



23 JUNE 2023, ISSUE 17

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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Give MARiS a follow on social media



Notices



Doughnut Talks - Sign-Up!

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 sign up [here](#) or contact the Oceanography PostGrad Committee at oceanpgc@gmail.com.

Call for New MARIS ECR representative

We are looking for a senior **PhD/postdoctoral fellow** or any other researcher who has obtained their PhD within the last seven years to take over the reins. **The time commitment is about 1-2 days per month, and you will work closely with the ECR working group, who will support you. The ECR rep is also an ex-officio member of the MARIS management team and the scientific steering committee** – not only does this provide you with a great opportunity to represent the ECRs at a decision-making level, but it is also a great learning experience in terms of what goes into managing a centre like MARIS.

If you would like to nominate someone, please ensure that you have their permission

Marine Chatties



The Marine Chatties seminars are used as a platform for students and researchers within the marine 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 [Silke Brandt](#) or [Dr Natasha Karenji](#), who are currently running the Chatties seminars.

to do so. Self-nominations are more than welcome! Each nomination must have the following information included:

1. Level of study (Senior PhD, Postdoc, other ECR)
2. Department
3. Contact details
4. Short paragraph outlining your vision for the position (what would you like to achieve).

All nominations must be submitted to ecr.maris@uct.ac.za by 3 July 2023. Should more than one nomination be received, the ECRs will vote for their preferred candidate. We intend to submit our proposed rep to the Management Team at the next meeting that takes place on 11 July 2023. **The new Rep's term of office will start on 1 August 2023.**

Please don't hesitate to contact [Louise Gammage](#) if you have any questions or queries!

Book Features

"Where the Weird Things Are: An Ocean Twilight Zone Adventure"

By Zoleka Filander

Illustrated by Patricia Hooning

Created in Collaboration with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Written by award-winning South African deep-sea scientist, **Dr Zoleka Filander** and the team at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, this lovely story is packed with real information about life under the sea.

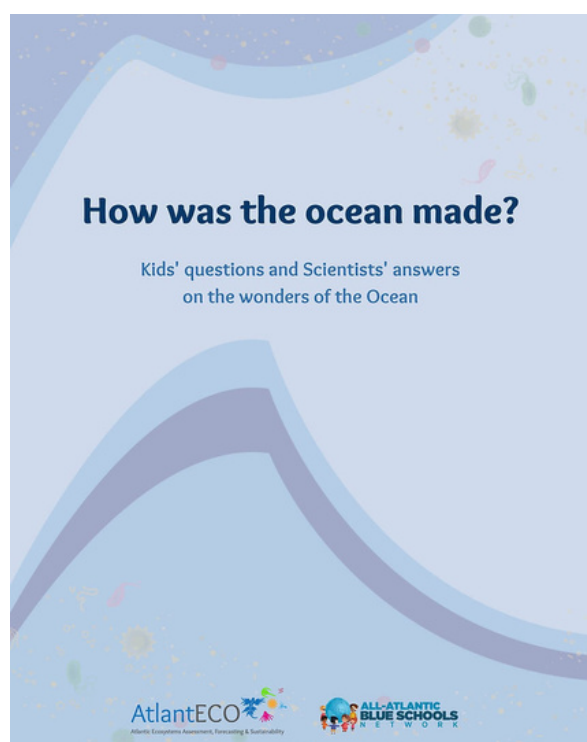
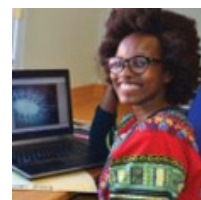
Where the Weird Things Are is the first children's book from the [Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution \(WHOI\)](#) and is inspired by the groundbreaking work of the Ocean Twilight Zone (OTZ) project, and Mesobot, an innovative hybrid robot designed specifically to study life in the ocean twilight zone.



Join Meso, an intrepid underwater robot, on its very first expedition to explore the ocean twilight zone. Meso will discover all sorts of unusual and wonderful creatures and learn that we're all weird in our own ways ... and that's a very good thing!

Where the Weird Things Are author, Dr Zoleka Filander added, "Sharing my passion for the ocean and the animals that call it home is a key part of my mission as a scientist. This project with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, bringing the ocean twilight zone creatures to young readers in a relatable and clever way, has been hugely gratifying."

Where the Weird Things Are is available at [SHOPWHOI](#) site, on [Amazon](#) or your local books store.



Q&A Booklet: Understanding the ocean

Curious children around the world had their questions about the ocean answered by a consortium of scientists, including some of our own marine scientists at UCT-MARiS, working on the AtlantECO project. This [initiative](#) was led by the [AtlantECO project](#) and supported by the [All-Atlantic Blue School Network](#), with the participation from the ASTRAL, [Nautilus](#) and [AANChOR](#) projects. The booklet was released on the 8 June 2023 for World Oceans Day. Enjoy the read and find the full booklet [here](#).

MARiS Quiz Night

The MARiS Early Career Researchers took the lead in hosting the first social fundraiser for MARiS on **Wednesday, 14 June 2023** in the UCT John Day Museum on Upper Campus. All proceeds will be used in aid of our MARiS Research Showcase later this year (October 2023).

One Quiz. 50 Questions. 5 categories. 8 teams. 45 attendees.

Academics, postdocs and postgraduate students attended and represented various departments (Biological Sciences, Chemical and Electrical Engineering, Physics, Molecular and Cell Biology and Oceanography). Although some of the questions were challenging, it didn't hold the contestants back as they all brought a competitive spirit and had a blast. Questions ranged from sports & pop culture, general knowledge, science, current affairs and entertainment.

In **3rd place**, we had Team “**Norfolk and Chance**”. In **2nd place**, we had Team “**Electric Lemons**”. And finally in **1st place**, we had Team “**The Whipper Snappers**”. We ended the night off with a lucky draw, and drew **Bongani Mtetwa's** (PhD student, Chemical Engineering) name out of the bag. He went home with a custom-made blanket that Leila Nefdt's grandmother crocheted and donated as a prize.

We hope you all are enjoying the prizes! With much gratitude, the MARiS team would like to thank each and every one who contributed to making this event a huge success! We really enjoyed meeting you all and hope to have more of these kinds of events in the future – so watch this space! 😊



SANCOR Vacancies

June - July 2023

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:

Director: Research and Scientific Services
SANBI, Pretoria

Closing Date: [30 June 2023](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

Positions in the field of Data Science and Systems Development

SAEON uLwazi, Cape Town

Closing Date: [30 June 2023](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

Postdoctoral researcher: data analysis and data assimilation

Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, University of Maryland, Maryland, USA

Closing Date: [30 June 2023](#)

Find out more information [here](#).



Director: Coastal Development and Coordination

DFFE, Cape Town

Closing Date: [3 July 2023](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

Fishery Specialist

*New England Fishery Management Council
Massachusetts, USA*

Closing Date: [7 July 2023](#)

Find out more information [here](#).

Africa Oceans Strategy Director

*The Nature Conservancy, location flexible in any
TNC office in Africa*

Closing Date: [31 July 2023](#)

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](#).



2023 Opportunities

Cape Town Expo for Young Scientists 2023

UCT Sports Centre, Upper Campus |
21 - 23 August 2023

Exciting news is that it's Cape Town Expo's 40th birthday this year and we want there to be a bumper celebration for all who participate in the Expo. Please consider signing up as a judge for the Science Expo 2023. It's always a WOW factor from learners as to what they have tackled and accomplished.

Cape Town Expo 2023 will be in the UCT Sports Centre, Upper Campus on **21 - 23 August 2023**. We hope to get as many as 400 projects entered this year.

Please diarise the following dates:

1. Final date for Judges to apply on the Expo database to judge at Cape Town Expo 2023: **26 July 2023**. The link will be sent to you closer to the time.
2. Part 2 of judges training at the Regional Expo- Face to face: **Monday 21 August** - Time to be confirmed.
3. Judging at Cape Town Expo: **Tuesday 22 August** - we will need all the judges all day that day.

Please contact **Olga Peel** on admin@ctexpo.org.za to sign up.



Training Workshop for Science Writers

28 June 2023 | 15h00 SAST

Do you want to write for Nature Africa?

Calling all current or aspiring science writers! [Nature Africa is inviting you to a virtual webinar](#) to learn more directly from the portal's editors.

Programme outline:

- Introduction to Nature Africa (Lynne Smit, senior editor at Nature Africa)
- So you want to be a science journalist? (Mohammed Yahia, executive editor of Nature Portfolio in Africa, Europe and the Middle East)
- Decoding science: How to write for Nature Africa (Akin Jimoh, chief editor of Nature Africa)

RSVP link (you will receive a link to join once you have registered):

<https://bit.ly/NatAfricaTraining>

2023 Opportunities

CROCO Ocean Modelling Summer School

Apply by 31 July | Cape Town

The Coastal and Regional Ocean Community (CROCO) model is a modelling platform for the regional and coastal ocean using realistic or idealized multiscale approaches. There will be a [CROCO Ocean Modelling Summer School](#) in Cape Town in November this year. There is limited funding available. Those interested, should apply [here](#) and if funding (or partial funding) is required, they should email a motivation once they have filled in the application form.

France - South Africa Scholarship Programme

Info Webinars 26-30 June 2023 | Apply by 16 October 2023

The [France - South Africa Scholarship Programme](#) is directed to South African students who intend to study in universities or higher education institutions in France for their Master's degree or PhD. The programme is also open to students from Lesotho and Malawi. This programme is open to all fields of studies. Campus France South Africa in partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training will be hosting the 2023 [Study in France Webinar Week](#) from 26 to 30 June.

International SST User Symposium and GHR SST International Science Team Meeting

Abstracts due 7 July 2023 | 16-20 October 2023 | Hybrid format in Ahmedabad, India

Abstract submission for the GHR SST24 International Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Users Symposium and science team meeting has been extended until the 7 July 2023. The symposium will bring together SST experts with applied users, and also feature a training event where attendees can learn more about how SST products are generated, and how to use different products for a variety of marine applications. Submissions from early career researchers and applied users of SST data are particularly encouraged. Funding support is available for those using Copernicus satellite data in their research. More details can be found [here](#).



2023 Opportunities

MSc opportunity - microplastics in estuaries

Apply by 23 June 2023

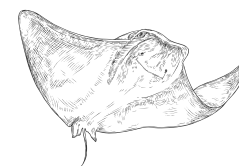
We are currently seeking a passionate individual to join our team as a full-time MSc researcher in the Department of Biological Science at the University of Cape Town starting in January 2024 focusing on the **pathways of microplastics within estuarine systems in the Western Cape of South Africa**. Microplastics pose risks to organisms and ecosystem processes. Estuaries, as connectors between land and sea, play a crucial role in the transport and fate of plastics. However, research on microplastic pollution in South African estuaries, especially along the south and west coasts, is limited. The proposed research aims to investigate microplastic pathways and impacts in South African estuarine ecosystems, addressing knowledge gaps on the transport and fate of plastic pollution.

SAPRI Data Centre

The South African Polar Research Infrastructure (SAPRI) are in the process of reviewing and assessing the data and information system needs of SAPRI stakeholders and researchers. **If you have (or will have) polar or offshore marine data, data management requirements, or any other data related needs, please take a few minutes to complete this form to assist SAPRI in defining and managing the scope of the services offering to be developed by the SAPRI Data Centre.** Stakeholders and researchers (including students) at all career stages are welcome to fill in the form. You can complete the form as an individual or on behalf of a research group.

MSc and PhD Projects in Marine Genomics

Apply by 24 June 2023



The Marine Genomics and Climate Change Lab (University of Pretoria), in collaboration with the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, the Southern African Fisheries Ecology Research Lab at Rhodes University and University of Namibia, is looking for MSc and PhD candidates to work on the following projects:

- Phylogeography of Eagle Rays in the eastern Atlantic, using a genotype-by-sequencing approach - 1 MSc
- Fine-scale population structure of shallow-water hake across Southern Africa, using a genotype-by-sequencing approach - 1 MSc
- Genomic consequences of hybridization in the southern African kobs, including fieldwork in South Africa, Namibia and Angola - 1 PhD

Observations within the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch

3-5 October 2023 | Geneva, Switzerland

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is hosting a workshop on 3-5 October 2023 on "Observations within the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch". The purpose of this workshop is to **develop guidance from and to Member States and partner organizations regarding the comprehensive integrated observing system.** Registration and abstract submissions are open from 15 June to 15 August 2023.



Courses

Applied Ocean Sciences Masters Course

2024 Applications Open | UCT-MARiS | Apply by 30 September 2023

Applications are officially open for the multi-disciplinary Applied Ocean Sciences Masters course for the 2024 cohort. This course provides interdisciplinary training in treating the most applied aspects of oceanography and marine biology, with the aim to become future ocean professionals. It is designed for both recent graduates as well as those with some years' experience and who wish to gain skills to operate in the ocean services sector, with a focus on operational and conservational activities, food, water quality and recreation, preservation and other aspects of the Blue Economy.

APPLICATIONS CLOSING DATE: 30 September 2023. Please note that students wishing to apply for funding from the NRF will need to do so by **30 June 2023** (UCT internal closing date). To apply, visit <https://maris.uct.ac.za/masters-applied-ocean-sciences-course> and follow all the necessary steps. If there are any other queries, please contact the AOS course conveners via email: aos.maris@uct.ac.za.



MASTER'S DEGREE IN APPLIED OCEAN SCIENCES
COURSEWORK & DISSERTATION



2024 APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!



Are you a BSc or BA Hons graduate interested in the ocean and its environment?

UCT-MARiS offers a 13-month programme, the Applied Ocean Sciences (AOS) MSc Coursework + Minor Dissertation, offering a range of disciplines that will shape both your academic and technical skills with the applied aspects of oceanography and marine biology. This multi-disciplinary MSc course is joint between the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Oceanography.

The AOS course commences in January 2024.

APPLICATIONS CLOSING DATE | 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

NRF funding applications closes on 30 June 2023

UCT International & Refugee funding applications close on 31 July 2023

To apply, visit maris.uct.ac.za

CONTACT US

MARiS

University of Cape Town, South Africa

✉ aos.maris@uct.ac.za

AIR Centre PhD Scholarship Programme

An international call is open to grant two PhD Scholarships from a set of 4 available themes within the field of marine ecosystems. The grants are financed by the Portuguese National Foundation for Science and Technology and the Atlantic International Research Centre and partners. Doctoral research work will be carried out entirely or partially in a Portuguese institution. **Closing date: 3 July 2023**

Each applicant may submit one application to one of the available themes:

The importance of the twilight zone for endangered oceanic filter-feeding elasmobranchs



seek a strong PhD candidate

Theme: The Twilight Zone and endangered oceanic filter-feeding elasmobranchs

Deadline: 3rd July 2023
More info: scholarships@aircentre.org

Supervisor: Jorge Fontes

Host institution: Institute of Marine Sciences OKEANOS, University of the Azores

Co-Supervision Partners: MEES, ceanICU, DTU, UCA

Machine Learning approaches for the Analysis of Marine Ecosystem Indicators for Present and Future Scenarios



seek a strong PhD candidate

Theme: Machine Learning & Marine Ecosystem Indicators

Deadline: 3rd July 2023
More info: scholarships@aircentre.org

Supervisors: Isabel Sousa Pinto, Patrizio Mariani, Oscar Godoy & Lohengrin Fernandez

Host institution: Un Porto/CIIMAR

Co-Supervision Partners: ceanICU, DTU, UCA

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Each applicant may submit one application to one of the available themes:

Incorporating ecosystem service considerations into integrated ecosystem assessments using a functional trait-based approach.

AIR CENTRE
atlantic international research centre

MISSION ATLANTIC

universidade de aveiro

seek a strong
PhD candidate

Theme: Ecosystem Service considerations into integrated ecosystem assessments using a functional trait-based approach.

Deadline: 3rd July 2023
More info: scholarships@aircentre.org

Supervisors: Ana Hilário, Kerry Sink, Kerry Howell, Marry Gasalla, Jose Angel Perez
Host institution: University of Aveiro
Co-Supervision Partners: UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH, SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute), iAtlantic

Past, present, and future of coastal fish communities in the oceanic archipelagoes of the Atlantic Ocean

AIR CENTRE
atlantic international research centre

MISSION ATLANTIC

OKEANOS

seek a strong
PhD candidate

Theme: Past, present, and future of coastal fish communities in the oceanic archipelagoes of the Atlantic Ocean

Deadline: 3rd July 2023
More info: scholarships@aircentre.org

Supervisors: Pedro Afonso, Martin Lindegren, DTU, Sergioj Floeter UFSC
Host institution: OKEANOS, Un Azores
Co-Supervision Partners: DTU, UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE SANTA CATARINA

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

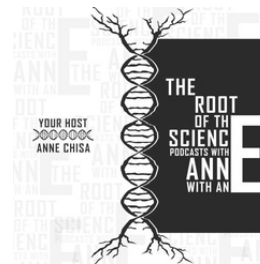
A podcast series exploring the latest thinking, approaches and debates in climate science, hosted by the Climate System Analysis Group, or CSAG, at the University of Cape Town.

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.

Agulhas Current Affairs

A marine science podcast set in Southern Africa with marine biologists Dr Yanas Kisten and Dr Nelson Miranda.

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.



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.



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 newflash, please email ecr.maris@uct.ac.za.