



# MARiS

11 NOV. 2022, ISSUE 5

## Newsflash

ECR Bi-Weekly Newsletter



## WELCOME

Welcome to the MARIS ECR newsflash where we share information that will be of use and interest to the broader MARIS ECR community. In this newsletter, you will find the latest news, opportunities and events. Enjoy the read!

### LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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# “Explore the Shore” Educational Series



UCT marine biologist Emeritus Professor Charles Griffiths and his filmmaker son, Matthew, have drawn on their scientific and artistic talents to produce a series of short educational videos on the organisms and features modern-day strandlopers and rock poolers will commonly encounter while exploring our coastlines. Most coastal residents have little idea of just how magical these creatures and their habitats are, said Emeritus Professor Griffiths.

The **Explore the Shore** YouTube series features Griffiths introducing Matthew to the idiosyncrasies of the animals and seaweeds that occur along our coastline, and the wonders of their diverse habitats.

Each video is a short inspirational journey of discovery for viewers, designed both to inform and to instil a love of these fascinating natural treasures that lie right on the doorsteps of many South Africans. Each short 3- to 10-minute episode provides close-up footage of and describes the unique habits of either an animal group, or some aspect of this hidden world that most of us have never realised was available on our doorsteps,” Griffiths said. The duo plan to release a new episode every second Thursday and have a list of 50 different topics to film.

The resource is free to anyone who subscribes. That includes biology teachers at all levels. It’s a useful marine biology resource, especially for schools far from the coast, said Griffiths. “We are fortunate to have a sponsor who has been assisting us in covering the costs of producing the first 20 episodes, but we welcome sponsors for the next tranche of Explore the Shore, said Griffiths.

Check out their [YouTube channel](#) or [Instagram page](#) for more details.



## Book Launch: Over the Horizon

The **Antarctic Legacy of South Africa** has just launched their 6th book, *Over the Horizon* by Jean Brundrit on the 3rd of November 2022 at the Irma Stern Museum in Cape Town. This book is a work of art. The book contains images taken with an ice lens, in the Antarctic region, and at the Antarctic ice shelf. Read more about the author and the book [here](#).

Read the **Antarctic Legacy of South Africa** [blog](#) or view their [website](#) for more information.

## Science Matters Science Faculty Newsletter

It is always so inspiring to take stock and appreciate the incredible people and things that happen in the Science Faculty every year. The November/ December edition of Science Matters, as well as Contact Newsletter which goes out to our Alumni is due to go out by the end of this month.

If you have any interesting news, stories, events or research, staff and student awards, achievements and accolades from your departments that you would like to share, please could you forward the details and related photos to [Katherine Wilson](#) by the end of Friday 11th November at the latest.

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### SAYAS Blogging Competition 2023

**Are you a masters or doctoral student or postdoctoral researcher in South Africa? Do you want to express yourself and share your thoughts and opinions, but do not have a platform to do so?**

[SAYAS](#) is proudly representing the voice of young scientists of all spheres of science and we want to provide the platform for aspiring scientists to talk, debate and learn more about the postgraduate journey in South Africa.

It is about time for the world to know more about you and at the same time improve your writing and communication skills; such a win-win situation, don't you think? And if you wonder whether your ideas are "blogworthy" have a look here.

Through the years, in the [SAYAS blog](#), we have learned about specific research fields and new discoveries; understood challenges such as finances, funding, diversity and inequalities; were inspired by stories of women in science or other role models; and discovered what the students expect from supervisors and mentors.

### What do I need to enter?

Any Masters or PhD student or postdoctoral researcher from any research field studying in South Africa who can communicate in English can enter.

### How do I enter the blogging competition?

You will enter the competition by completing this [form](#). This includes:

- A short bio (500-700 words) introducing yourself – this will form the evidence of your blogging style.
- Your CV
- A high-resolution photo of you

The closing date for applications is **Monday, 14th November 2022**. For more information, write to: [Jennifer.Fitchett@wits.ac.za](mailto:Jennifer.Fitchett@wits.ac.za)

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### Join SOLAS Early Career Scientist Committee

Early Career Scientists (ECS) make up a significant portion of the SOLAS community. To better represent the unique insights and opinions of this critical group at international levels, and to provide future generation scientists with networking and collaboration opportunities, SOLAS initiates the self-organised ECS Committee to act as a strategic and operational body to advise, coordinate and champion early career activities.

**[SOLAS](#) welcomes applications from graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty members who have received their latest degree within 10 years.** Candidates from developing countries are explicitly encouraged to apply. The committee members are appointed for a 3-year term or until they cannot be defined as an Early Career Scientist anymore. The first committee will be elected by the SOLAS Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). In addition, the ECS committee chair will be appointed to the SOLAS SSC as the representative of ECS committee.

The call for (self-) nominations is now open until **25th November 2022, 23:59 pm, CST**. More information, including responsibilities, eligibility, and application procedure, can be found [here](#).



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# SANCOR Vacancies

November 2022

Looking out for the next step in your career path?

The South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research (SANCOR) has listed some recent vacancies available within the marine and coastal environment.

Here are a few posts available:

## Marion Island overwintering from 2023 to 2024

*SANAP, Marion Island*

Closing Date: [14 November 2022](#)

See more details [here](#).

## Groen Sebenza Internships: Marine Conservation (awareness/training & research)

*WILDTRUST, Durban*

Closing Date: [17 November 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

## Postdoctoral fellowship: A synthesis of biophysical data from the mesophotic region on the East Coast of South Africa to inform marine spatial planning

*NMU, Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth)*

Closing Date: [21 November 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).



## Postdoctoral fellowship: Application of eDNA metabarcoding for assessment and prediction of faunal biodiversity in African mangrove ecosystems

*Stellenbosch University, Cape Town*

Closing Date: [25 November 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

## Meteorological Technicians | Communication Engineer | Electrical Engineer | Diesel Mechanic | Medical Orderly | Environmental Officers | Seabird Field Assistants

*DFFE, Marion Island*

Closing Date: [14 November 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

## Post-doctoral position in benthic macrofauna and biodiversity research

*University of Cádiz, Cádiz, Spain*

Closing Date: [21 November 2022](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

To view the rest of the vacancies, check out the **SANCOR** website using [this link](#). Other job opportunities can be found [here](#) too.

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## Funding Opportunities

Check out UCT's current funding opportunities [here](#) and other student research grants [here](#).

Funding opportunities have also opened up through the Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) Network Programme or you could have a look at the NRF [website](#).



# Upcoming Events

November 2022

## Join SAWISE and their AGM

The Association of South African Women in Science and Engineering (SA WISE) is a dynamic association for all those who support the idea of strengthening the role of women in science and engineering in South Africa. For more information on SAWISE, check out their website and social media.

Interested in becoming a SAWISE member, then make sure to sign up [here](#).

**This is a reminder of your invitation to the SAWISE AGM which will take place on the 30th of November 2022 at 17:30 on the Tygerberg Medical Campus.** Please remember to fill out this [form](#) to register for the AGM event. We will also get a chance to hear from Dr Anastasia (Tasha) Kock.

**We would also like to invite you to participate in an outreach act.** As you know, SAWISE values being connected to our communities and being present in addressing issues that marginalise women. We will therefore be reaching out to the Observatory Rape Crisis Centre. We would love to take some items to the centre that will be of use to them. At the moment, we kindly request that you assist and support with the following items:

- Panties (any size)
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Bars of soap
- Face cloths
- Sanitary towels.



Please bring these items along with you to the AGM. We are looking forward to seeing you. **This AGM will be a great opportunity for you to meet with other SAWISE members, as well as the members of our executive committee to discuss the upcoming year, raise questions, and generate new ideas.** 2022 has been an exciting, yet challenging, year for us all as we slowly find even footing after the constant flux of the pandemic. At SAWISE we are glad to be back on our feet, and as we look toward 2023, we want to focus our energy on giving back to our communities. As such our theme for 2023 is outreach, and we will introduce this new community-based strategy at the AGM. We will also hear from a guest speaker, who will guide our conversation on outreach and science engagement.

It is important that we receive feedback and engagement from our members so that we can grow and develop the association in ways that best support you. **We encourage you to attend.**

# Seminars & Courses

November 2022

**15 Nov 2022 | Workshop | UCT, Dept of Oceanography Seminar Room  
08h50 - 12h30**

Nansen Tutu Center workshop :  
focus on ongoing and future work to  
foster collaborations.

Open to the public - please make sure to  
contact [Prof Mathieu Rouault](#) to confirm  
your attendance.

**28 Nov 2022 | 13h00 | UCT**

Prof Mathieu Rouault, Nansen Tutu  
Center for Marine Environmental  
Research, UCT Oceanography Seminar  
Room: The intrusion of warm Agulhas  
water on the South Coast of South Africa  
(all the way to Struis Bay)

**5 December 2022 | 14h00 SAST |  
Online**

Nadia Pinardi will be presenting at the  
next GOOS Webinar Series on  
CoastPredict: The Power of Science in  
Support of Global Coastal Communities.  
Please register [here](#).



## MOOC Machine Learning in Weather & Climate

9 January 2023 | Online

Discover how cutting-edge techniques  
impact our characterisation of weather  
and climate. In this **Massive Open Online  
Course (MOOC)** you will explore the  
application of Machine Learning – a  
branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI) –  
across the main stages of numerical  
weather and climate predictions. These  
range from the acquisition and handling  
of input observations to their assimilation  
into models, and finally to forecasting and  
post-processing. In each element you will  
uncover both the added value and  
limitations of Machine Learning.

It is a fully online and FREE training open  
to anyone interested in the subject. The  
first part of the course is a high level  
introduction to the key concepts. Later  
sections become more technical and  
provide hands-on experience in the  
application of Machine Learning  
algorithms.

Register [here](#).



# Upcoming Conferences

November-December 2022



## 5th International Marine Science Communication Conference

Sète (France) | Online  
30 Nov - 1 Dec, 2022

Are you a professional communicator working in a marine institute, governmental body or a NGO, or a marine scientist that would like to be speed-trained by experts in the skills of modern ocean science communication?

**Then CommOCEAN is for you.**

Our conference programme combines hands-on exercises in current science communication skills for disseminating ocean research and technology, with plenty of expertise-sharing, social interaction and fascinating marine science along the way.

If you have questions or need assistance related to registering for CommOcean, please contact: [info@marineboard.eu](mailto:info@marineboard.eu).

**Registration closes on 15 November 2022.**  
Register [here](#).

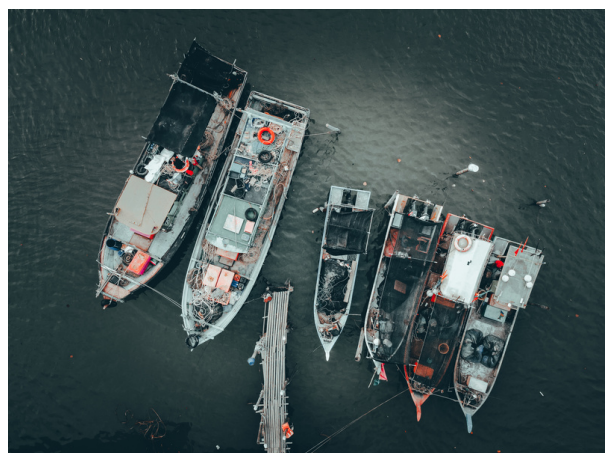
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*The main organizer of the conference, the European Marine Board Communications Panel (EMBCP) has also a dedicated Future Science Brief on [Marine Science Communication in Europe: a way forward \(June 2022\)](#), where it highlights the critical need to strengthen the marine science communication capacity in Europe, as well as develop dedicated training programs, engage in deeper and wider collaboration with stakeholders, and ensure close interaction with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030.*



# Opportunities

November 2022



Small-Scale Fisheries policy & legal database, entirely dedicated to small-scale fisheries, will be launched at the **4th World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress in Cape Town from 21-23 November 2022.**

Free virtual attendance, register [here](#).

## Open Call for Shipboard Fellowship

Closing date: 30 Nov 2022

The Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) offers a shipboard training fellowship programme which is designed to promote training and capacity development building leading towards a global observation scheme for the ocean. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that shipboard placements will be made available at shorter notice than normal. In order to make best use of these opportunities, the POGO Secretariat is issuing an Open Call for applications from any early career scientists, technicians, postgraduate students (PhD or MSc) and Post-doctoral Fellows involved in oceanographic work at centres in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

A promotional banner for the 4th World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress. The background features a large image of a harbor filled with colorful fishing boats. Overlaid on this are three smaller inset images: a group of people on a beach, two people working in a field, and a close-up of a boat. The text on the banner reads: "LEADING BY EXAMPLES LEADERSHIPS IN SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES" in large white and green letters. Below this, it says "THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES AFRICAN CONGRESS CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA | NOVEMBER 20-23, 2022". At the bottom, there are logos for "TBTI GLOBAL" (Small-Scale Fisheries are Too Big To Ignore) and "WSFC" (World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress). The WSFC logo is stylized with blue and green waves. Below the WSFC logo, it says "4TH WORLD SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES CONGRESS SERIES ASIA-PACIFIC | NORTH AMERICA | EUROPE | LATIN AMERICA &amp; THE CARIBBEAN | AFRICA" and provides the website "WWW.4WSFCONGRESS.COM" and email "4WSFCONGRESS@GMAIL.COM".



# 2023 Opportunities



Fully funded PhD project:

UNIVERSITY OF  
Southampton

## Ocean physics and ecology: Can robots disentangle the mix?



*Interested in the ocean? Robots? Interdisciplinary data science?*

*Then check out this fully funded PhD project at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton (UK) where you will use autonomous underwater gliders to understand how ocean physics control the tiny algae in the ocean. Check the [website](#) and contact me ([filipa.carvalho@noc.ac.uk](mailto:filipa.carvalho@noc.ac.uk)) if you want to know more!*



Dr Filipa Carvalho (NOC, main supervisor)

Dr Bieito Fernández Castro (UoS)

Dr Louis Clément (NOC)

Dr Jo Hopkins (NOC)



*Applications due January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023! Funding available for students worldwide*

## PhD Opportunity

National Oceanography Centre,  
Southampton, UK

Apply to a fully funded PhD project:  
**Ocean physics and ecology: Can robots  
disentangle the mix?**

**Applications due: 3 January 2023**

The PhD student will be working with Dr Filipa Carvalho, Dr Louis Clement, Dr Joanne Hopkins and Dr Bieito Fernandez Castro, on biophysical interactions in the upper ocean using underwater gliders.

In this project, you will use high-resolution gliders to (1) understand and quantify the effect of small-scale and episodic physical processes on the phytoplankton community

growth; (2) evaluate the importance of including small-scale processes in oceanic carbon uptake. Filling this knowledge gap using these high-resolution data will improve predictions of how the carbon uptake by phytoplankton is affected by both natural variability and changes in physical forcing driven by climate change.

Personal and professional development training will be offered alongside extensive opportunities for students to expand their multi-disciplinary outlook through interactions with a wide network of academic, research and industrial/policy partners. The student will be registered at the University of Southampton and hosted at the National Oceanography Centre (Southampton), in the Ocean Biogeosciences group.

For more information, check out the [website](#).

# 2023 Opportunities

## QUICCHE | CAPE BASIN

March 2023

An opportunity for students to apply for a research cruise in the Cape Cauldron in March 2023.

Placements are available for **2 PhD students and 2 undergraduate students** from South Africa to join the international QUICCHE project aboard RV Revelle from **5-30th March 2023**. Students will help collect observations, conduct mini projects, and co-create a game that connects children with the ocean.

### To apply:

Send your CV, a short statement of interest, and a letter of recommendation from your academic advisor to [lbeal@miami.edu](mailto:lbeal@miami.edu).



## YSSP - Young Scientists Summer Program for PhD students

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) offers a summer program for PhD students to undertake a scientific project on a topic related to the IIASA research agenda.

Annually, from **1 June to 31 August**, IIASA hosts up to 50 doctoral students from around the world in its Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP). It is a great opportunity to collaborate and learn from other PhD students worldwide. To find out more information, view their [website](#).

Applications to the 2023 program are now open and will run until **12 January 2023**. Two letters of reference are required (to be received by latest 24 hrs past application deadline). [Apply here!](#)

# Call for Content Creators

The UCT-MARiS Comms Team is looking out for volunteers to assist us in providing marine related content especially involving interdisciplinary research, whether it may focus on your current research, fieldtrips, cruises, conferences, workshops, events, etc., we want to know what is happening in the marine and Antarctic sphere and share it with our networks.

If you are interested in getting involved (once-off or long-term) on a voluntary basis with the MARiS Comms Team in:

- writing up a blog,
- promoting events and opportunities,
- suggesting ideas for marine science communication or
- providing media that will promote marine research,

then we would love for you to fill in this short [form](#).

For all content and queries, please feel free to mail us at [comms.maris@uct.ac.za](mailto:comms.maris@uct.ac.za).



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**Feel free to tag us on our social media platforms and we'll be happy to repost:**

**Twitter: @MARIS\_UCT  
Instagram: @maris\_uct**

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Because you are part of our MARiS ECR network.



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## CONTACT US

If you'd like to sign up for the [ECR mailing list](#) or you'd like to include an event or opportunity in our next newsflash, please email [ecr.maris@uct.ac.za](mailto:ecr.maris@uct.ac.za).