



# Newsflash

ECR Monthly Newsletter

23 APRIL 2025, ISSUE 40

## 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!

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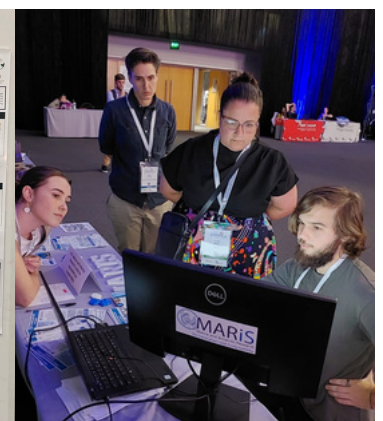
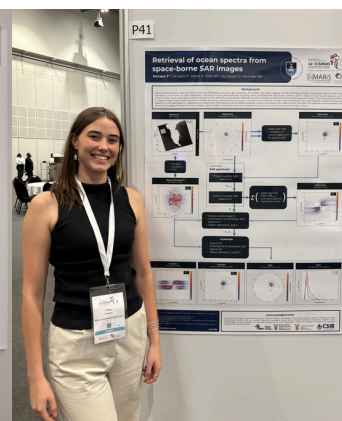
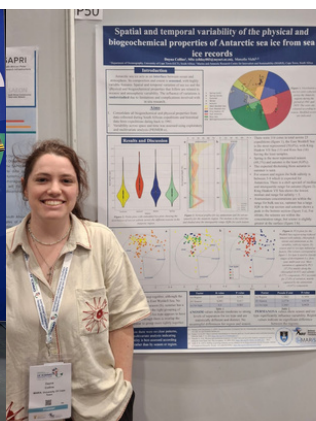


# ICSHMO 2025

From March 31st to April 4th, 2025, Cape Town became the epicenter of groundbreaking climate and oceanographic research as it hosted the 14th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography (ICSHMO) at the CTICC. Among the many institutions represented, UCT's Marine and Antarctic Research for Innovation and Sustainability (MARiS) stood out with an impressive delegation of early career researchers (ECRs) within oceanography and engineering, and academics, sharing their insights, innovations, and passion for Southern Hemisphere science.

The ECRs that attended the conference represented the Oceanography and Electrical Engineering research groups including, Wayne de Jager, Dayna Collins, Daniel Jones, David Sephton-Poultney, Anand Nair, Magata Mangatane, Faith February, Rutger Marquart and Tristyn Ferreiro. You can read about their experiences participating in the conference on the [MARiS website news here](#).

ICSHMO 2025 was more than just a conference—it was a convergence of ideas, innovation, and connection. For UCT-MARiS, it offered an invaluable platform to not only showcase their world-class research but also to contribute meaningfully to the global Southern Hemisphere science community. As this new generation of researchers returns from ICSHMO, they carry with them not only new knowledge and networks but also a renewed commitment to shaping a more equitable and collaborative future for climate science.





## Dates to diarize

### MARiS ECR Games Night

We know research can be serious business, but who says you can't have a little fun along the way? The ECR committee is excited to invite you and any friends you wish to bring along to our first MARiS ECR Games Night.

- Date: **Thursday, 8 May 2025**
- Time: 17:30-20:30pm
- Venue: Oceanography Seminar Room, RW James Building, Upper Campus.
- What to bring: Any specific games you would like to play (we will provide some games but you're welcome to bring along any) and some friends, you are welcome to bring your own preferred drinks (alcohol will not be provided but you are more than welcome to bring your own).
- Please [sign up here before the 2nd of May 2025](#) if you will be attending (for catering purposes).

### MARiS ECR Monthly Coffee Talk

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

- Date: Tues, 13 May 2025
- Time: 13h00 - 14h00
- Venue: Oceanography Seminar Room, RW James Building, Upper Campus.
- Bring a mug along, and let's chat about some of the amazing plans we have planned for 2025!

### Inaugural MARiS ECR Conference 2025

The MARiS Early Career Researchers Conference Organising Committee would like to invite all Southern Ocean polar and marine researchers to our inaugural MARiS ECR Conference.

Date: Friday, 12 September 2025

Time: 8:30am - 17:00pm

Venue: Snape Building, Upper Campus, UCT.

Participants are invited to submit applications for oral or poster presentations, research photographs or attendance by the **27<sup>th</sup> of June 2025** and selected participants will be notified by the end of July. The link for participations submission is: [MARiS ECR Conference Application Form](#). See you there!

## Present at the UCT-SANCOR Seminar Series

We invite you to present on your coastal and marine research projects at the UCT-SANCOR Seminar Series in 2025. **The seminars are held on Mondays at 13h00 at UCT** (hybrid format). Speakers outside of Cape Town will be hosted via Zoom. [Book your date now and join the conversation! Email Carmen Visser at \[c.visser@risa.nrf.ac.za\]\(mailto:c.visser@risa.nrf.ac.za\)](#).

## 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

For enquiries regarding the mentorship programme, please contact the SAPRI Engagement Manager: [Dr Wade De Kock](#).



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# SANCOR Vacancies

April - May 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:

### Postdoctoral Researcher in Marine OMICS

*University of Galway, Galway, Ireland*

Closing Date: [24 April 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

### Science Communicator and Media Developer for Coastal Wetlands Project

*University of the Western Cape, Bellville, Western Cape or Hybrid*

Closing Date: [25 April 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

### Marine Protected Area Officer

*Ascension Island Government, Ascension Island*

Closing Date: [27 April 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

**Postdoctoral position: Optimization of a biogeochemical model using BGC-Argo data assimilation to improve the detection and attribution of the effects of ocean alkalization**  
*CNRS, Mercator Ocean & Villefranche Oceanography Laboratory, Toulouse, France*

Closing Date: [28 April 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

### Postdoctoral position: Optimizing Southern Ocean Carbon Sink Observations Using Autonomous Floats

*National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) Paris, France*

Closing Date: [30 April 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

### Marine Biogeochemical Science Officer

*Euro-Argo ERIC Office, Plouzané, France*

Closing Date: [30 April 2025](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

### Fisheries Standard Manager

*Marine Stewardship Council, Berlin, Madrid, or Cape Town*

Closing Date: [04 May 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.**

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



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# 2025 Opportunities

## MSc Opportunity at the World Maritime University

**Closing date: 30 May 2025**

South African citizens who seek to pursue an MSc programme in Maritime Affairs are invited to apply through the Transport Education and Training Authority, to study at the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden. Applicants employed in the maritime sector for at least 12 months with 3+ years of experience, academic acceptance from WMU, employer consent, and submission of required documents are eligible to apply, with priority given to women and middle/senior managers.

## 9th International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals

**Barcelona, Spain | 2 - 6 November 2026**

The 9th International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals (ISDSC) is taking place in Barcelona, Spain, from 2 to 6 November 2026, the first time it's in the Mediterranean. The event aims to connect scientists, artists, and the public to encourage collaboration and boost awareness about the dangers facing cold-water corals, using an interdisciplinary approach to strengthen global conservation efforts.

## New Free Course on Tackling Plastic Pollution and Advancing the Blue Economy

The Sustainable Seas Trust has launched a free e-learning course, 'Tackling Plastic Pollution in Africa through Sustainable Waste Management and a Circular Economy Approach', aimed at African SMEs and government organisations, particularly in coastal regions. The course offers region-specific solutions to combat marine plastic pollution, covering the plastic lifecycle, sustainable waste management, the role of women, and policy-level interventions, including the Global Plastics Treaty, to drive sustainability and the Blue Economy.

## Ocean Literacy Research Community- Climate Action Survey

On behalf of the Ocean Literacy Research Community (OLRC)\* we'd like to ask to fill in a survey to share your valuable thoughts on our changing ocean, its connection to climate and, above all, action! The survey is available in several languages, so please feel free to share this email with your network to get them involved in this global reflection.

**[Here is the link to the survey.](#)**

We feel it is a robust and valid tool, and will help to inform the pros and cons of climate change messaging. Our goal is to collect and analyse as many global responses as possible to then inform a policy brief that reflects our findings in the context of similarly-aligned best practices from the wider literature.



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# 2025 Opportunities

## 8th Southern African Shark and Ray Symposium

**Makhanda, Eastern Cape | 15 to 19 September 2025**

Please note that the abstract submission deadline for the 8th Southern African Shark and Ray Symposium has been extended to the 30 April 2025; many thanks to those who have already submitted their abstracts. It also gives us great pleasure to announce, through the generous sponsorship of the Save Our Seas Foundation, that a limited number of travel grants are available for student and/or early career researchers who plan on attending the 8th SASRS. More information on this will be available in due course.

During the course of the symposium, two workshops – Shark and Ray MPA workshop (Monday, 15th September) and South African Shark Forum (Friday, 19th September) – will be taking place. The Shark and Ray MPA workshop (between 09:00 and 15:00), which will be a combination of informative short presentations and a discussion group focusing on key aspects related to MPAs for sharks and rays, is for participants focussed on, or with a keen interest in, Marine Protected Areas for sharks and rays. The Friday workshop will build on the Shark Forum meetings led by WildOceans on the final day of previous symposia. While the meeting is open to all participants, it will focus on South African shark and ray conservation and management issues. The meeting aims to establish whether there is interest in continuing the South African Shark Forum and in what format; assess opportunities to strengthen discussions between scientists and managers; and identify priority issues relating to the conservation and management of sharks and rays in South Africa.

For more information on the 8th SASRS, please visit our website: <https://sasrs.saiab.ac.za/>, and don't hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

## **SAMSS - Southern African Marine Sciences Symposium**

**Cape Town, 8 – 12 September 2025**

**Mark your calendars for the triennial Southern African Marine Sciences Symposium (SAMSS)!**

The symposium will be held in Cape Town (venue TBD) during 8 - 12 September 2025 and hosted by the Department of Conservation and Marine Sciences at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) Campus in District Six. The theme for the conference this year is "The triple planetary crisis - resilience and conservation of Ocean and Coastal ecosystems" and highlights the urgent need to confront the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution impacting marine and coastal ecosystems. Addressing these challenges requires an interdisciplinary approach that integrates science, engineering, policy and community engagement. We invite you to share your research, network with peers and contribute to a sustainable future for our oceans. Stay tuned for further details via the SANCOR mailing list.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee,  
Chairperson: Dr Courtney Puckree-Padua (CPUT)

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# 2025 Opportunities

## 13th WIOMSA Symposium – Call for Abstracts

29 Sep 2025 – 4 Oct 2025 | Mombasa, Kenya

The WIOMSA Scientific Symposium stands as the largest open scientific conference in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region, focusing on vital marine and coastal issues. This triennial event will provide a unique platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders.

**Theme: “One Ocean, One Future: Connecting People, Policy, and Science for a Thriving Western Indian Ocean”.** This theme emphasizes the unique opportunities and challenges facing the WIO in pursuit of sustainable ocean management. It envisions an interconnected blue economy that balances ecological health with socio-economic development, fostering collaborative efforts among scientists, policymakers, and communities. Inspired by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, the theme is built on three dynamic pillars, designed to drive meaningful action and promote collaboration across the region: Science as a Foundation for Decision-Making, Policy as a Catalyst for Collaboration, Communities as Stewards of Sustainability. These pillars are designed to drive impactful actions and foster collaboration across the WIO region and beyond.

### Abstract submissions are now open!

We invite innovative and impactful abstracts focused on marine and coastal science and management, organized around three core themes and ten sub-themes. The deadline for submissions is **March 28, 2025**.

Additionally, there are many opportunities to get involved in the 13th Symposium, including organizing a thematic session, conducting a workshop or tutorial, and showcasing technical demonstrations. Students can also opt for their presentations to be evaluated for a chance to win a prize. Interested individuals can reach out to [secretary@wiomsa.org](mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org) for more information.

- Access the detailed [submission guidelines](#)
- Submit your [abstract](#).

## One Ocean Science Congress

### ICES Seminar for Early Career Ocean Professionals

You don't have to swim alone before your next big presentation! The Strategic Initiative on Integration of Early Career Scientists (SIIECS) Seminar Series provides a platform for sharing marine science outputs, with a particular focus on early career scientists. The platform allows them to practice their presentations in an inclusive and equitable space where we encourage active participation, thoughtful questions, and constructive discussion from the attendees. If you are an ECOP attending and presenting at the OOSC in June 2025, you may be interested in the upcoming seminar series on 8 April 2025. [You can find more details using this link](#).

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



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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).