WCMB 2026 - PROGRAM - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - 5 November 2026

TUESDAY - 17 November 2026

PLENARY SESSION 9h-10h30

See 'plenary session overview' document

Coffee/tea break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**1.1. Marine Life 2030: Advancing UN Ocean Decade Challenge 2 Protect and Restore Ecosystems and Biodiversity** *Chairs: Frank Müller-Karger & Audrey Darnaude*	*Session welcome & setting the scene*	*Joana Soares*	
		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
		A new operational pathway for effective marine conservation: translating international commitments into ecologically meaningful, context-relevant MPA goals	Rita Trabulo	5
		Financing scientific monitoring in high seas marine protected areas: evidence from large-scale MPAs for BBNJ implementation	Elisa Coccorese	5
		Q&A		
		Coordinated Ocean Observing for a Healthier Planet: Building on the GOOS Essential Ocean Variables Framework to Understand and Forecast Marine Life	Audrey Darnaude	~~5~~
		Coordinated mapping of Atlantic seafloor biodiversity through the Challenger 150 Programme	Kerry Howell	5
		Marine Invertebrate Red List Authority: Expanding the IUCN Red List to better protect marine invertebrate biodiversity	Julia Silva Beneti	5
		Global habitat suitability of mangrove species based on an ensemble of species distribution models	Alvise Dabalà	5
		Q&A		
		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
		Harnessing Seagrass for Biodiversity: Empowering the Vanga Community through Conservation and Biodiversity Credits	Meali Mohamed	5
		Q&A		
		Discussion		
		Summary & session closing		

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**7.2. Integrating Novel Technologies Into Traditional Coastal Monitoring Programmes to Enhance Marine Biodiversity Knowledge** *Chairs: Sofie Derycke & Jasmin Renz*	*Session keynote*		
		Promises and pitfalls of novel technologies for marine biodiversity assessments – the OBAMA-NEXT project	Peter Staehr	10
		Q&A		
		Benthos		
		The best of both worlds: Optimising benthic impact studies by combining morphological and DNA-based monitoring.	Sofie Derycke	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 Pfennings	5
		Q&A		
		Fish - Elasmobranchs		
		AI-Enhanced Monitoring of Rocky Reef Ecosystems in the Gulf of California, Mexico	Alberto Rievra	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
		Q&A		
		Overall biodiversity		
		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
		Q&A		

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Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**2.2. Marine Biodiversity at Risk: The Climate-Fisheries Nexus and the Future of Ocean Resources** *Chairs: Kit Yue Kwan & Khor Waiho*	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	Fabián Pina and Tamara Figueredo	6
		Discovering Coral Reef Regimes in the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve via the Coupling of Benthic and Fish Subsystems	Joshua Kilborn	6
		Data on fish landings may not be sufficient when discussing conservation and management policies for elasmobranchs	Daniel Gómez-Lobo Camacho	6
		Long-term change in the diets of marine fishes in response to climate change and commercial fishing	Elizabeth Gillie	6
		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
		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
		Assessing vulnerability to climate-driven warming and hypoxia across the latitudinal range of 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
		Marine biodiversity under pressure: climate change, species range shifts, and conservation in the Pacific Arctic	Irene D. Alabia	6
		Q&A, summary and session closing		
Studio 1 Coral room	**General session** *Chairs: Tobias Musschoot & Ilias Semmouri*	*Measuring, mapping and defining marine biodiversity*		
		From Illusion to Insight: Is Marine Biodiversity Really Lower Than Terrestrial?	Craig McClain	6
		A trait-based multicriteria analysis to identify biodiversity hotspots at global level.	Matteo Bolzonella	6
		Biodiversity baselines at extreme depths: video-derived observations to characterise abyssal and hadal features.	Denise Swanborn	6
		Start different, end different: historical contingency and stress resilience of benthic fouling communities in urban marine environments	Mengjin Zhang	6
		Q&A		
		Habitats, hidden biodiversity patterns, interactions and ecosystem functioning		
		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
		Trophic accessibility in estuarine food webs: implications of copepod digestibility for larval fish feeding	Sara Degrande	6
		Warming and species interactions shape feeding and fatty acid dynamics in estuarine meiofauna	Anna-Maria Vafeiadou	6
		Q&A		
		Human impacts, pressure, management and conservation responses		
		Assessing the impact of marine sand extraction on epibenthos and fish communities using Generalized Linear Latent Variable Models (GLLVMs)	Charlotte Van Moorleghem	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
		Using AI to detect Migrating Whales in Satellite Images, Map their Migration Route and Design a Multinational Marine Protected Area	Esteban Rodofili	6
		Q&A		
		Summary and session closing		

Lunch break

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 14h10-15h50

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**1.2. Leveraging Public-Private-partnerships and Innovative Technology in Marine Ecosystem Restoration** *Chair: Ine Moulaert*	Offshore Oyster Reef Restoration in Belgian Waters: Pioneering Deployment in the BELREEFS Project	Simon Petit	10
		From Space to Seafloor: A Practical Data-Driven Pathway for Seagrass Restoration Decisions	Luca Budello	10
		Marine Forest Restoration in Madeira Island: a CLIMAREST case study	Susanne Schäfer	10
		Securing finance for nature restoration in the Belgian part of the North Sea	Sarah Vanden Eede	10
		Moderated panel discussion		
		Confirmed panel members: Sarah Vanden Eede, Sarah Collin, Merel Oeyen, Gert Van Hoey & Simon Petit		
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**7.1. The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON): Advancing Marine Biodiversity Observations and Data Management** *Chairs: Isabel Sousa-Pinto & Frank Müller-Karger*	*Session welcome & setting the scene*		
		The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) and the Ocean Decade Marine Life 2030 Programme	Frank Muller-Karger & Joana Soares	10
		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
		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
		Q&A		
		Better insights into pelagic ecosystems through AI-accelerated quantitative plankton imaging	Jean-Olivier Irisson	5
		Unveiling the benthic cryptobiome of the Northern Adriatic Sea using Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures	Federica Costantini	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
		Q&A		
		ROV-based interoperable marine biodiversity observations in post-eruption coastal habitats: the DELTA approach at the Tajogaite lava deltas	nalu franco gerent	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
		Q&A		
		Summary & session closing		

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 14h10-15h50

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**2.1. Marine Mammals in the Anthropocene: Navigating Challenges, Shaping Recommendations** *Chairs: Krishna Das & Ursula Siebert (tbc)*	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
		Distinguishing focal whistles in small odontocetes: Navigating challenges, shapping recommendations	Xavier Raick	5
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Studio 1 Coral room	**6.1. Strategic Knowledge Sharing: Unlocking the Potential of Marine Artificial Structures for Biodiversity** *Chairs: Steven Degraer & Henk van Rein*	*Session opening*		
		Is there an absence of evidence for decision-making around marine artificial structures?	Antony Knights	10
		Session question 1: Which organisations, initiatives, projects and people are working in the interface of science, policy and society?		
		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	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
		Session question 2: How can scientists better assist policymakers, and what exactly can scientists learn from policymakers?		
		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
		Session question 3: How can the science-policy interface enrich the decision-making processes and shape people's awareness and understanding of problems?		
		Open discussion		
		Summary and session closing		
Coffee/tea break				

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 16h20-18h

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**1.3. Sustainable Ocean Biodiversity through Mapping, Technological Deployment, and Restoration Initiatives** *Chairs: Carla Lage*	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
		Analysis and modeling of spatial distribution of coral communities under climate change: contribution of remote sensing and artificial intelligence (DINOv2 & CNN)	Yves Amoros Mitondrasoa	7
		Harnessing Local Ocean Technologies in Africa for Deep-Sea Biodiversity Imaging within BBNJ Frameworks	Kwasi Wiafe	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	Luca Budello	7
		Discussion		
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**4.2. Citizen Science: A Critical Lever for a Deeper Knowledge of and a Wide and Global Support for Marine Biodiversity** *Chairs: Jan Seys & Nancy Fockedey*	BiodivOcean: Observing and Reporting Marine Life	Juanita Zorrilla-Pujana	5
		The Big Seashell Survey, a citizen science project on European beaches: a proven concept	Nancy Fockedey	5
		Fostering local marine stewards to expand sea turtle stranding detection in Northern Brazil	Daniel Oliveira Cutrim	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
		Discussion		
		Summary & session closing		

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Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**2.3. Towards a Holistic Understanding of Ecosystem Impacts of Renewable Eenergy Installations Across Space and Time** *Chairs: Jan Vanaverbeke & Jolien Buyse*	From observation to insight: Advancing the understanding of environmental impacts from offshore wind farms	Steven Degraer	10
		Q&A		
		On the impact of offshore wind farms on coastal marine ecosystems	Ute Daewel	10
		Q&A		
		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 Jammar	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
		Q&A		
		Behavioural time budgets of harbour seals under future offshore wind-related vessel traffic scenarios	Tobias Schaffeld	5
		Q&A		
		Renewable energies in combination with marine protected areas: A case study at the Dogger Bank (North Sea)	Moritz Sonnewald	5
		Q&A		
		Development of species diversity and co-occurrence in a newly installed offshore windfarm assessed using environmental DNA	Daniël van Berkel	5
		Q&A		
Studio 1 Coral room	**6.2. Science, outreach, capacity Building and Policy / Diplomacy the Role of the Global Network of Marine Stations** *Chairs: Matt Frost & Jan Mees*	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
		Six Decades of Impactful Science: INVEMAR Strenghening 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	10
		Empowering ECOPs through Cross-Boundary Training in Ocean Observation and Data Management	Anabel von Jackowski	10

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Coffee/tea break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**1.4. Minimizing the Impact of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity: The Way Forward** *Chairs: Sanja Grdan & Natalija Suhareva*	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
		Effects of Ocean acidification on recovery from coral bleaching in the reef-building coral Acropora tenuis	Davide Battini	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
		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	Ilaria D'Aniello	10
		Open discussion		
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Studio 1 Coral room	**4.1. From Roots to Resilience: Bridging Science and Communities for Mangrove Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean** *Chairs: Jorge Herrera, June-Marie Mow, Natalia Molina and Maria Rosa Cardenas*	*Session welcome & setting the scene*		
		MangRes Initiative: From a regional project to an international cooperation platform	Maria Rosa Cardenas & MangRes representative	10
		Experiences from science, communities and policy		
		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
		Bridging Local Ecological Knowledge and Science: The Vida Manglar Approach to Blue Carbon Conservation	Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa	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
		Interactive dialogue		
		Summary & session closing		

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**2.4. Assessing the Impact of Plastic Pollution on Marine Biodiversity** *Chairs: Erin Murphy & Britta Baechler*	Biodiversity in the North Pacific Garbage Patch: Insights through High Seas Plastic Cleanup	Peter Puskic	7
		Regional monitoring to inform macrodebris management in Southern California	Leah Thornton Hampton	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	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
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**6.4. Bright Spots and Bridge Building: Co-Designing Marine Biodiversity Knowledge to Inform Conservation, Stewardship, and Action** *Chairs: Jason Landrum & Gabrielle Canonico*	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/Fabián Pina/Tamara Figueredo	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
		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 Davanso	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	Jimy Kalther	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
		Q&A, summary & session closing		

Lunch break

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 13h40-15h20

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**1.5. Enhancing ocean data sharing: Addressing data gaps in marine biodiversity through the Ocean Decade** *Chairs: Adam Leadbetter & Ward Appeltans*	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
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Studio 1 Coral room	**4.3. WE ARE OCEAN Blaupausen: The Impact of Art-Science Based Ocean Education** *Chair: Anne-Marie Melster*	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
		Measuring what matters in water governance: co-creating community impact	Fruzsina Dezsi	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
		Art and marine science - woman role in marine narratives	Jan-Marcin Węsławski	5
		Discussion		
		Summary & session closing		

WCMB 2026 - PROGRAM - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - 5 November 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026

PARALLEL SESSIONS 13h40-15h20

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**2.7. Challenges and opportunities of monitoring biodiversity through environmental DNA (eDNA): Understanding and Predicting the Behaviour and Fate of eDNA in Marine Environments** *Chairs: Marine Van den Heuvel-Greve & Carmen-Lucia David*	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
		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 Suciu	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
		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
		Discussion		
		Summary & session closing		
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**6.5. Science-Policy Synergy: Lessons from EU Marine Conservation Projects** *Chairs: Jan Claas Dajka & Zisa Drews-von Ruckteschell*	Bridging Science and Policy: The PHAROS Project's Co-Creation Approach to Marine Conservation Governance	Mario Gaitan Arce	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		
		Summary & session closing		

Coffee/tea break

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VLIZ pioneer in marine science

WCMB 2026 - PROGRAM - SESSION LEVEL - PRESENTATIONS OVERVIEW - 5 November 2026

WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026

PARALLEL SESSIONS 15h50-17h30

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**1.6 From Local to Global: Scaling National Marine Biodiversity Best Practices** *Chairs: Ann-Katrien Lescrauwaet & Matt Frost*	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 30×45 through Integrated Biodiversity Evidence	Jimy Kalther	9
		How to lobby for a win-win-win for nature, climate and society in the North Sea	Sarah Vanden Eede	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: Wanhaixiang 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
		Discussion		
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Studio 1 Coral room	**4.4. Sensors, Stewards and Stories: A Low-Cost Revolution in Marine Biodiversity Monitoring** *Chairs: João Canning-Clode & Tania Montoto-Martinez*	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	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	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
		Q&A, summary & session closing		

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WEDNESDAY - 18 November 2026

PARALLEL SESSIONS 15h50-17h30

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**2.6. Integrating Biodiversity as a Measure of Seagrass Status in Monitoring, Conservation, and Restoration - Challenges and Opportunities** *Chairs: Karine Cagnon & Dimitris Poursanidis*	Restoration of Posidonia oceanica meadows in Tunisia: one-year monitoring of associated epifaunal community.	Salma Zribi	10
		Data De-fish-iencies: 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
		Discussion		
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**6.6. Preserve, Revive, Thrive: The Baltic Sea as a Test-Laboratory for the World's Oceans** *Chairs: Jannica Haldin & Cecilia Nyman*	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	Nivedhitha Ajithkumar	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	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 Törnnroos-Remes	6
		Q&A, summary & session closing		

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THURSDAY - 19 November 2026

PLENARY SESSION 9h-10h30

See 'plenary session overview' document

Coffee/tea break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**5.1. Today's Challenges and Future Opportunities for Identifying the Evolution, Taxonomy, and Systematics of Invertebrates** *Chairs: Jeremy Horowitz & Allison Miller*	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	Marc Kochzius	10
		Linking Specimens and Genomes: Integrative Resolution of Coral Lineage Structure and Species Delimitation in the Western Indian Ocean	Christine Nabwire Asatsa	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
		Q&A, summary & session closing		
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**7.3. Animal Movement, Behaviour and Biologging** *Chairs: Jan Reubens & Pieterjan Verhelst*	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
		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
		Fishes Movements as Biovectors of Legacy Contaminants: A Case Study of Coastal Elasmobranches 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	Pieterjan Verhelst	10
		Tracking Atlantic cod behaviour around artificial reefs in the southern Baltic Sea using camera monitoring and machine learning methods	Stefan Skoglund	5
		Q&A, summary & session closing		

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**2.5. Solving the Ocean Biodiversity Data Crisis... One Byte at a Time** *Chairs: Matthew Fraser & Jason Landrum*	Session introduction		
		Building the baseline		
		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
		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
		Making the data work		
		Assess once, report many! How to Reuse Existing Data Bricks for New Knowledge Bridges on Benthic Biodiversity Standards Assessments	Anna Justina Lizińska	5
		Data at scale - deep sea		
		Bridging the Deep-Sea Data Gap: A Machine Learning Framework for high-quality biodiversity knowledge and predictive management	Gustavo Fonseca	5
		Image-based seascape ecology frameworks for characterising abyssal biodiversity	Erik Simon-Lledó	5
		From data to decisions		
		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
		Overview		
		Beyond Bytes: When Good Data Isn't Enough	Jason Landrum	5
		Discussion		
		Summary and session closing		
Studio 1 Coral room	**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*	Introduction to the session with highlights from ICES	Dave Reid	10
		Addressing governance gaps for socially-responsible marine conservation actions in climate-impacted oceans	Robert Streit	5
		Towards predictive, ecosystem-based indicators for nature recovery under climate change	Murray S.A. Thompson	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
		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 Vastenhoud	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	*tbc*	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	5

Lunch break

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 13h40-15h20

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**5.2. The Ocean Census: Collective Efforts to Accelerate the Discovery of New Ocean Life** *Chairs: Maria Belén Arias Mella & Verity Nye*	Why Discovery Matters: The Ocean Census and global efforts to accelerate the discovery of marine life	Verity Nye	10
		The Senckenberg Ocean Species Alliance – rendering species discoveries actionable through facilitating taxonomic description	Jan Steger	10
		What can large-scale sampling reveal? DNA barcoding uncovers cryptic diversity and distribution patterns in the green seaweed Ulva across Europe	Luna van der Loos	10
		The benthic biodiversity of the Gulf of Mexico: New discoveries and hypotheses	Daniel Pech	10
		From vouchers to barcodes: Facilitating marine biodiversity assessments with integrative sampling and a scientific reference collection in Mauritania	Alexander Knorrn	10
		Closing The Marine Biodiversity Blind Spot In The Northern Humboldt Current System Through Optimized Zooplankton DNA Barcoding.	Ximena Orosco	10
		Life Cycle Plasticity and Molecular Phylogenetics Reveal Taxonomic Inconsistencies in Ceriantharia (Cnidaria)	Sergio Stampar	10
		Diversity and Ecology of Marine Fungi across Marine Environments	Wonjun Lee	10
		Assessing diversity in coralline algae (Corallinophycidae): species delimitation and taxonomic revision of the genus Jania.	Clio Maridakis	10
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**7.5. New Technology for Biodiversity Monitoring Innovations and Challenges to Implementation** *Chairs: Nicolas Pade & Peter Staehr*	Autonomous eDNA Sampling for Scalable Ocean Biodiversity Monitoring	Kevan Yamahara	10
		Digital PCR as a tool for detection of harmful algae Alexandrium 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

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 13h40-15h20

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**2.8. Keeping Your Cool - Polar Benthic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning in a Changing Ocean** *Chairs: Emil De Borger, Hanna Modin & Ulrike Braeckman*	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 Kohlenbahc	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
Studio 1 Coral room	**6.8. Understanding Environmental Impacts of Deep-Seabed Mining: Science for Sustainable Ocean Governance** *Chairs: Ellen Pape, Thomas Dalhgren & Daniel Jones*	*Vents*		
		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
		Q&A		
		Nodules		
		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
		Q&A		
		General		
		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
		Q&A		
		Summary and session closing		

Coffee/tea break

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 15h50-17h30

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**5.3. The African Linnean Shortfall: Overview, Status and Opportunities in Capacity Building and Research in Marine Taxonomy** *Chairs: Sara Viana & Albert Chakona*	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 Linnaean Shortfall: Status and Pathways Forward	Peter Nick Psomadakis	10
		Growing African Taxonomists: From Training Opportunities to Scientific Leadership	Keider Neves	7
		Building African marine taxonomic capacity to safeguard lives and livelihoods through the NRF-SAIAB–EAF-Nansen Partnership	Albert Chakona	7
		(Re)building Taxonomic Institutions: Scientific Leadership, Funding Constraints, and Institutional Commitment	Daniela C. de Abreu	7
		Discussion		
		Summary and closing of the session		
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**7.6. Innovative and Large-Scale Approaches for Biodiversity Observation in Pelagic Ecosystems** *Chairs: Klaas Deneudt & Nicolas Pade*	Arctic Marine Mammal Ecosystem Satellite Earth Observation Monitoring	Stephen Bird	10
		Identifying acoustic patterns in pelagic fish communities using machine learning and validation with eDNA, focusing on sandeel.	Irene Parmentier	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
		Integrating Environmental Genomics and Imaging to Assess Plankton Biodiversity Patterns in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea	Fabrice Not	10
		Discussion		
		Summary and closing of the session		

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 15h50-17h30

Room	Session	Presentation title		Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**3.1. Bringing Marine Ecosystem Modelling in Operation to Predict and Protect Ocean Biodiversity** *Chairs: Simone Libralato, Sakina-Dorothee Ayata & Stefano Ciavatta*	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	Simone Libralato	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
Studio 1 Coral room	**6.9. Biodiversity Benefits of Nature Based Solutions?** *Chairs: Gert Van Hoey & Kristien Veys*	Nature-based Solutions: Deliver it benefits for local or regional policies?	Gert Van Hoey	10
		Greening a grey shore: community development on novel habitats along a modified coastline	Jorien Rippen	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
		Discussion		
		Summary and session closing		

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FRIDAY - 20 November 2026

PLENARY SESSION 9h-10h30

See 'plenary session overview' document

Coffee/tea break

PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Kamermuziekzaal Squid room	**5.4. The World Register of Marine Species as a Catalyst for Understanding Marine Biodiversity** *Chairs: Meg Daly & Simone N. Brandão*	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	Georgina Valls Domedel	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
		Q&A, summary and session closing		
Forum 6 Anglerfish room	**7.4. Plankton Biodiversity for Ocean Health** *Chairs: Michael Cunliffe & Clare Ostle*	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
		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	Marlis 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

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PARALLEL SESSIONS 11h-12h40

Room	Session	Presentation title	Presenter	Assigned time
Concertzaal Whale room	**3.2. Digital Twins and AI Applications for Marine Biodiversity & Ecosystems: From Virtual Oceans to Real-World Impact** *Chairs: Frederic Leclercq & Klaas Deneudt*	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	Jean-Olivier Irisson	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 Whatley	5
		European Digital Twin Ocean: Transforming ocean knowledge into action	Cyrielle Delvenne	10
Studio 1 Coral room	**6.10. Biodiversity as a Source of Solutions: Unlocking the Societal Value of Marine Life** *Chairs: Jana Asselman & Manuel Soto*	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	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 Exposome 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	5
		Marine Biodiversity as a Strategic Resource: Library of Solutions for Space Survival	Nik Kuznetsov	10
		Navigating the valley of death: a system dynamics comparison of marine biodiversity commercialisation pathways	Amelia Westmoreland	5
		Q&A, summary and session closing		

Lunch break

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PLENARY - CLOSING SESSION 13h40-15h20

See 'plenary session overview' document

Goodbye coffee/tea break