



Newsflash

ECR Monthly Newsletter

22 AUGUST 2025, ISSUE 43

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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Give MARiS a follow on social media



Highlights of recent events

MARIS Annual QUIZ NIGHT 2025

Third time's the charm — and what a night it was!

Testing the crowds' knowledge from science to entertainment to current affairs, 40 brilliant minds came together for our third annual UCT-MARIS Quiz Night in the UCT John Day Museum on the 31 July 2025. The competition was fierce, the laughs were loud, and the prizes? Next level!

A huge shoutout to all the teams who brought their A-game and a massive congratulations to our winners who walked away with epic sponsored prizes!

A massive thanks to UCT Food & Connect for the delicious voucher prizes and to Yameen Badrodien for the unforgettable Table Mountain Cableway tickets! 🚠

A special thanks to our Quizmaster, Dayna Collins (ECR Rep), and the rest of the MARiS ECR Working Group members who organized this exciting event. We had such a blast, and we hope that you did too! THANK YOU for showing up, showing off your smarts, and supporting our ECR fundraiser!



Fish 'n Ships Outreach Tool Testing

During the month of July 2025, we put out a call for volunteers to assist one of Lynne Shannon's visiting scientists, Nathalie Pulvermacher, in testing the outreach and educational tool: the **Fish 'n' Ships Card Game**. Over several sessions, volunteers joined Nathalie to play and evaluate the game, which was designed to educate participants about marine ecosystems and the sustainable management of ocean resources. The game provided a fun and accessible introduction to key concepts such as trophic levels, ecological pyramids, and the importance of effective fisheries management.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to take part in the testing phase. Your feedback has been invaluable in helping Nathalie prepare her report on the tool and in shaping how it may be used in future outreach and educational settings.

Watch this space for more updates as the Fish 'n' Ships journey continues!



Riesna Audh wins the IAPSO Eugene La Fond Medal

The Busan IAMAS-IACS-IAPSO 2025 Joint Assembly (BACO-25) took place in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 21–25 July 2025, bringing together global experts, early-career researchers, and students to address critical environmental challenges across atmospheric, oceanic, and cryospheric sciences. At the event, Riesna R. Audh from the South African Polar Research Infrastructure (SAPRI), hosted by the NRF-SAEON Egagasini Node, was awarded the prestigious IAPSO Eugene La Fond Medal. This award recognizes outstanding research by an ocean scientist from a developing country. Riesna presented her PhD research, which produced the first biogeochemical dataset for winter sea ice in the Atlantic sector of the Antarctic Marginal Ice Zone, challenging the long-held view that winter sea ice is biogeochemically inactive.

Her work, based on samples collected during the 2019 South African-led SCALExperiment winter cruise, used measurements of sea-ice structure, isotopes, macronutrients, and chlorophyll, combined with numerical modelling, to reveal active biogeochemical processes in growing winter sea ice. These findings highlight the role of dynamic growth in

shaping sea ice and advancing understanding of the polar regions. Riesna's recognition at BACO-25 not only affirms the value of her research but also showcases the contributions of South African scientists and early-career researchers from developing countries in closing critical knowledge gaps in polar science. Her full study was published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans* (2023) and supported by the NRF, SANAP, and the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.

On behalf of UCT-MARiS, we would like to congratulate Riesna on this incredible accomplishment and for waving the South African flag high at this exciting international conference!





Dates to diarize

MARiS ECR Monthly Coffee Talk

Join us for our next ECR Coffee Talk during lunchtime for a chat over coffee and snacks.

- **Date:** Wed, 17 September 2025
- **Time:** 13h00 - 14h00
- **Venue:** MARiS Centre, Level 4, John Day Building
- Bring a mug along, and let's chat about some of the amazing plans we have planned for 2025!

Stay tuned for more information on our upcoming MARiS ECR planned events.

Doughnut Talks

Yeah, buoy! 😊 It's time for Oceanography's bi-weekly doughnut talks again! This is a great opportunity for all our post grads to share their research with the department, and improve our science presentation skills. Please be brave and use this opportunity to showcase just how awesome your research is! To all the doughnut eaters - please bring positive feedback and engage with the science being communicated!

Please check out the line up on the [Oceanography website](#) or contact the Oceanography PostGrad Committee at oceanpgc@gmail.com or cashifa.karriem@uct.ac.za to sign up to give a talk.

Present at the UCT-SANCOR Seminar Series

We invite you to present on your coastal, marine or polar research projects at the UCT-SANCOR Seminar Series in 2025. **The seminars are held on Mondays at 13h00 at UCT (hybrid format).** [Book your date now by emailing Carmen Visser](#) and join the conversation!

Marine Chatties



The Marine Chatties seminars are used as a platform for students and researchers within the marine & polar research field to informally share their science, practice presentations for conferences, discuss and workshop ideas, and work through the various marine science problems that ECRs face with the transition from studying to finding themselves in the workplace.

These seminars take place every Friday from 12h00 til 13h00, usually in the Seminar Room 4, Level 4 in the John Day Building at UCT Upper Campus.

If you are interested in joining the Marine Chatties mailing list or offering up a talk or a workshop, please feel free to email [Tess Attwood](#) or [Robyn Fabian](#), who are currently running the Chatties seminars.

Calling All ECRs & Experienced Mentors!

Are you an early-career researcher looking for guidance in the polar and marine research fields? Or an experienced researcher / technician / communicator eager to support the next generation?

The [Mahlalela Mentorship Programme](#) co-designed by #SAPRI, #SANCOR and APECCSouthAfrica - connects emerging scientists with established experts to bridge the gap in career development and research opportunities.

We would like to invite all institutions involved in marine and polar research.

- Gain or provide valuable career insights
- Build meaningful connections
- Strengthen the future of polar and marine science

To find out more about the mentorship programme, please check out the [SAPRI Website here](#).

MARiS ECR Conference 2025

The MARiS Early Career Researchers Conference Organizing Committee would like to invite all Southern Ocean polar and marine researchers to our inaugural MARiS ECR Conference. We would like to celebrate the wonderful inter-and-trans-disciplinary research that our ECRs are currently working on.

Date: Friday, 12 September 2025

Time: 8:30am - 17:00pm

Venue: Snape Building, Upper Campus, UCT

Call for Photo Submissions

MARiS invites ECRs to **submit a photograph** related to their research that will be exhibited at the MARiS ECR conference next month. Participants will need to submit their photographs by **31 August 2025**.

[Submit your photo here.](#)

What would YOU ask our marine + polar panel for the MARiS ECR Conference?

Our upcoming panel discussion at the MARiS ECR Conference will highlight how interdisciplinary work in marine and polar spaces breaks boundaries, fosters collaboration, and enriches experiences. We want to hear from you! What questions or themes would you like our panelists to address?

Share your input via this [short form](#) – your voice will help shape the conversation.

See more information on the [MARiS Website](#).

For any queries, please contact the MARiS Early Career Researchers Conference Organising Committee via email at ecr.maris@uct.ac.za.

See you there!



UCT SPRING GRADUATION – September 2025

We are excited to hear that several of our ECRs will be graduating this year, September. If you are planning to graduate next month, please let Leila Nefdt know, as we would like to create a special post to commemorate all the graduates. Please note that the graduations will take place in the Sarah Baartman Hall, UCT Upper Campus and look out for the following ceremonies:

- Engineering & the Built Environment (all qualifications) on Monday 2 September at 14h00pm and
- Science (all qualifications) on Tuesday 9 September at 18h00pm.

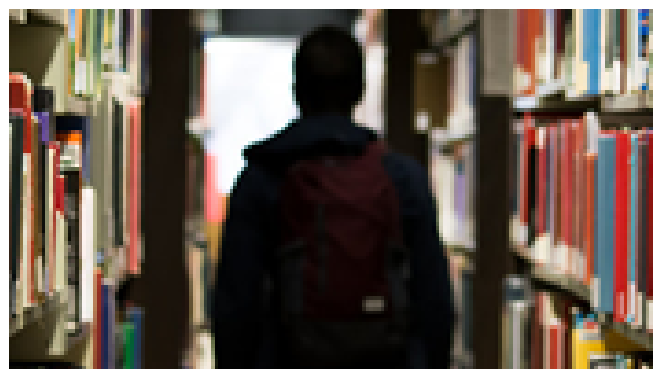
For those who are graduating, take note of the [graduation processes](#) and please enjoy the festivities and share your experiences with us on social media so we can repost and share your achievements with our networks. Feel free to also email leila.nefdt@uct.ac.za to share the news and we can add it in the next ECR Newsflash!

In the news today, here's some light reading...

Showcasing key NRF women in marine science



The 3-4-year PhD in South Africa: A false economy?



Tracking hake movements in SA waters (new paper)



Protecting our oceans: SA moves to ban harmful microbeads



How Inclusive Marine Spatial Strategies Can Deliver Wins for People and Nature (New Paper)

npj | ocean sustainability

Article



<https://doi.org/10.1038/s4183-025-00140-7>

Scenario planning from the bottom up: supporting inclusive and ecosystem-based approaches to marine spatial planning

Check for updates

Tegan Carpenter-Kling^{1,2,3}, Hannah Truter⁴, Anne Lemahieu^{1,2}, Bernadette Snow^{1,2}, Mia Strand⁵, Nina Rivers⁶, Lea Nupras⁷ & Amanda T. Lombard⁸

Africa must ride the High Seas Treaty wave



SANCOR Vacancies

August & September 2025

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:

Field Assistants: Seabirds X2 Marion Island DFFE, Marion Island

Closing Date: [25 August 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

PhD position in the field of ocean and ice dynamics

Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Closing Date: [30 August 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

Fisheries Analyst (Position is open until filled)

OLSPS Marine, Remote (South Africa-Based)

Closing Date: [31 August 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

Postdoctoral Position in Marine Mammal Health and Biology

Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Closing Date: [15 September 2025](#)

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.

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](#) and [Proposals for Funding in 2025](#).



2025 Opportunities

AOS - SAMOS 2026 Applications Open

Closing date: 31 August 2025



South African Master of Ocean Sciences

In 2026, the UCT Master in Applied Ocean Sciences (AOS) program will serve as the pilot project for the South African Master in Ocean Sciences (SAMOS), a project funded by the EU ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in Higher Education programme. The coursework structure will expand on the established AOS course, with the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of the universities and experts, drawn from across the South African marine landscape who are participating in SAMOS.

Applicants will register at and receive the degree from UCT, with most of the coursework component (approx 6 months) taking place at the Ocean Campus of the Nelson Mandela University, Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), Eastern Cape. This exciting opportunity will allow for you to benefit from the wide range of ocean-expertise we have at the South African partner universities.

A webinar, introducing the program and providing you with an opportunity to find out more about the application process is also provided on the website. Two more weeks to go until applications close, make sure to apply now, **you can [view more information on our website](#)**. Any questions can be directed to aos.maris@uct.ac.za.

SAMSS 2025
Ocean20 & Women20
Side Event

Building Bridges Through Generational Dialogue

Session 1 – “Real Talk” for ECRs
Candid career stories, lessons learnt, and interactive World Café discussions with marine science mentors

Session 2 – Women in Marine Science
Celebrating women's journeys, tackling gender barriers, and sharing cross-generational wisdom

Wednesday, 10 September 2025
15h00 – 17h30

Southern Sun Hotel,
Cape Town

Space is limited, so secure your seat by
1 September 2025! [Register Here](#)

SAMSS 2025 Side Event – Ocean20 & Women20

We're excited to invite you to “**Building Bridges Through Generational Dialogue**”, a dynamic session that brings together early career researchers, mentors, and women in marine science to share stories, tackle barriers, and exchange wisdom across generations.

Date: Wednesday, 10 September 2025

Time: 15h00 – 17h30

Venue: Southern Sun Hotel, Cape Town

Session 1: Real Talk for ECRs – candid career journeys, lessons, and mentorship

Session 2: Women in Marine Science – celebrating women's journeys, breaking barriers, and sharing cross-generational wisdom.

Space is limited – secure your seat by 1 September 2025!

[Register here.](#)



2025 Opportunities

SAMSS 2025 Side Event - Ocean20 & Women20

The [Accessible Technologies and Models Workshop](#), a SAMSS 2025 side event, will be held on 11 September 2025 at the Southern Sun Hotel, Cape Town. This full-day interactive session focuses on using cost-effective technologies to access ocean datasets and apply them in open-access modelling systems. Aimed at young scientists and technicians, it requires SAMSS registration, a laptop with 25GB free space, and Oracle VirtualBox pre-installed. [Register here](#).

PhD and Postdoctoral Positions

The University of Oldenburg is inviting **applications for multiple doctoral researcher positions** within the DFG-funded research unit DynaDeep ("The Dynamic Deep Subsurface of High-Energy Beaches")—Phase 2, starting from October 2025. Roles span hydrogeology, geophysics, biogeochemistry, geochemistry, microbiology, and groundwater modelling. All positions are subject to final DFG approval.

Full details and application links are available [here](#).

The University of Oldenburg in Germany is offering the following **3-yr full-time postdoctoral positions** studying the dilemma of the Southern Ocean: Ecosystems, sustainability and competing interests at the edge of the world:

- [Geopolitical dilemmas for management: transfer of governance for the Southern Ocean](#)
- [Sustaining the keystone: Rethinking Antarctic krill fishery management under climate change](#)
- [Navigating uncertainty: Planning marine protected areas in a changing Southern Ocean](#)

Webinar: Open Climate: Advancing data sharing for climate action through academia and research communities

28 August 2025 at 10h00 SAST

The Science20 (S20) and Ocean20 (O20) G20 Engagement Groups invite stakeholders, researchers, and academics to this webinar that will explore the current state of climate data sharing and interoperability among G20 research institutions, with a focus on the Global South. It will highlight the integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, enabling policy frameworks, and South Africa's contributions through ASSAf, SAEON, and the NCCIS. The discussion will also align these efforts with global initiatives such as the G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and the 2024 Open Science Initiative.

[Full details here](#).

IMBER Scientific Committee Applications

Closing date: 31 August 2025

Applications are now open for the IMBeR [Ocean100+ Scientific Committee](#), which will guide the scientific direction and inclusivity of a global marine initiative. Members will co-develop ocean risk assessment methods, promote regional knowledge exchange, and attend monthly virtual meetings. Open to early career professionals and interdisciplinary experts, applications require a CV and a short expression of interest by **31 August 2025**.

2025 Opportunities

Webinar: Climate and Ocean Science for the Future

Join the NANO-DOAP webinar on **Friday, 22 August 2025** at 13:00 UTC via Zoom, featuring MSc Joana González (CLIVAR, China). She will share insights on ocean–climate dynamics and outreach. CLIVAR, a WCRP core project, advances global understanding of ocean-atmosphere systems. [Details and Zoom link available here](#)

Webinar: Science Communication

The Public Engagement Lab at CREST, Stellenbosch University, invites you to a presentation by Prof. David Budtz Pedersen on “New Roles of Science Communication in Driving Societal Impact and Partnerships.” This session will explore how science communication fosters collaboration between academia and society. Join us on Wednesday, 27 August 2025, from 11:00 to 13:00 at CREST (Krotoa Building, 5th Floor), or attend online. [Register here](#).

Government Notices

- The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) [seeks public comment](#) on the new [draft management plans for the Benguela Muds and Cape Canyon Marine Protected Areas](#). These plans are key tools for the future management of the MPAs. Stakeholders have a 30-day period, starting from the date of the newspaper notice, to submit written feedback.
- In Government Gazette No. 53123, the Presidency calls for [nominations for Commissioners to serve a five-year term on the Presidential Climate Commission \(PCC\)](#). Suitably qualified South African citizens with expertise in environmental and socio-economic fields are invited to apply. The PCC advises on the country's climate change response and just transition. Nominations, including a CV and supporting documents, must be emailed to nominations@climatecommission.org.za by 16h00 on **Friday, 29 August 2025**.

Workshop: The Role of Marine Biology in Helping the Ocean Store Carbon

The international workshop “[The Role of Marine Biology in Helping the Ocean Store Carbon](#)” will be held in Glasgow, UK, from 2–4 March 2026, following Ocean Sciences 2026. It aims to unite global scientists to improve climate models by addressing key gaps in understanding marine carbon processes. Participants will collaborate on data and modeling across ten themes, contributing to a published roadmap. The hybrid event welcomes early career researchers, with limited in-person and online spots available. Via IMBeR.

Podcasts:

What to listen out for?



There are so many new amazing podcasts available online so we thought we would share some of those that might interest you. Have a listen to them in your spare time, you might learn something new from various people's stories or from the array of environmental topics discussed.

[Climate Frontiers](#)

A podcast series exploring the latest thinking, approaches and debates in climate science, hosted by the Climate System Analysis Group, or CSAG, at the University of Cape Town.

[The Root of the Science Podcast](#)

Hosted by Anne Chisa. This show has interviews with guests involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

[Ready or Not, Change is Coming](#)

A 12-part Climate Podcast Series, dedicated to breaking down climate change into chewable elements to help us all understand it better, dispel the myths and remove the ambiguity. Tracey Thomas is the host of the the RONCIC series.



[The AtlantECO podcast](#)

A science popularisation show, revolving around conversations between the host and a guest to discuss aspects of AtlantECO, a marine science project which focuses on the Atlantic Ocean.

[BEPSII Podcast: Sea Ice Research, Studies, and Scientists](#)

the official podcast of BEPSII brings you the research studies and work, stories and resources by the members of BEPSII (Biogeochemical Exchanges Processes at Sea Ice Interfaces) – scientists from all over the world and at all career stages.

[Iceworld podcast - British Antarctic Survey](#)

From polar scientists to plumbers, ICEWORLD is a series of interviews with ordinary people who are doing extraordinary jobs in Antarctica. The team talk climate science, extreme living, expeditions and becoming a community. Iceworld is hosted and recorded by Nadia Frontier, and produced in partnership with Boffin Media.

Call for ECRs to join the Working Group

The **UCT-MARiS ECR Working Group** is looking out for volunteers to assist us in putting ideas and actions together to better the ECR community, to build relationship and foster a spirit of community-led research. We aim to have representation from each of the MARiS-related departments, so that we can have a balanced set of ideas and planning throughout the year.

We have several portfolios that each of us contribute to in the working group, see as follows:

1. Events
2. Transformation and Outreach
3. Integration and Sustainability
4. Communications
5. Finances

The ECR working group meets bi-monthly and usually dedicates a couple hours a week to make sure to get the necessary work done in preparation for an event or the next WG meeting. If you are interested in getting involved and committing to assisting the ECR Working Group for the next year, we would love for you to mail us at ecr.maris@uct.ac.za and let us know which portfolio you would prefer to work with. We're especially looking for enthusiastic ECRs from the Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering departments to ensure a well-balanced group, but everyone is welcome to join! **[Sign the form here too!](#)**

If you are interested in generating content for MARiS, please email comms.maris@uct.ac.za directly. We want to share marine related content, involving interdisciplinary research, whether it may be fun facts, opportunities available, or sharing your current research, fieldtrips, cruises, conferences, workshops, events, etc. You let us know!



We want to know what is happening in the marine and Antarctic sphere and share it with our networks.

Follow us and feel free to tag us on social media and we'll be happy to repost what you get up to with your research:

Twitter: @MARIS_UCT
Instagram: @maris_uct



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Because you are part of our MARiS ECR network.



Give MARiS a follow on social media

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.