

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

TUESDAY - 17 November 2026 - Afternoon, part 2

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	2.3. Towards a Holistic Understanding of Ecosystem Impacts of Renewable Energy Installations Across Space and Time <i>Chairs: Jan Vanaverbeke & Jolien Buyse</i>	From observation to insight: Advancing the understanding of environmental impacts from offshore wind farms	Steven Degraer	10
		On the impact of offshore wind farms on coastal marine ecosystems	Ute Daewel	10
		Behavioural time budgets of harbour seals under future offshore wind-related vessel traffic scenarios	Tobias Schaffeld	5
		Renewable energies in combination with marine protected areas: A case study at the Dogger Bank (North Sea)	Moritz Sonnewald	5
		Development of species diversity and co-occurrence in a newly installed offshore windfarm assessed using environmental DNA	Daniël van Berkel	5
		Bottom-up effects of operating offshore wind farms: insights from an ecosystem end-to-end model on harbour porpoises in the North Sea	Rémi Pigeault	5
		Harbour seal movement around offshore wind farms in the North Sea: limited attraction and vessel avoidance	Nina Maurer	5
		Shifting Macrobenthic Traits in Offshore Wind Farms in the Belgian Part of the North Sea: a Long-term Biological Traits Analysis	Christelle Jamar	5
		Spatial trade-offs in high-density energy planning: biodiversity-based scenarios for the Dutch North Sea 2050	Yuki Esser	5
		Navigating the Blue Transition: Assessing Multi-Use Potential for Passive Fisheries within Offshore Wind Farms in the Kattegat and Öresund	Peter Ljungberg	5
	6.2. Science, outreach, capacity Building and Policy / Diplomacy the Role of the Global Network of Marine Stations <i>Chairs: Matt Frost & Jan Mees</i>	Supporting the global Ocean agenda: International collaboration, ocean diplomacy and capacity sharing through the World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS)	Matt Frost	10
		Marine Stations: an opportunity for the development of open and specialized multidisciplinary capacities on a global scale	Jose A Juanes	10
		Capacity building challenges for community engagement in environmental sustainability interventions: required competencies and structural needs of volunteer leaders	Paquita Perez Salgado	10
		Applying a Global Framework for National Coral Reef Assessments to Guide Local Action and Biodiversity Reporting in the WIO	Abigail Mwalimu	10
		Science-to-Policy Drivers for Sustainable Fisheries Under a Changing Climate in the Western Indian Ocean	Kennedy Osuka-Edeye	10
		Recentering the Ocean: Epistemic and Ecological Margins in India's Science Diplomacy	Sainandan Sridhar Iyer (unconfirmed)	10
		Six Decades of Impactful Science: INVEMAR Strengthening Capacity for Marine Biodiversity towards Achieving Ocean Decade Challenge 2	Paula Sierra-Correa	10
		Spotlighting Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) Taking Ownership in the Implementation of the UN Ocean Decade Agenda 2030 in Africa.	Frank Mirobo	10
		IMBRSea and Marine Stations: A Synergy for Ocean Science	Luana Monteiro (unconfirmed)	10
		Empowering ECOPs through Cross-Boundary Training in Ocean Observation and Data Management	Gabriel Akoko Juma	10

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026 - morning

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

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	1.4. Minimizing the Impact of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity: The Way Forward <i>Chairs: Sanja Grdan & Natalija Suhareva</i>	Moving towards a holistic view of ocean acidification impacts on biodiversity and community structure in a complex and interconnected ocean	Stephen Widdicombe	10
		Trait-based detection of biodiversity responses to ocean acidification using long-term ecosystem observations	Natalija Suhareva	10
		Seasonal hypoxia, acidification and biodiversity vulnerability on the southeastern Arabian Sea shelf: pathways toward resilience	Sudheesh Valliyodan (unconfirmed)	10
		Impacts of multiple stressors on sea pen meadows: insights from Pennatula phosphorea bioluminescence and behaviours	laurent Duchatelet	10
		Ocean acidification: consequences for gastropod larvae and coastal biodiversity	Susana Galante-Oliveira	10
		Acidification state in two contrasting seasons in the eastern central Atlantic coast	Mamadou BA	10
		Seafloor Hydrocarbon Leakage and Its Role in Ocean Acidification and Transboundary Environmental Responsibility	Thomas Titko	10
		Macroalgal forests reshape biodiversity responses to ocean acidification in Mediterranean CO ₂ vent systems	Marco Munari	10
	4.1. From Roots to Resilience: Bridging Science and Communities for Mangrove Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean <i>Chair: Maria Rosa Cardenas & (TBC)</i>	MangRes Initiative: From a regional project to an international cooperation platform	MangRes scientific committee member	10
		From Science to Restoration Action: Scaling Blue Carbon through Participatory Governance in Colombia for Caribbean Climate Action and Mangrove Solutions	Paula Sierra-Correa	5
		From Diagnosis to Action: Generating socio-ecological information to guide mangrove restoration in the Colombian Caribbean	Natalia Peña-González	5
		Community-led mangrove restoration enhances ecological outcomes and local governance in Colombia's Pacific	Juliana Di Filippo (unconfirmed)	5
		Bridging Local Ecological Knowledge and Science: The Vida Manglar Approach to Blue Carbon Conservation	Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa	5
		Enhancing Mangrove Seedling Establishment Under Saline Stress Through Organic Pest Management: Implications for Coastal Biodiversity Restoration	Purushothaman R (unconfirmed)	5
		Enhancing Socio-Economic Resilience in Ecuadorian Mangrove Communities through Mollusk Depuration	Rafaella Dueñas-Olvera	5
		Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration in Manambolo-Tsiribihina, Madagascar	Danny Andrianasolo	5
		Mangrove restoration reinstates similar macrobenthos communities to natural mangroves in Guyana, South America	Mark Ram	5
		<i>Discussion</i>		

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026 - morning

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	2.4. Assessing the Impact of Plastic Pollution on Marine Biodiversity <i>Chairs: Erin Murphy & Britta Baechler</i>	Biodiversity in the North Pacific Garbage Patch: Insights through High Seas Plastic Cleanup	Marjolein van Vulpen	7
		Plastic Accumulation in Mangrove Nursery Habitats Across 21 Countries: Community-Based Evidence of Impacts on Coastal Biodiversity and Livelihoods	Ahmed Tihamiyu (unconfirmed)	7
		Regional monitoring to inform macrodebris management in Southern California	Leah Thornton Hampton	7
		Investigating the extent of and hazards from ghost gear in coastal waters	Susanna Huneide Thorbjørnsen	7
		Evaluating marine litter effects on mesophotic coralligenous reefs to support monitoring and restoration strategies in the NE Mediterranean.	Maria Sini	7
		Risk thresholds for plastic ingestion and entanglement in marine species	Erin Murphy	7
		Preliminary Ecological Assessment of Exposure and Risk for Microplastics in Peruvian Coastal Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems	Brenda Li Ludena	7
		Assessing the Impact of Plastic Pollution on Marine Biodiversity: A Case Study of the Efforts of ASCOA	Ruth Enjema Koffi Ngoni	7
		Temporal trends of seafloor plastic litter in the Mediterranean Sea: evidence from a citizen science initiative	Pierpaolo Consoli	7
		From exposure to impact: advancing physiological risk assessments for plastic pollution in marine biodiversity	Montserrat Compa (unconfirmed)	7
		Biodiversity and Plastics: What's the Risk? Expert Elicitation and Spatial Mapping in Fiji	Bella Charlesworth	7
		From hydrozoa to whales: A cross-taxon analysis to assess differential exposure to macro and micro marine debris in Mediterranean biodiversity	Matteo Baini	7
	6.4. Bright Spots and Bridge Building: Co-Designing Marine Biodiversity Knowledge to Inform Conservation, Stewardship, and Action <i>Chairs: Jason Landrum & Gabrielle Canonico</i>	Bright Spots Built Early: Funding Successful Co-Design	Jason Landrum	5
		Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice by Using Local-Governance Models to Advocate for Marine Biodiversity Through Youth-Leadership in Resource-Restricted Areas.	Sulaiman Umar Abubakar	5
		Building pathways from coastal knowledge to conservation in Canada	Jessica Currie	5
		Connections and missed connections between marine science and policy in Alaska	Henry Huntington	5
		A climate-resilient fisheries management framework for reef fish	Valerie Miller	5
		Co-designing cold storage infrastructure for small-scale fisheries: a social-ecological approach to conserving fish stocks and marine biodiversity	Layasree Vemmata Gopi	5
		Grassroots Growing: Co-creation of Knowledge and Governance Pathways in Hawaiian Fisheries	Ahmad Hameed (unconfirmed)	5
		Marine biodiversities: plural understandings of marine life and dynamics in French Mediterranean fisheries	Victoria Campón-Linares	5
		Bridging Fragmented Knowledge: A Framework for Integrated Monitoring and Stewardship in Port Environmental Licensing	Marcela Bergo Davanzo	5
		Co-producing knowledge for sustainable seaweed mariculture: Stakeholder perceptions on risks and risk management strategies in Kenya	Winnie Okoth	5
		Cost-effective deep-sea research promotes scientific advancement, equity and conservation	Telmo Morato	5
		Co-Designing Knowledge for Offshore Conservation: Building Partnerships for a Banda Sea LSMPA	Jimmy Kalthar	5
		Ecosystem knowledge in practice: co-produced insights, blind spots, and governance change in Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems	Sneha Jha	5
		Traditional ecological knowledge reveals ecological niches and benthic resource hotspots in a Marine Coastal Area of Indigenous Peoples	Javier Naretto	5
		Grounding EU marine biodiversity policy challenges in local realities: insights from co-designed stakeholder engagement across Europe	Charlotte Weber	5
		Lessons from a marine environmental monitoring in the southern North Sea co-designed by research and authorities	Jan Beermann	5

Lunch break

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026 - afternoon, part 1

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	1.5. Enhancing ocean data sharing: Addressing data gaps in marine biodiversity through the Ocean Decade <i>Chairs: Adam Leadbetter & Ward Appeltans</i>	Building Interoperable Metadata Infrastructure for Ocean Biodiversity Monitoring Through the GOOS BioEco Portal	Elizabeth Lawrence	10
		Enabling Seagrass Data Discovery and Sharing Through a Coordinated Community of Practice: from fragmentation to FAIR and actionable biodiversity information	Ana Carolina Peralta	10
		The Marine SoundLib: An open Infrastructure for exploring and understanding Marine Soundscapes	Elisabeth Debusschere	10
		Ocean DNA Explorer: A Standardized Data Infrastructure for eDNA Management and Global Biodiversity Integration	Luke Thompson	10
		Recommendations for genomics data flow to digital twin infrastructures: the EMO BON case study on data formatting and harmonization	Christina Pavloudi	10
		Mapping Networks Shaping Ocean Data Sharing in Multilateral Negotiations	Wenwen Lyu	10
		Scaling Up Marine Life Observations in the Global South: LACOBON's Regional Engine for UN Ocean Decade Biodiversity Action	Vanessa Yepes Narvaez	10
		From fisheries monitoring to biodiversity science: mobilizing two decades of marine biodiversity data from Chile	Javier Naretto	10
		Bridging the Data-Action Gap in Zambia's Aquatic Food Systems: An Evidence-for-Resilience Pathway for Sustainable Development	Kar Woh Chong	10
	4.3. WE ARE OCEAN Blaupausen: The Impact of Art-Science Based Ocean Education <i>Chairs: Anne-Marie Melster & Julia Moritz</i>	How can interdisciplinary projects like WE ARE OCEAN_Blaupausen (blueprints) contribute to Ocean Literacy and ocean protection?	Anne-Marie Melster	10
		Drawing the Ocean: Art-based education as a pathway for biodiversity learning and Indigenous ocean knowledge	Aishwarya Ravi	5
		Waves of Change: Literacy, Art, and the Rise of Ocean Advocates	Alannah Grobler (unconfirmed)	5
		Measuring what matters in water governance: co-creating community impact	Fruzsina Dezsi	5
		Designing Environmental Literacy: Service-Learning Messages on Plastic Pollution for Public Behavior Change	Natacha Poggio	5
		Reefs in Crayons: Children's Perspectives on Marine Biodiversity in Fiji	Annette Breckwoldt	5
		Re-imagining ocean literacies in South Africa through arts-based research	Zoë Tobias	5
		Digital ecosystems for convivial conservation: an ethnography of the OCEAN / UNI program for transdisciplinary ocean education through art and science	Ludovica Montecchio	5
		Ocean Symphony, a long-term sonic exploration and collaborative project	Yu Qin (unconfirmed)	5
		Art and marine science - woman role in marine narratives	Jan-Marcin Węstawski	5
		<i>Discussion</i>		

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026 - afternoon, part 1

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	2.7. Challenges and opportunities of monitoring biodiversity through environmental DNA (eDNA): Understanding and Predicting the Behaviour and Fate of eDNA in Marine Environments <i>Chairs: Marine Van den Heuvel-Greve & Carmen-Lucia David</i>	Shedding, persistence and transport of eDNA in marine systems	Auriel Elizabeth Sumner-Hempel	10
		Establishing offshore biodiversity baselines: Opportunities for incorporating eDNA approaches in Environmental Impact Assessments	Emma Beaton	5
		Adapting classical MSFD fish monitoring schemes for eDNA surveys using hydrodynamic dispersal modelling	Nergiz Dukan	5
		Morphological and DNA Barcode Identification of Mullet, Walvis-Bay Lagoon: A Step Toward a Marine Fish Barcode Reference Library for Namibia	Veronica Kapula (unconfirmed)	5
		Cetacean behaviour as a mechanism of vertical eDNA transport: insights from a metabarcoding analysis in a Mediterranean marine protected area	Mario Gabualdi	5
		Diet of the sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus) and other teuthophagous cetaceans in the Azores: a DNA metabarcoding contribution	Stéphanie Suci	5
		Linking genotypes to morphotypes from plankton surveys of the Southeast US Marine Biodiversity Observation Network in Florida coastal waters	Enrique Montes	5
		Microbial taxa as predictors of benthic structure: an eDNA approach applied to the Brazilian Continental Margin	Fabiana Paula	5
		Nematode metabarcoding for assessing aquaculture impacts	Ngoc-Loi Nguyen (unconfirmed)	5
		Optimizing eDNA monitoring in the Belgian Part of the North Sea using lagrangian transport models	Leo Barbut	5
		Screening Deep-Water eDNA from the Great Amazon Reef System (Brazilian Equatorial Margin): Do Sampling Volume and Preservation Methods Matter?	Marcio Pie	5
		Dynamic satellite seascapes as a biogeographic framework for predicting eukaryotic plankton communities in south Florida coastal waters	Juan Pierella Karlusich	5
	6.5. Science-Policy Synergy: Lessons from EU Marine Conservation Projects <i>Chairs: Ute Jacob & Ivan Conesa Alcolea</i>	The Southern North Sea planning site of the MarinePlan project	Maren Kruse (unconfirmed)	7
		Bridging Science and Policy: The PHAROS Project's Co-Creation Approach to Marine Conservation Governance	Presenter to be confirmed	7
		MSP4BIO – Advancing biodiversity-inclusive Maritime Spatial Planning in Europe	Ivana Stojanovic	7
		Blue4All: Bridging Bottom-Up and Top-Down - Insights from working with MPAs Managers and Stakeholders	Bob Rumes	7
		BLUE CONNECT - Bridging policy gaps for advancing strict protection, restoration and co-management of Marine Protected Areas	Natascha Jaspert	7
		More than the sum of its parts – how to optimise governance, planning, and management across an MPA network.	Jannica Haldin	7
		The BioProtect project	Julian Mariano Burgos	7
		Discussion		

Coffee break

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026 - afternoon, part 2

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	1.6 From Local to Global: Scaling National Marine Biodiversity Best Practices <i>Chairs: Ann-Katrien Lescauwaet & Matt Frost</i>	From Local Leadership to Collective Impact: A Funder Perspective on Scaling Marine Conservation	Emily Duwan	9
		Strengthening Relationships between Research and Communities to Accelerate Ocean Biodiversity Stewardship	Emily Knight	9
		From National Science to Global Relevance: Scaling Indonesia's MPA Vision 30x45 through Integrated Biodiversity Evidence	Jimmy Kalther	9
		From Pilots to Policy: Integrating Marine Conservation Technologies into National Biodiversity Frameworks	Tracy Kadessa (unconfirmed)	9
		From Ambition to Implementation: Integrating Marine Biodiversity into National Ocean Governance in Ghana	Esther Agyapong	9
		How to lobby for a win-win-win for nature, climate and society in the North Sea	Sarah Tilkin	9
		Marketing Blue Carbon projects and safeguarding biodiversity through sustainable and scalable business models led by local communities	Oscar Serrano	9
		Six years of systematic ocean observation: the European Marine Omics Biodiversity Observation Network (EMO BON) paradigm	Ioulia Santi	9
		Small-scale management preserves and increases ecosystem services in marine protected areas: Wanhaxiang Chaojing Bay, Taiwan	Chueh-Ning Lu	9
		From Global Standards to Local Impact: Scaling Marine Biodiversity Knowledge through Integrated Taxonomic Platforms	Juana Jimenez Alcantara	9
	4.4. Sensors, Stewards and Stories: A Low-Cost Revolution in Marine Biodiversity Monitoring <i>Chairs: João Canning-Clode & Tania Montoto-Martinez</i>	Living Labs for biodiversity monitoring: scaling citizen science through MINKA observatory	Berta Companys	10
		The CCTBON network: How thousands of inexpensive loggers in hundreds of sites are enabling the ocean-wide mapping of intertidal temperatures	Rui Seabra (unconfirmed)	10
		Affordable Innovation for a Shared Ocean	Tania Montoto-Martínez	10
		Equipping Divers, Empowering Science: Dive Reporter Digital Platform for Low-Cost Marine Biodiversity Monitoring	João Gama Monteiro	10
		Connecting coastlines to campuses: Scaling Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Through MarineGEO and Undergraduate Education	Dean Janiak	10
		Portable nanopore sequencing and automated eDNA sampling for decentralised marine biodiversity monitoring	Nathan Hubot (unconfirmed)	10
		Monitoring decadal changes in shelf benthic communities at a Mediterranean Natura 2000 site using a cost effective underwater video system	Carlos Dominguez-Carrió	10
		TWILIGHTED: Advancing Accessible Deep-Sea Biodiversity Monitoring through Low-Cost Innovation	João Canning-Clode	10
		Azor Benthiclicker: A versatile manual annotation tool for cost-effective deep-sea imaging workflows	João Balsa	10

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026 - afternoon, part 2

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	2.6. Integrating Biodiversity as a Measure of Seagrass Status in Monitoring, Conservation, and Restoration - Challenges and Opportunities <i>Chairs: Karine Cagnon & Dimitris Poursanidis</i>	Restoration of Posidonia oceanica meadows in Tunisia: one-year monitoring of associated epifaunal community.	Salma Zribi (unconfirmed)	10
		Seascape Context Drives Fish Assemblage Diversity and Abundance in Florida Keys Seagrass Meadows: Insights from BRUVS	Paula Pabon-Quintero	10
		Data De-fish-encies: Mapping Global Data Gaps in Seagrass-Associated Fishes	Hannah Kasak-Gliboff	10
		Comparing benthic invertebrate communities among two co-occurring surfgrasses and their hybrid	Minako Ito	10
		Assessing seagrass health and integrating traditional ecological knowledge in Papua New Guinea.	Regina Gwaibo	10
		Early biodiversity responses to seagrass (Posidonia oceanica) restoration traced by eDNA metabarcoding	Catalina Andrea Garcia Escudero	10
		Environmental DNA as a biodiversity monitoring tool in seagrass restoration projects	Nicole Foster	10
		Long term change and drivers of epifaunal biodiversity	Karine Gagnon	10
	6.6. Preserve, Revive, Thrive: The Baltic Sea as a Test-Laboratory for the World's Oceans <i>Chairs: Jannica Haldin & Cecilia Nyman</i>	Wishing won't make it so: how to build transformative action for protection, at scale	Jannica Haldin	9
		Leveraging change for the sea: the science-policy nexus	Jenny Hertzman	9
		Inside the threat matrix: how to map and assess human impacts across a marine region	Aino Ahvo	6
		Connecting the dots: assessing the coherence of a regionwide MPA network	Charlotte Berkström	6
		Collating and harmonizing Baltic Sea MPA management data: building a regional dataset to identify gaps and support effective protection	Giuliana Estefania Cortez Gallegos	6
		Developing a management effectiveness assessment method for evaluation of Baltic marine protected areas	Darius Daunys	6
		How much protection is enough? Projecting the impact of environmental protection actions at multiple scales	Luke Dodd	6
		Mapping the Legislative Landscape for Marine Protection	Niels Krabbe	6
		Regional approaches in advancing national, regional and global restoration targets	Lasse Kurvinen	6
		Species distribution modelling for spatial conservation in the Baltic Sea: lessons learned and practical recommendations	Roland Pesch (unconfirmed)	6
		Mapping habitats in the Baltic Sea to support conservation planning	Edmond Sacre	6
		Mapping traits, functions and ecosystem services: introducing BALM - a Baltic Sea Ecosystem Service Model	Anna Törnroos-Remes (unconfirmed)	6

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

THURSDAY - 19 November 2026 - morning

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

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	5.1. Today's Challenges and Future Opportunities for Identifying the Evolution, Taxonomy, and Systematics of Invertebrates <i>Chairs: Jeremy Horowitz & Allison Miller</i>	Building Taxonomic Capacity Without Experts: An Integrative Framework for Deep-Sea Holothurians from New Caledonia	Claire Laguionie	10
		Bamboozled no more! A phylogenomic guided revision of the bamboo corals (Octocorallia: Keratoisididae)	Declan Morrissey	10
		Hidden in Plain Sight: Molecular Evidence for a Divergent Giant Clam Lineage from Sri Lanka	Kushlani Dissanayake	10
		Linking Specimens and Genomes: Integrative Resolution of Coral Lineage Structure and Species Delimitation in the Western Indian Ocean	Christine Nabwire Asatsa	10
		The evolutionary history and hidden diversity of modern Asteroidea revealed by a high-resolution time-calibrated phylogeny	Mengjin Zhang	10
		Moving from species discovery to species description – taking the next hard steps	Tammy Horton	5
		Integration of historic taxonomic concepts with modern operational taxonomic units	Timothy Swain	5
		Assessing RADseq Limitations for Divergent Taxa: Addressing Taxonomic Uncertainties in Kenyan Corals	Mathews Wafula	5
		Integrative systematics and a genomic-distance framework in the study of antipatharian (black corals) diversity, distribution, and evolution	Erika Gress	5
		Using integrative taxonomy to characterize nematode bioindicators of deep-sea chemical waste dump sites	Holly Bik	5
		The ghost of glaberrima: descriptions of two new Leiopathes species and implications for biodiversity assessment and restoration efforts	Jeremy Horowitz	5
		ROV sampling and genome-wide SNP analysis provide genomic insights into the temperate mesophotic black coral Antipathella fiordensis	Miriam Pierotti	5
		Handling cryptic diversity: exon-capture sequencing and 3D geometric morphometrics for uncovering the Calyptraea chinensis (Linnaeus, 1758) species complex	Giulia Fassio	5
	7.3. Animal Movement, Behaviour and Biologging <i>Chairs: Jan Reubens & Pieterjan Verhelst</i>	SEAGHOSTS: identifying the key foraging habitats, annual movements and migratory connectivity of storm petrels to inform management of human impacts	Nathan Angelakis	10
		Exploring habitat selection and heterogeneous movements by Atlantic Bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) tagged in Scandinavia	Freja Azzopardi	5
		Acoustic telemetry as an innovative tool to investigate fish behaviour and habitat use around offshore wind farm structures	Lydie Couturier	5
		Passive acoustic monitoring of harbour porpoises (Phocoena phocoena) in the Kiel Bight using fisher-collected data	Anne Eilrich	5
		Connectivity and Behavioral Plasticity in Rufa Red Knot Migration: Navigating Threats and Constraints Along the Atlantic Flyway	Stephanie Feigin	5
		Gulf Sturgeon Marine Occupancy and Spatial Planning in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (US)	Dewayne Fox	5
		Fishes Movements as Biovectors of Legacy Contaminants: A Case Study of Coastal Elasmobranchs in Coastal USA	Ryan Freedman	5
		Beyond Boat Strikes: Quantifying the non-lethal Impacts of Vessel on Sea Turtles Using Biologging devices	Mariana Fuentes	5
		Movement ecology of Great Hammerhead Sharks (Sphyrna mokarran): Structure and drivers of behaviour across body size revealed by acoustic telemetry	Pina Hentschel	5
		Opening new frontiers with near-real time biological ocean data	Jonathan Pye	10
		Acoustic Telemetry and the U.S. Animal Telemetry Network: National Coordination for Evidence Based Decision Making	Ryan Logan	5
		Determining fine scale habitat use of humpback whales using suction cup tags on the Gold Coast, Australia	Jan-Olaf Meynecke	5
		The long slow road: two decades of mapping the oceanic migration and behaviour of European eel	David Righton	10
		Tracking Atlantic cod behaviour around artificial reefs in the southern Baltic Sea using camera monitoring and machine learning methods	Stefan Skoglund	5

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

THURSDAY - 19 November 2026 - morning

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	2.5. Solving the Ocean Biodiversity Data Crisis... One Byte at a Time Chairs: Randi Rotjan & Jason Landrum	Historical data recovery and modern molecular monitoring to bridge a 50-year gap for the Great Reef of Toliara invertebrate biodiversity	Deborah Whitney Euselia Dupont	5
		Nearly two centuries of marine invertebrate collections in Chile: addressing the biodiversity data gap through integrative collection management	Catalina Merino Yunnissi	5
		Closing the mycoplankton data gap: Arctic insights for ocean biodiversity assessments	Sreelakshmi Lakshmanan	5
		Towards integrated, quality-controlled benthic data collections to optimize the marine biodiversity monitoring framework	Stephie Seghers	5
		Assess once, report many! How to Reuse Existing Data Bricks for New Knowledge Bridges on Benthic Biodiversity Standards Assessments	Anna Justina Lizińska	5
		A regional framework for monitoring, biosecurity, and conservation to overcome the biodiversity data crisis in the Red Sea	Susana Carvalho	5
		Infrastructure pathways shape polar sponge biodiversity knowledge: clarifying biases and priorities in marine biodiversity data	Rachel Downey	5
		Bridging the Deep-Sea Data Gap: A Machine Learning Framework for high-quality biodiversity knowledge and predictive management	Gustavo Fonseca	5
		Solving the abyssal biodiversity data crisis through interoperable image-based seascape ecology in the Pacific deep ocean	Erik Simon-Lledó	5
		ATLAS of the Azores Deep Sea: A Visual Framework for Science, Conservation, and Public Engagement	Gabriela Cardoso	5
		What should we measure to define whether a marine protected area is ecologically effective?	Rick Stuart-Smith	5
		A Dream of a Lean Marine Metadata Machine	Stephen Formel	5
		The digital ecosystem around eDNA data in Europe	Katrina Exter	5
		Beyond Bytes: When Good Data Isn't Enough	Jason Landrum	5
	6.7. Advances and Challenges in Developing and Applying Conservation and Restoration Science to Meet Societal Goals and Legislative Needs Chairs: Dave Reid & Henn Ojaveer	Addressing governance gaps for socially-responsible marine conservation actions in climate-impacted oceans	Emily Ogier	5
		Towards predictive, ecosystem-based indicators for nature recovery under climate change	Murray S.A. Thompson	5
		Can we use estimates of how long it would take ecosystems to recover as a measure of their ecological status?	Robert Thorpe (unconfirmed)	5
		Nature-based Solutions and climate change adaptation: Protecting marine biodiversity and coastal communities impacted by conflict.	Luisa Fernanda Bedoya Taborda	5
		High Heterogeneity on the Deep Seafloor: Implications for Conservation and Management	Lisa Levin	5
		Not just carbon: biodiversity credits for restoration of the marine animal forests	Dor Shefy	5
		Enabling and constraining factors for active deep-sea restoration: Lessons from five cases in the Horizon Europe REDRESS project	Nadia Papadopoulou	5
		How to "B-USEFUL" in marine biodiversity conservation: from monitoring to decision-making	Martin Lindegren (unconfirmed)	5
		Context-dependent biodiversity state–pressure relationships and impact thresholds across anthropogenic and environmental gradients in European seas	Jérémy Carlot	5
		Advancing ecosystem-based management through semi-quantitative SES models: sustainability, resilience and trade-offs in the Tuscany archipelago	Berthe Vastenhoude	5
		Advancing marine habitat restoration in Belgium: integrating ecology, policy, and practice for the Nature Restoration Regulation	Merel Oeyen	5
		Effort-based fisheries management innovations to protect benthic ecosystems while improving mixed-fisheries performance in the Celtic Seas	Jochen Depestele	5
		Scaling Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA): Successes and Lessons Learned in community-based coastal-marine restoration and conservation in Cuba	Valerie Miller	5
		Community-driven coral reef restoration in Mauritius: integrating ecological modelling, adaptive management and local stewardship for reef recovery	Shakeel Yavan Jogee	5
		Kelp Restoration in Chile: A Collaborative Approach for Ecosystem Restoration and Climate Resilience in Northern Patagonia	Luciano Hiriart-Bertrand	5
		Mangrove Conservation and Restoration in Colombia: Bridging Science, Communities, and Policy to Meet Societal Goals and Biodiversity Targets	Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa	5
		Developing macrophyte sensitivity index to assess the condition of shallow lagoons	Antti Takolander	5
	From science to policy: Embedding community-driven Posidonia oceanica restoration into national development planning	Nada Abdelkader (unconfirmed)	5	
	Lunch break			

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

THURSDAY - 19 November 2026 - afternoon, part 1

PARALLEL SESSIONS		Presenter	Assigned time
Room	Session	Presentation title	
	5.2. The Ocean Census: Collective Efforts to Accelerate the Discovery of New Ocean Life <i>Chairs: Lucy Woodall & Verity Nye</i>	Why Discovery Matters: The Ocean Census and global efforts to accelerate the discovery of marine life	Jan Steger 10
		The Senckenberg Ocean Species Alliance – rendering species discoveries actionable through facilitating taxonomic description	Luna van der Loos 10
		What can large-scale sampling reveal? DNA barcoding uncovers cryptic diversity and distribution patterns in the green seaweed <i>Ulva</i> across Europe	Daniel Pech 10
		The benthic biodiversity of the Gulf of Mexico: New discoveries and hypotheses	Alexander Knorrn 10
		From vouchers to barcodes: Facilitating marine biodiversity assessments with integrative sampling and a scientific reference collection in Mauritania	Ximena Orosco 10
		Closing The Marine Biodiversity Blind Spot In The Northern Humboldt Current System Through Optimized Zooplankton DNA Barcoding.	Sergio Stampar 10
		Life Cycle Plasticity and Molecular Phylogenetics Reveal Taxonomic Inconsistencies in Ceriantharia (Cnidaria)	Wonjun Lee 10
		Diversity and Ecology of Marine Fungi across Marine Environments	Clio Maridakis 10
		Assessing diversity in coralline algae (Corallinophycidae): species delimitation and taxonomic revision of the genus <i>Jania</i> .	10
	7.5. New Technology for Biodiversity Monitoring Innovations and Challenges to Implementation <i>Chairs: Nicolas Pade & Jacob Carstensen</i>	Autonomous eDNA Sampling for Scalable Ocean Biodiversity Monitoring	Kevan Yamahara 10
		Digital PCR as a tool for detection of harmful algae <i>Alexandrium</i> spp. in Icelandic waters	Line Roager 10
		Artificial Intelligence is not the limitation, but image quality is	Marina Mega 10
		Automated Detection and Counting of Benthic Taxa in Underwater Videos: A Case Study on the Basque Coast	Igor Granado 10
		Metagenomic approaches for DNA-based monitoring of benthic invertebrate communities	Martijn Callens 10
		Advances of monitoring biodiversity of aquatic microbes using state of art automated flow cytometry, such as CytoSense and CytoSub.	Lilian Brewer Lisboa 10
		Monitoring open-ocean biodiversity with fishers: multi-method observing platforms around fish aggregating devices	Ma Suza 10
		Extending stereo-BRUV methodology to continental slope ecosystems using autonomous landers: development, application, and future directions	Anthony Bernard 10
		Biomolecular approaches to the observation and management of marine life	Louise Allcock 10

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

THURSDAY - 19 November 2026 - afternoon, part 1

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	2.8. Keeping Your Cool - Polar Benthic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning in a Changing Ocean <i>Chairs: Loïc Michel & Nadescha Zwierschke</i>	Climatic forcing of the Southern Ocean deep-sea ecosystem	Moriaki Yasuhara	10
		Adding to the puzzle of ecosystem functioning at the Weddell Sea seafloor	Heike Link	10
		A decade apart: Comparison of macrobenthos across the Nansen and Amundsen Basin in the Arctic Ocean in 2012 and 2023	Katharina Kohlenbach	10
		Time-series analysis relates changes of deep-sea benthic microbial communities to shifting Arctic environment	Stephan Hamisch	10
		Biodiversity, connectivity and ecosystem functioning of chemosynthesis-based ecosystems in the Arctic deep sea	Mari Heggernes Eilertsen	10
		Hard or soft : how habitat type influences benthic food web properties in shallow Antarctic ecosystems	Martin Dogniez	10
		Benthic diversity and remineralization change in the Arctic: a view through the lens of Nares Strait	Thibaud Combaz	10
		Mapping present and future seafloor biodiversity in Icelandic waters	Julian Mariano Burgos	10
		Multi-decadal evolution of macrozoobenthos biodiversity in a north-east Greenland fjord (Young Sound)	Mathieu Bianic	10
	6.8. Understanding Environmental Impacts of Deep-Seabed Mining: Science for Sustainable Ocean Governance <i>Chairs: Ellen Pape & Sabine Gollner</i>	From active to inactive- a functional connectivity of the Lucky Strike vent fields	Ana Colaço	7
		Do off-axis sulphide deposits along the Arctic Mid-Ocean Ridge support endemic fauna distinct from the surrounding deep sea?	Thomas Dahlgren	7
		The diverse demographics of the hydrothermal neighbourhood: Comparing protozoan and metazoan bioindicator potential across several MAR vent fields and periphery	Mark de Wilt	7
		Short to long-term impact and biological recovery in megafaunal communities from deep-sea polymetallic nodule mining	Daniel Jones	7
		Meiofaunal responses to a deep-seabed mining trial	Lara Macheriotou	7
		A trophic niche-based approach to unravel potential vulnerabilities of soft-sediment infauna from the Clarion-Clipperton Zone to nodule mining impacts	Francesca Pasotti	7
		Abyssal Biological islands under the Radar: Implication for Biodiversity and Conservation	Loic Van Audenhaege	7
		Deep Sea Mining Risks Food Webs and Fisheries in Alaska; A Framework Approach to Risk Assessment	Megan Williams	7
		Governing the Unknown: Deep-Sea Biodiversity, Scientific Uncertainty and the Future of Seabed Mining	Fiammetta Borgia	7

Coffee break

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

THURSDAY - 19 November 2026 - afternoon, part 2

PARALLEL SESSIONS				
Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	5.3. The African Linnean Shortfall: Overview, Status and Opportunities in Capacity Building and Research in Marine Taxonomy <i>Chairs: Sara Viana & Albert Chakona</i>	Learning to see the catch: strengthening fisheries data through taxonomic capacity at the local level	Olunga Simbaun	7
		Reevaluating the cosmopolitan status of Theodisca (Theodisca) laevigata along the South African west coast.	Natasje Rompel	7
		The African Linnean Shortfall: Status and Pathways Forward	Peter Nick Psomadakis	7
		Growing African Taxonomists: From Training Opportunities to Scientific Leadership	Keider Neves	7
		Comparative Analysis of Vibrio Species in Galjoen and Kabeljou During Post-Harvest Handling	POMWENE JOSEPH	7
		Building African marine taxonomic capacity to safeguard lives and livelihoods through the NRF-SAIAB-EAF-Nansen Partnership	Albert Chakona (unconfirmed)	7
		(Re)building Taxonomic Institutions: Scientific Leadership, Funding Constraints, and Institutional Commitment	Daniela C. de Abreu	7
		Discussion		
	7.6. Innovative and Large-Scale Approaches for Biodiversity Observation in Pelagic Ecosystems <i>Chairs: Klaas Deneudt & Nicolas Pade</i>	Arctic Marine Mammal Ecosystem Satellite Earth Observation Monitoring	Guy Seguin => Stephen Bird	10
		Identifying acoustic patterns in pelagic fish communities using machine learning and validation with eDNA, focusing on sandeel.	Irene Parmentier	10
		Continuous Underwater Imaging Observatories Reveal Plankton Biodiversity and Carbon Dynamics Across Scales	Klas Ove Möller	10
		From Phytoplankton Community Diversity And Ecosystem Function To Indicators Using hyperspectral Satellites	Victor Martinez Vicente	10
		Metagenomics data collected by the EMO BON maps the metabolic potential of taxonomically diverse coastal planktonic microeukaryotes at pan-European scale	Pascal Hablützel	10
		Empowering large-scale eDNA biodiversity monitoring using ships of opportunity	Sofie Derycke	10
		Environmental influence on the biodiversity of mesopelagic species in the Canary Current upwelling system	Mandé NDIAYE (unconfirmed)	10
		Antarctica InSync eDNA and OMICs - A year-round assessment of marine biodiversity with RV Polarstern	Magali Lescot (unconfirmed)	10
		Catch me if you can! – OMICs, optics and modeling for understanding the role of gelatinous zooplankton in polar ecosystems	Charlotte Havermans (unconfirmed)	10

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

THURSDAY - 19 November 2026 - afternoon, part 2

PARALLEL SESSIONS			
Room	Session	Presentation title	Assigned time
	3.1. Bringing Marine Ecosystem Modelling in Operation to Predict and Protect Ocean Biodiversity <i>Chairs: Simone Libralato, Sakina-Dorothee Ayata & Stefano Ciavatta</i>	Multi-model approach for characterizing the dynamics of small pelagic fish in Western Europe	Morgane Travers-Trolet 10
		Towards global projections of coral reef extent and status under climate stress	Alban Planchat 10
		Toward operationalization of ensemble species distribution modeling in the Mediterranean Sea	Diego Panzeri 10
		Operational prediction of ocean biogeochemistry and biology in the Copernicus Marine Service. Main achievements and perspectives.	Grégoire Marilaure 10
		New model-based data for marine biodiversity monitoring and management: insights from the NECCTON project	Susan Kay 10
		Larval Connectivity Modelling to Support Coral Reef Conservation in the Southern Gulf of Mexico	Pablo Alberto Hernández Solis 10
		Untangling Antarctic Biodiversity: Visual Analytics and Topological Data Analysis for Complex Ecosystems.	Pablo Deschepper 10
		Mapping benthic traits on the northwestern shelf of the Black Sea: a trait-based modelling approach	Séverine Chevalier 10
		Advancing Marine Biodiversity Prediction and Protection: A New Operational Ecosystem Modelling Framework from NECCTON	Stefano Ciavatta 5
		The NECCTON framework: towards flexible, modular ecosystem models for operational use	Jorn Bruggeman 5
	6.9. Biodiversity Benefits of Nature Based Solutions? <i>Chairs: Gert Van Hoey & Kristien Veys</i>	Restoring reefs: Assessing public preferences and willingness to pay for nature-based solutions	Brandon Sosa 10
		Greening a grey shore: community development on novel habitats along a modified coastline	Jorien Rippen 10
		Ecosystem recovery in restored saltmarshes detected through invertebrate communities	Agustina Quadri-Adroque (unconfirmed) 10
		Restoring Coastal Ecosystems through Nature-Based Bioremediation: Evidence from the Project Tanah Air Pilot in Southeast Asia	Mathilda D'Silva (unconfirmed) 10
		Living Seawalls: scaling up marine 'eco-engineering' to enhance local biodiversity	Mariana Mayer Pinto 10
		Nature-Inclusive Design for Offshore Wind: Mapping Policy Pathways for Biodiversity and Restoration	Anne Cathrine Linder 10
		Quantifying Complexity: a Biodiversity Valuation Framework for Biogenic Reefs as Nature-based Solutions	Liselot Breyne 10
		The Vanga Seagrass Project; leveraging the marine biodiversity credit market to fund people-centered conservation	Amelia Allerton 10
		<i>Discussion</i>	

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

FRIDAY - 20 November 2026 - morning

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

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	5.4. The World Register of Marine Species as a Catalyst for Understanding Marine Biodiversity <i>Chairs: Meg Daly & Simone N. Brandão</i>	The Magnitude of Global Marine Species Diversity - 14 years on	Jan Mees	10
		Mere Schoolboys to Old Aristotle? Testing Darwin's Claim Through Taxonomic and Functional Evidence	Christos Arvanitidis	7
		Behind the names: exploring the authors of 250+ years of marine species descriptions	Tobias Musschoot	7
		Giving Marine Species a Place: A Global Geoscheme for Distribution Recording in WoRMS	Britt Lonneville	7
		The World Amphipoda Database and the Amphipod Newsletter – Collaborating and Continuing	Tammy Horton	7
		Nemys/WoRMS: A Comprehensive Taxonomic Database for Nematodes – Progress and Future Directions	Tania Nara Bezerra	7
		Trends and gaps in the documentation of cnidarian diversity: a perspective from WoRMS	Marymegan Daly	7
		Improving Taxonomic Accessibility for Caligidae: Building an Interactive Identification Key for Lepeophtheirus in WoRMS	Felix Berrios Ortega	7
		Improving the World Register of Marine Species while Teaching and Learning Taxonomy	Simone N. Brandao	7
		LifeWatch e-Lab: An Online Platform for Taxonomic Matching and Data Enrichment	Bart De Paepe	7
	7.4. Plankton Biodiversity for Ocean Health <i>Chairs: Michael Cunliffe & Clare Oste</i>	From Names to Nucleotides: Using WoRMS to Reveal Gaps in Marine Barcode Infrastructure	Andrew Davinack	7
		Integrating metabarcoding and digital imaging to monitor dynamics of zooplankton diversity in the Mediterranean Sea	María Couret	10
		Adapting MSFD pelagic habitat indicator workflows to incorporate genetic monitoring data and automatically processed imaging data	Hanneloor Heynderickx	10
		Spatiotemporal Dynamics and Functional Potential of European Coastal Microbiomes: Metagenomic Insights from Systematic Coordinated Observation	Ioulia Santi	10
		Metabarcoding of zooplankton to derive indicators of pelagic ecosystem status in South Africa	Ashrenee Govender	10
		Metagenomics and metatranscriptomics provide taxonomically resolved insights into functional dynamics of diverse coastal microeukaryotic plankton from diel to seasonal scales	Pascal Hablützel	10
		Climate-driven restructuring of North Atlantic copepod communities: implications for marine biodiversity, fisheries and carbon export	Ostle Clare	10
		Evaluating the influence of bioinformatic choices on biodiversity trends recovered from protist metabarcoding: insights from a community data analysis challenge	Emilie Boulanger	5
		Advancing Marine Biodiversity Monitoring: In-situ Imaging Across the Size Spectrum and Decentralised Learning for Automated Classification	James Clark	5
		Optimizing taxonomic and functional approaches in Arctic zooplankton monitoring	Slawomir Kwasniewski	5
		Integrating Mycoplankton into Plankton Biodiversity: From Environmental Observation to Functional Ecology	Martis Reich	5
		Seasonal variability of Arctic biodiversity zooplankton during the MOSAiC expedition (2019-2020) – a metabarcoding approach	Magdalena Dolinkiewicz	5
		Parasites in the plankton: Long term ecological coupling between marine diatoms and their parasites.	Michael Cunliffe	5

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

FRIDAY - 20 November 2026 - morning

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
	3.2. Digital Twins and AI Applications for Marine Biodiversity & Ecosystems: From Virtual Oceans to Real-World Impact <i>Chairs: Frederic Leclercq & Klaas Deneudt</i>	Digital Twin applications for dynamic assessments of marine biodiversity	Matthias Obst	5
		Towards global-scale essential ocean and biodiversity variables: Using cloud-based machine learning models to extrapolate biological information in space and time	Meike Vogt (unconfirmed)	5
		Living Coast: Integrating mechanistic modelling into a digital twin for coastal ecosystem resilience	Frederik Van Daele	5
		AqQua: The Aquatic Life Foundation Project - Quantifying Life at Scale in a Changing World.	Ankita Ravi Vaswani	5
		BEAST: BEAST Embedding-based Analysis and Selection Tool	Ole Johannsen	5
		A Digital Twin Framework for Fish Tracking: Integrating Biologging with Climate Projections for Marine Conservation	Tina Odaka	5
		Rapid Fish Sound Detection Using Human-in-The-Loop Deep Learning	Valentin Bordoux	5
		Smart oceans for sustainable seafood: Integrating biodiversity into digital twin mariculture planning.	Rutendo Musimwa	5
		Bringing animal movement to the virtual ocean: steps for incorporating ETN tracking data into the EU' Data Lake	Claudia Meneses Moreno	5
		Digital Twin Ocean application supporting impact mitigation of offshore infrastructure on fish and marine mammals in the Belgian North Sea	Lotte Pohl	5
		Towards a digital twin of seabirds : deep-learning methods for energetically-informed movement data simulations	Noémie Muquet	5
		Integrating multi-scale phytoplankton dynamics in the prediction of harmful algal blooms, using a multi-source approach by machine learning	Pierre Gonin	5
		From Static Labels to Dynamic Retrieval: An AI-Powered Taxonomic Ostracod Foundation Model for Marine Biodiversity Monitoring	Jiamian Hu	5
		Bridging Observational Gaps for Ecosystem Function Indicators: Global Carbon Flux Modelling through Machine Learning and High-Resolution Particles Data	Margaux Perhirin	5
		Predicting Marine Invasions with Genetic Observatories using the Digital Twin of the Ocean	Justine Pagnier	5
		From Boundaries to Bytes: Marine Regions Enabling Digital Twins of the Ocean	Lawrence Whitley	5
		European Digital Twin Ocean: Transforming ocean knowledge into action	Cyrielle Delvenne	10
	6.10. Biodiversity as a Source of Solutions: Unlocking the Societal Value of Marine Life <i>Chair: Jana Asselman</i>	Valuing marine life and environments: How people value marine life and environments, where it comes from, and why it matters	Thijs Bouman	10
		Marine biodiversity change impacts relational values: expert survey shows policy mismatch	Jan-Claas Dajka	5
		From marine biodiversity to societal value: an integrated approach in MARBEFES	Joaquin Lopez-Lerida (unconfirmed)	5
		The Economic and Societal Value of Deep-Sea Biodiversity: Evidence from a Global Bayesian Meta-Analysis	Benjamin Blanc	5
		Marine biodiversity as a source of functional traits driving bio-inspired innovation: Exploring the Link Between Research, Innovation and Biogeography	Mariana Almeida	10
		The Nasal Microbiome as Exosome Biomarker in Belgian Coastal and Inland Inhabitants	Silke Lambert	5
		Metabolic biodiversity in marine fishes: species-specific LC-PUFA biosynthetic capacity and implications for sustainable aquaculture	Karen Carvajal Soriano	5
		Multifactorial influence in the decline of mussels in the Bay of Biscay	Manu Soto	10
		LIMPET: Grazer, sculptor, facilitator, food. Perhaps the most overlooked ecosystem engineer and service provider of our time	Louise Firth	5
		Biodiversity for climate and social resilience: Empowerment of coastal communities in sustainable production practices in Ecuador	Kevin Mindiola Reyes	5
		From diagnosis to design: Butroe estuary reframed as solution space	Oihane Diaz De Cerio Arruabarrena (unconfirmed)	5
		Marine Biodiversity as a Strategic Resource: Library of Solutions for Space Survival	Nik Kuznetsov	10
		The business case for marine biodiversity according to public corporate reports	Layla Olefs	5
		Navigating the valley of death: a system dynamics comparison of marine biodiversity commercialisation pathways	Amelia Westmoreland	5

Lunch break

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - Version 31 July 2026

FRIDAY - 20 November 2026 - afternoon

PLENARY - CLOSING SESSION