YOUMARES'16 | OCEAN FUTURES 2026

Complete chronological conference programme · 30 November 2026 · All times CET

Connecting Science, People and the Changing Ocean

08:00-08:20	**Opening**	**Frank Schweikert (DGM) Dr. Nicole Biebow (Director, DAM)**	**Welcome, programme introduction**
08:20-09:00	**Opening keynote**	**Emily Cunningham MBE**	Hope, action and community - working together towards a sustainable ocean future

09:00-10:15 | Life in the Ocean: From Microbes to Megafauna

Time (CET)	Format	Speaker	Presentation title
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**	Transforming marine infrastructure into new habitat
10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**	**—**	**Digital coffee break; student project video (by Ancy C Stoy)**

11:00-12:15 | A Changing Ocean

Time (CET)	Format	Speaker	Presentation title
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**	H_2O to H_2: A Physicist's Journey from Sea to Energy
12:30-13:15	**Lunch break**	**—**	**Lunch**
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**	Marine Engines, Human Connections
13:45-14:00	**Quick coffee break**	**—**	**—**

14:00-15:15 | New Tools for Ocean Discovery

Time (CET)	Format	Speaker	Presentation title
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**	From Ocean Science to Ocean Enterprise: How Technology and Collaboration Are Shaping the Future of Ocean Observation
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**	**—**	**Break**

16:00-17:15 | People & the Ocean

Time (CET)	Format	Speaker	Presentation title
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**