

WCMB 2026 - DRAFT AGENDA - SESSION LEVEL - ORAL & POSTERS - version July 31st 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

	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	Poster Session 1 (continuous Tue+Wed)
MORNING (2)					* 1.1 * 2.7
Lunch break					* 1.2 * 4.2
					* 1.3 * 4.4
					* 1.4 * 6.1
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	* 1.5 * 6.2
					* 1.6 * 6.4
					* 2.1 * 6.5
Coffee break					* 2.2 * 6.6
					* 2.3 * 7.1
					* 2.4 * 7.2
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	Poster Session 1 (continuous Tue+Wed)
Lunch break					* 1.1 * 2.7 * 1.2 * 4.2 * 1.3 * 4.4 * 1.4 * 6.1 * 1.5 * 6.2
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	* 1.6 * 6.4 * 2.1 * 6.5 * 2.2 * 6.6 * 2.3 * 7.1 * 2.4 * 7.2
Coffee break					* 2.6
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

MORNING (2)	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	Poster session 2 (continuous Thu+Fri) * 2.5 * 6.3 * 2.8 * 6.7 * 3.1 * 6.8 * 3.2 * 6.9 * 5.1 * 6.10 * 5.2 * 7.3 * 5.3 * 7.4 * 5.4 * 7.5 * General
Lunch break					
AFTERNOON (1)	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	
Coffee break					
AFTERNOON (2)	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

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