

World Congress of Marine Stations 2026

World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS)

1–5 September 2026 | Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, British Columbia, Canada

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Summary

The 3rd World Congress of Marine Stations (WCMS 2026), convened by the World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS), brings the global marine-station community to the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The Congress is organised around five themes — Oceans and Human Health; Ocean Innovation and Bioeconomies; Community, Education and Culture; Ocean Policy; and Marine Stations as Distributed Research Platforms — with contributed talks, breakout sessions, and cross-cutting discussions on the future of marine stations as a connected, global research infrastructure.

Venue

Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (BMSC), Bamfield, British Columbia, Canada.

PROGRAM

Tuesday 1 September — Arrival

Daytime Travel to Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre

15:00 Check-in to rooms is open

Receive check-in packages in the Rix Centre for Ocean Discoveries

17:00–19:00 Welcome and Opening Reception

Land Acknowledgment, Huu-ay-aht First Nations

19:00–20:00 Dinner, Cafeteria

20:00–21:30 Social Hour, Rix Centre Atrium

Wednesday 2 September — Day 1

07:30–08:30 Breakfast

09:00–09:30 Welcome Session: Introductions & Meeting Overview

- WAMS status and perspectives — **Matt Frost** (Plymouth Marine Laboratory)
- Enrichment and analysis of the Marine Station atlas — **Mattia Bunel** (EHESS / UMR Géographie-cités)
- WCMS2026 goals — **Sean Rogers** (Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre)

9:30–10:30 Session: Oceans and Human Health and Ocean Policy — Contributed Talks

Chair(s): Matt Frost (PML)

1. Marine Biodiversity in the Anthropocene: Grand Challenges and Glimmers of Hope for Healthier Futures - **Amanda Bates** (University of Victoria)
2. Connecting oceans, place and wellbeing: community-led marine heritage and human health at the Dove Marine Laboratory — **Lizzie Keen** (Newcastle University)
3. Eutrophication and public health safety on the Cameroonian coast: building an early-warning system through the GEM Program — **Ernest Ohandja Nomo** (University of Ebolowa, Cameroon)
4. Abundance, distribution and diversity of macrobenthos on the Chittagong coast, Bangladesh — **Tahmina Anwar Tonny** (Shahjalal University of Science and Technology)

10:30–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:00 Oceans and Human Health and Ocean Policy (continued)

5. A megaplasmid transforms a bacterium from opportunistic pathogen to mutualist providing thermal resilience to corals — **Rebecca Case** (Nanyang Technological University)
6. 'Kissing the frog into a handsome fish': recovery from xenoestrogen exposure after WWTP upgrades in the Southern Biscay Bay — **Ibon Cancio** (Plentzia Marine Station, University of the Basque Country)
7. National Association of Marine Labs (NAML): Education, Research & Public Policy — **David Eggleston** (North Carolina State University)
8. Talk title TBC — **Matt Frost** (PML)

12:00-12:30 Breakout: Oceans and Human Health & Ocean Policy

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Session: Ocean Innovation and Bioeconomies — Contributed Talks

Chair(s): John Coates (UC Berkeley)

1. The future of Ocean Innovation and unlocking the potential of seaweed — **John Coates** (UC Berkeley)
- 2.
3. From lab to market: transforming marine monitoring with biosensors — **Carmem-Lara Manes** (Banyuls Marine Station)
4. Nova Harvest: from startup to serving community and the shellfish industry — **JP Hastey** (CEO, Nova Harvest)
5. Tourism as an economic engine for ocean innovation at marine stations: an example from French Polynesia — **Neil Davies** (UC Berkeley – Gump Station)

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30-16:30 Breakout: Ocean Innovation and Bioeconomies

17:00-19:00 Poster Session

Community, Education and Culture

1. Empowering young researchers: structure and impact of the Gifted Program — **Chase Robbins & Sierra Neitzke** (Niceville High School, USA)
2. Niceville High School's NaGISA Program: a successful initiative of high-school student research — **Lana Dorey** (Niceville High School, USA)
3. Transferring scientific knowledge from marine stations through lifelong learning initiatives — **José A. Juanes** (IHCantabria, University of Cantabria)
4. The Sharjah Marine Science Research Centre: a new hub for marine research, education and ocean literacy in the UAE — **Henrik Stahl** (University of Khorfakkan, UAE)

Marine Stations as Distributed Research Platforms

5. Coastal biodiversity in Europe: the Spanish component of the European Marine Omics Biodiversity Observation Network (EMO BON) — **Ibon Cancio** (Plentzia Marine Station, University of the Basque Country)
6. EMBRC-Spain: the Spanish node of a European research infrastructure for marine biology and biotechnology — **Ibon Cancio** (Plentzia Marine Station, University of the Basque Country)
7. Regional marine station networks as distributed research platforms: lessons from the Chilean RCER network — **Sergio Guitart** (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)
8. CHARS as an Arctic hub for marine research and observation — **Alexandra Kanters** (Canadian High Arctic Research Station)
9. Melimoyu Station: Building a Distributed Research and Community Hub for Ocean Monitoring in Chilean Patagonia — **Alejandro Pérez Matus** (Subtidal Ecology Lab (SUBELAB), Estación Costera de Investigaciones Marinas, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Las Cruces, Chile & Philanthropy Cortés Solari)
10. Singapore's first and only marine research station: St. John's Island National Marine Laboratory — **Jani Tanzil** (St. John's Island National Marine Laboratory)
11. Continuous monitoring of open-ocean water levels in Russia: conceptual projects for the Azov, Black, Caspian and Baltic Seas — **Gennady Kantakov** (FEEC Ltd. — poster only, presenter cannot attend)

12. Marine Stations Helgoland & Sylt enable cutting-edge coastal research — **Angelika Dummermuth** (Alfred-Wegener-Institut)
13. EMBRC: a European distributed research infrastructure of marine stations and research facilities — **Nicolas Pade** (EMBRC)

19:00 Dinner

20:00 Realizing Dohrn's vision: towards a network of augmented observatories - Fireside Lecture

Speaker: Sean M. Rogers

Thursday 3 September — Day 2

07:30-08:30 Breakfast

09:00–10:30 Session: Community, Education and Culture — Contributed Talks

Chair(s): Sean Rogers (Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre)

1. Lighthouses and bridges: connecting marine science and public engagement — **Dr. Bärbel Wichmann** (Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helgoland)
2. Did you hear that? Underwater soundscapes to increase participation in science and connect Pacific schools — **Tim Haggitt** (University of Auckland, Institute of Marine Science)
3. Community, Education and Culture 1. How the Gifted/NWF NaGISA Program can use our talents and flexibility to benefit your research — Julia Milz, Mary Colleen Johnson, Arabella Kirk & Lillianna Kifer (Niceville High School, USA)
4. Experiential learning through Vertically Integrated Projects at the Scottish Oceans Institute — **Julie Oswald** (Scottish Oceans Institute, University of St Andrews)
5. Place-based learning and community partnerships in marine science education: a coastal Canadian perspective — **Daniela Looockl** (Ocean Networks Canada)
6. From community to classroom: adapting a co-creation framework for inclusive marine education — **Heather Sugden** (Newcastle University)

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00–11:30 Session: Community, Education and Culture (continued)

7. The White Sea Biological Station and neighbouring coastal settlements: 90 years of complex interaction — **Alexander Tsetlin** (White Sea Biological Station, Lomonosov Moscow State University)
8. Te Mauri Ora: Ethnocode Project, French Polynesia — **Maheata White Davies** (NYU and Gump Station)

11:30–12:30 Breakout: Community, Education and Culture

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Networking and Field Trips

Field trips to be booked and purchased separately. Information will be sent to participants.

- Monitoring temperatures across stations during El Nino - PEARL Lab
- Trips options such as: Tour of Barkley Sound, Brady's Beach Hike, West Bamfield Boardwalk Tour and a Rainforest Walk

19:00 Dinner

20:00 Biophonics Presentation (Rix Atrium)

Friday 4 September — Day 3

07:30-08:30 Breakfast

09:00–10:30 Session: Marine Stations as Distributed Research Platforms — Contributed Talks

Chair(s): Jani Tanzil (St. John's Island National Marine Laboratory)

1. Chilean network of marine stations: from the tropic to the subantarctic — **Sylvain Faugeron** (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)
2. The Centre for Marine Biology (CEBIMar-USP) as a hub for academic excellence and ocean literacy — **Augusto (Guca) Flores** (University of São Paulo, Brazil)
3. The Power of Three: France's distributed ecosystem of marine stations — **Gavin Fox** (Roscoff Marine Station, EMBRC France)
4. Evaluating machine-learning algorithms with Google Earth Engine for LULC dynamics of Sandwip Island, Bangladesh — **Md Abrar Al Foyso** (Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh)
5. From islands to networks: scaling marine biodiversity monitoring and biosecurity across the Eastern Tropical Pacific — **Inti Keith** (Charles Darwin Foundation)
6. JAMBIO as a distributed research platform for Japanese nation-wide projects — **Hiroaki Nakano & Ben Harvey** (Shimoda Marine Research Center, University of Tsukuba)

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00–12:00 Session: Marine Stations as Distributed Research Platforms (continued)

7. Pacific Transect Collaborative (4Site Network) and the Malama Aina Plan for Moku o Lo'e — **Megan Donahue** (Hawaii Institute Marine Biology)
8. Enhancing data mobilization of marine station research - Tom Bird (Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada)
9. MarineGEO BON — **Margot Hessing-Lewis, Katelyn DiBenedetto & Steven Canty** (Hakai Institute; Smithsonian Institution)
10. The Sharjah Marine Observatory: a new marine-station-based ocean observing platform in the Gulf of Oman — **Henrik Stahl** (Sharjah Marine Science Research Centre, University of Khorfakkan, UAE)

12:00–12:30 Breakout: Research Platforms

12:30 Lunch

13:30–15:00 Envisioning WAMS

Chair(s): Neil Davies (UC Berkeley - Gump Station)

- 13:30 iPlaces: From WAMS Atlas to WAMS Journal — **Erin Robinson** (iPlaces Alliance)
- 13:45 **Breakouts: How could WAMS advance marine stations and support Ocean Decade goals?**
 - Share Station Operations and Business Models
 - Provide common cyberinfrastructure
 - Promote marine stations in international treaties
 - Other topics to be suggested
- 14:45 **Report back**

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 Closing Session

Chair(s): Sean Rogers (Bamfield) · Matt Frost (PML)

16:30–17:30 WAMS Steering Committee

19:00 Banquet, Rix Centre Atrium

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase during the banquet and disco.

Saturday 5 September — Departure

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

10:00 Checkout time

Please ensure all your belongings are out of accommodations by 10:00. Temporary luggage storage can be accommodated.

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