dgm DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MEERESFORSCHUNG

YOUMARES 2026 16

Conference for young marine researchers

OCEAN FUTURES 2026

Connecting Science, People and the Changing Ocean

30. November 2026

8 am to 6 pm

Zoom Meeting

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

OPENING

08:00 – 09:00

MAIN SECTIONS

09:00 – 11:00 Life in the Ocean: From Microbes to Megafauna
11:00 – 14:00 A Changing Ocean
14:00 – 16:00 New Tools for Ocean Discovery
16:00 – 18:00 Onwards People & the Ocean YOUMARES

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

DAM DEUTSCHE ALLIANZ MEERESFORSCHUNG



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Opening

08:00–08:20 Opening	**Frank Schweikert (Founder, DGM) Dr. Nicole Biebow (Chair of the Board, German Marine Research Alliance (DAM)) Requested - Matthias Catón (Managing Director, German Maritime Centre)** Welcome, programme introduction
08:20–09:00 Opening keynote	**Emily Cunningham MBE** Hope, action and community - working together towards a sustainable ocean future

Life in the Ocean: From Microbes to Megafauna

09:00–09:30 Keynote	**Dr. Alicia Bruzos** What happens when cancer stops being an individual disease and becomes an ecological and evolutionary phenomenon?
09:30–09:40 Flash	**Gaia Grieco** Designing with dispersal: Connectivity-informed site selection for resilient Bivalve Restoration
09:40–09:50 Flash	**Kristen Wilson** Modelling the Response of the Microbial Carbon Pump to Ocean Warming: Can the Past Inform us about the Future?
09:50–10:00 Flash	**Jose Andres Hidalgo De la Torre** Functional Differentiation of Three Sympatric Elasmobranchs During the Blob and El Niño off Baja California Sur
10:00–10:05 Lightning	**Fernanda Avelar Santos** First evidence of plastisphere from intertidal in situ plastiglomerates
10:05–10:10 Lightning	**Siwar Agrebi** Stock status assessment of the dusky grouper Epinephelus marginatus (Central Mediterranean, GSA 12) using data-limited models CMSY++ and LBB
10:10–10:15 Lightning	**Silpa M S** Integrative Taxonomy Reveals First Record of Seagrass Halophila major in India
10:15–10:30 Science Meets Industry	**Mats Heitzmann (bluprint lab)** Transforming marine infrastructure into new habitat
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break Digital coffee break; student project video (by Ancy C Stoy)



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A Changing Ocean

11:00–11:30 Keynote	**Dr. James Bradley** The role of microbial dormancy in regulating biogeochemical cycles across Earth systems
11:30–11:40 Flash	**Claudia Montes-Carrillo** Spatial and temporal variation in damselfish assemblages across reefs of San Andrés Island, Colombian Caribbean
11:40–11:50 Flash	**Ralf Liebermann** How future climate impacts on the North Atlantic Deep Water formation might affect primary production in the East equatorial Pacific
11:50–12:00 Flash	**Hendrik Grosselindemann** Climate-state controls of CO_2 uptake guide marine carbon dioxide removal
12:00–12:05 Lightning	**Nyran Abraham Tahija** Spatio-temporal analysis of sea surface temperature and coral health at Narara Reef, Gujarat using remote sensing and GIS
12:05–12:10 Lightning	**Małgorzata Dembek** Linking thermal conditions to growth trajectories in herring larvae: an otolith microstructure approach
12:10–12:15 Lightning	**Estevao Muduviu Mazuze** Mangrove Vulnerability in Maputo Bay: Strategies for Adaptation to Sea-Level Rise
12:15–12:30 Science Meets Industry	**Dr. Patricia Handmann (Lhyfe Germany GmbH)** H_2O to H_2: A Physicist's Journey from Sea to Energy
12:30–13:15	Lunch break
13:15–13:30 Spotlight talk 1	**Laura Figuerola Ferrando** From the sea to science: more than a decade of citizen observations transforming marine research
13:30–13:45 Science meets Industry	**Nadine Paschen (TX Marine Messsysteme GmbH)** Marine Engines, Human Connections
13:45–14:00	Quick coffee break



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New Tools for Ocean Discovery

14:00–14:30 Keynote	**Prof. Dr. Katharina Hoff** Making Sense of Marine Genomes: Innovative Tools for Gene Annotation
14:30–14:40 Flash	**Lord Offei-Darko** Spatio-Temporal Monitoring of Mangrove Blue Carbon
14:40–14:50 Flash	**Andrea Melina Fonseca Tovar** Integration of Stereovideo and the SmaxN Index: A Multi-Camera Approach to Improve Abundance Estimates in Aquatic Fauna
14:50–14:55 Lightning	**Athira Pulickal Santhosh Kumar** Comparative genomics of two European cockle reference genomes
14:55–15:00 Lightning	**Precious Brobbey** Mapping Seasonal Upwelling and Artisanal Fishing Activity Using Low-Cost Technology in Coastal Ghana
15:00–15:15 Spotlight talk 2	**Karan Rathod** Artist-Scientist Collaboration: Creative Approaches to Science Communication
15:15–15:30 Science Meets Industry	**Peer Fietzek (Kongsberg Maritime Contros GmbH)** From Ocean Science to Ocean Enterprise: How Technology and Collaboration Are Shaping the Future of Ocean Observation
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break



People & the Ocean

16:00–16:30 Keynote	**Prof. Edem Mahu** Advancing Locally Led Ocean Science with Communities and the Next Generation of Researchers
16:30–16:45 Special talk	**Prof. Dr. Deniz Ayas** Science and Community Engagement for Marine Ecosystem Restoration: A Project Proposal from the Eastern Mediterranean
16:45–16:55 Flash	**Giulia Leanza** The Kelp Trail: Bridging Art and Science to Inspire Change
16:55–17:00 Lightning	**Iara Carreró** Art, Science and Sharks: Reimagining Public Narratives Through the Shark Stories Hub
17:00–17:05 Lightning	**Anton Knor** Bridging boundaries for coastal resilience: Transdisciplinary collaboration on the interface of coastal protection and disaster management
17:05–17:10 Lightning	**Luís Miguel Fernandes Pereira** The ocean starts in the river: building ocean literacy along the river-estuary continuum
17:10–17:15 Lightning	**Ingrid Ravasi** From Dock to Desktop: A Citizen Science Approach to Marine Biofouling Monitoring
17:15–17:20 Lightning	**Ana Leonor Ruiz Castillo** Non-Human Rights at Sea: Towards the Legal Personhood of Marine Animals
17:20 onwards Interactive + closing	**All participants** Ocean Futures Challenge; closing remarks