



ICES
CIEM

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea

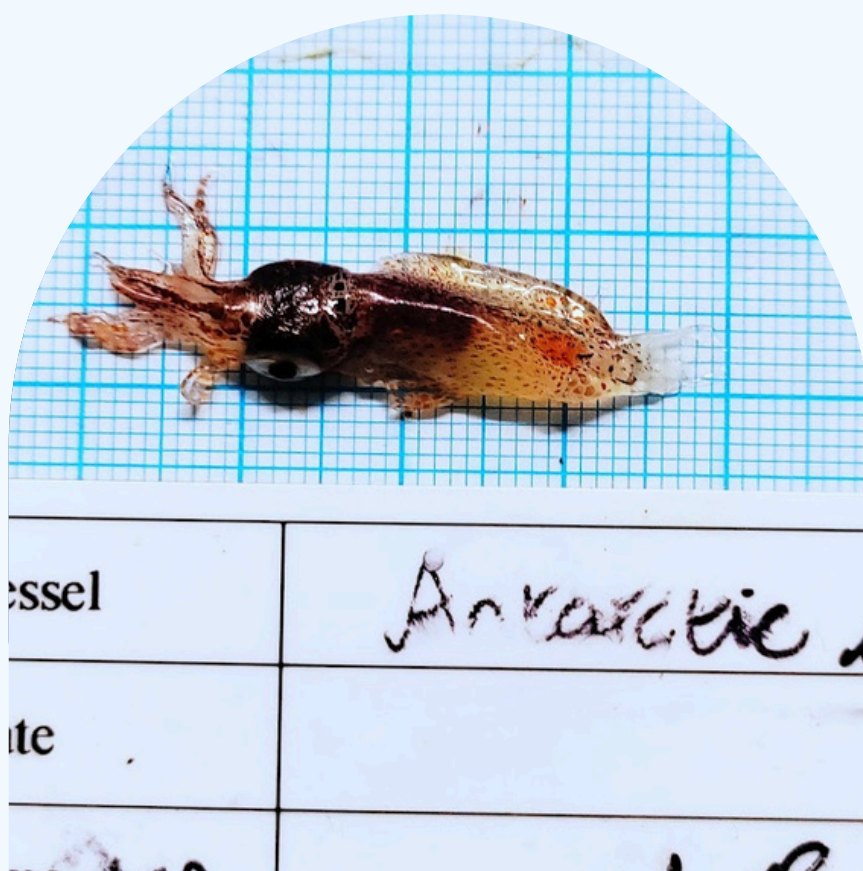
Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer



SIIIECS
Strategic Initiative on Integration
of Early Career Scientists

SIIIECS Iceberg

exploring underneath the waves



**APRIL 2025
EDITION**

*An Introduction to SIIIECS and
your way in*

*Interesting research findings of
our ECS at ICES*

INTRODUCING

SIIECS Newsletter



SIIECS members at the ASC, 2024



Dear ECS,

Welcome to your SIIECS Newsletter!

In this last edition of the year, we are excited to share with you the most recent updates covering various topics relevant ECS within the SIIECS community. In this issue, you'll find a wealth of valuable information, ranging from interesting research findings of colleagues to upcoming events and opportunities.

April 2025

SIIECS Newsletter can also be viewed
on SIIECS webpage [here](#)



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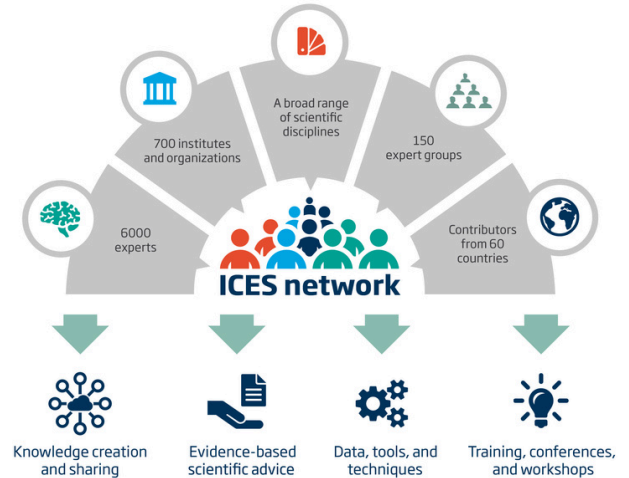
WHO ARE WE?



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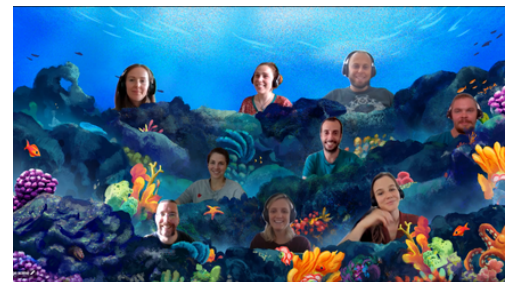
Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer



Welcome to the world of ICES—the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea! At the heart of global marine science collaboration, ICES brings together early career scientists and experts from diverse backgrounds under the Strategic Initiative on Integration of Early Career Scientists (SIIIECS). As an intergovernmental organization, ICES focuses on advancing our scientific understanding of marine ecosystems. Its mission extends to providing essential advice on the sustainable use of our seas, ensuring that decisions affecting marine resources are grounded in robust scientific research. Through fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and promoting inclusivity, ICES stands as a beacon for scientists keen on navigating the depths of marine science and contributing to the shared goal of responsible ocean stewardship.



SIIIECS
Strategic Initiative on Integration
of Early Career Scientists



SIIIECS is for anyone who identifies as an early career scientist (ECS) and who wants to be involved in ICES activities. [Join us!](#)

SIIIECS aims to make ICES more visible and accessible to early career scientists from various disciplines and backgrounds. The activities of SIIIECS will improve the inclusion of ECS in ICES work and help ECS contribute to the overall goals of the organization. The initiative will also participate in ongoing efforts to enhance equity, diversity and inclusion in ICES.

ICES HOT NEWS

Exciting headlines that were picked up by ICES recently ([here](#))

THE NEWS

SAFEGUARDING THE NATURAL BALANCE

ICES publishes advice on aspects of the Genetic Intrusion Risk Assessment Framework for salmon aquaculture

Find the access to the full article and the plans here:

[READ MORE](#) 

THE NEWS

THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH IN DEEP- SEA FISHERIES

FAO to host symposium to take stock of application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in deep-sea fisheries

Read and find about more on the topic here:

[READ MORE](#) 

SIIECS CHAIRS

SPOTLIGHT

This month we are introducing one of our three SIIECS chairs, Daniel Ottmann.



Rare picture of Daniel in his working environment, such is the fate of science using computational tools.

Daniel is a marine biologist doing a postdoc at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). His interests expand broadly in all aspects of ecology, and he has recently specialized in data analysis and building mechanistic model.

Here is Daniel's motivation within the SIIECS

"After attending conferences, SIIECS is what I like most about my job. To be honest, I am putting quite a bit of time on it every week, but it opens many opportunities that I would otherwise not have access to. Seeing how much we get done in SIIECS motivates me a lot, and knowing that the work we do is respected and appreciated by the ICES Secretariat is reassuring. "

As a chair, Daniel gets to oversee a bit of all the SIIECS initiatives. There are two initiatives that he is particularly involved in: the selection of an early career keynote presenter for the ICES annual science conference and the [InterDis summer school](#).

Hosted at
ICES Secretariat Headquarters
(Copenhagen, Denmark)

10-15 August 2025

InterDis_{ummer School}

**Integrated Ecosystem
Assessment: an interdisciplinary
tool for ecosystem-based marine
management and advice**

For the **second edition of the Interdisciplinary Summer School (InterDis)**, we are building on the topics of interdisciplinarity addressed in the first iteration (InterDis Summer School 2023). This year we are bridging the gap between **scientific research and actionable ecosystem management**. We will illustrate the challenges of balancing societal expectations on ocean resources with the effects of exploitation.

The curriculum is built on two main pillars:

- **ICES commitment to good ecosystem science and policy advice.** ICES (www.ices.dk) science priorities are reflected in the themes address in our lectures as well as the lecturers themselves.
- In partnering with **Mission Atlantic** (www.missionatlantic.eu), we are able to bring a clear and concise **framework for addressing the complex challenges of marine management and providing decision-makers** with the best possible information.

In this partnership, we are able to focus on tools and implementation, giving attendees key skills for informing contemporary management paradigms such as Ecosystem-Based Management.

At the end of the summer school, attendees should have **a deeper understanding** of:

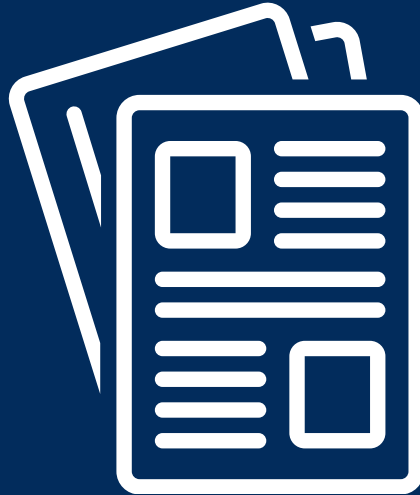
- 1) EIA, it's strengths and weaknesses as well as current alternative methods.
- 2) How interdisciplinary knowledge feeds into the marine management structure, particularly on an international level and insights from past real-world successes and failures.
- 3) An expanded network of Early Career Scientists and professionals.

There are 32 places available at InterDis 2.

Applications are due by midnight on 15 May 2025. All early-career ocean professionals* are eligible to apply.

Application opens on **2 April 2025**, so please **stay tuned** and watch this space!

HOT OFF THE PRESS



This month, we'll share 3 publications associated with SII ECS members, our SII ECS and ICES networks, and other ECR groups

Looking for more publications?

Find them on ICES website
here



Latest publications:



Identifying Spatial Patterns of Egg Nursery Habitat for a Demersal Shark in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea: Conservation and Management Implications
Lopez et al., 2025. *Diversity and Distributions*

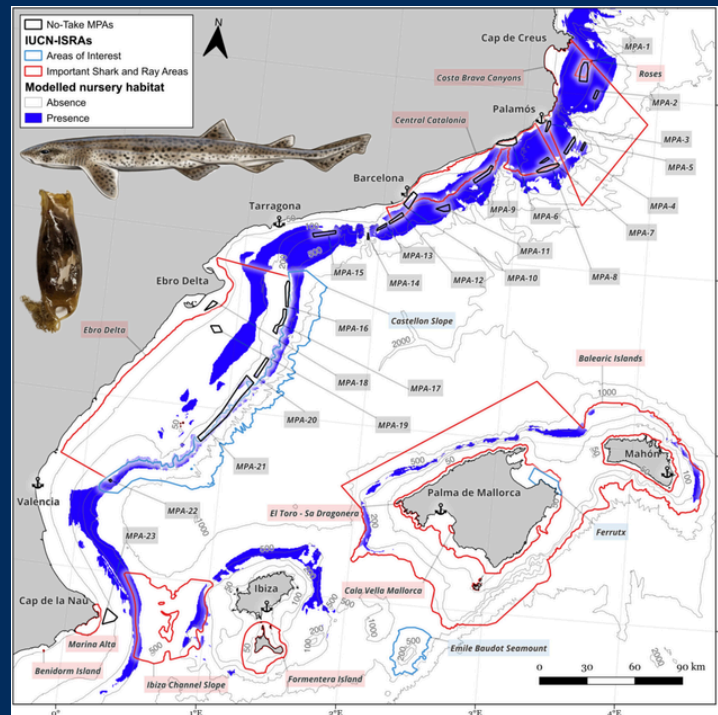


Major data gaps and recommendations in monitoring regulations of activities in EU marine protected areas
Aminian-Biquet, J., Sletten, J., Vincent, T. et al. , 2025. *npj Ocean Sustainability*



Pathways for converting zooplankton traits to ecological insights are paved with FAIR practices
Jessica Titocci et al. , 2025. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*

Identifying Spatial Patterns of Egg Nursery Habitat for a Demersal Shark in the Northwestern Mediterranean Sea: Conservation and Management Implications



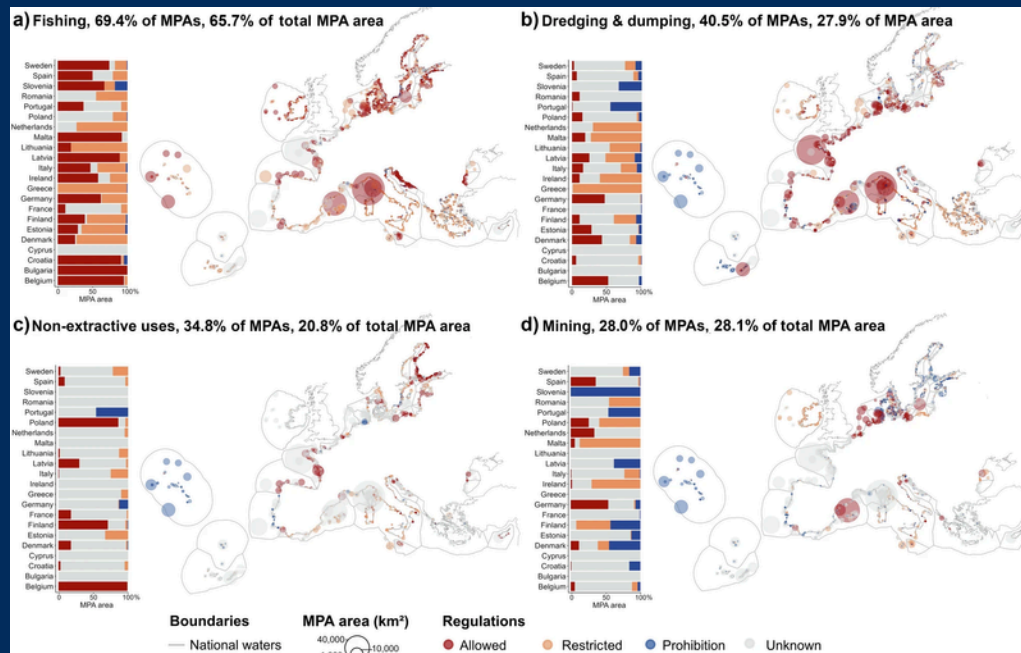
Oviparous elasmobranchs lay benthic eggs requiring habitat-forming sessile organisms for their development. However, they are threatened by bottom-trawling fishing impacts. In this newly published article, the research aimed to identify the suitable habitat distribution of small-spotted catshark (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) egg nursery areas, assess their current protection extent by an existing no-take MPA network and their coverage by other delimited spatial-based conservation areas.

Habitat suitability was estimated in the northwestern Mediterranean Sea using a species distribution model. Crossing the estimation with the distribution of different categories of MPA, the results showed that half of the current MPA surface is providing protection to this elasmobranch species' egg nursery areas and their associated benthic communities, and therefore, they are not sufficient for their conservation. This paper is supportive towards the 2030 European conservation target of 'strictly protecting' 10% of marine environments, highlighting the role of mapping the distributions of essential fish habitats.



Read more about this interesting publication co-authored by our colleague M Clavel-Henry

Major data gaps and recommendations in monitoring regulations of activities in EU marine protected areas



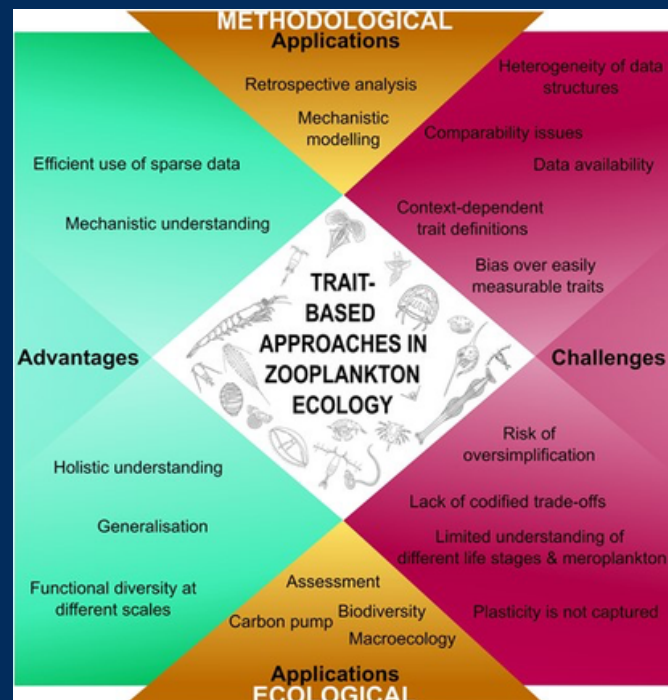
The regulatory landscape of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Europe, is shown to have substantial variation with the data available and the enforcement applied. This paper using publicly available databases (e.g. ProtectedSeas & MSP+) to develop an overview for the regulations of 9 activities within MPAs. The authors found that comprehensive information on regulated activities (e.g. fishing, mining & dredging) is currently lacking overall. While fishing regulations cover 70% of MPA areas, details are sparse, and other activities like mining or dredging are regulated in only 28-40% of areas. Notably, complete bans are rare, with the exception for mining (9.9% of MPA area). Over 40% of MPAs allow high-impact activities, and data inconsistencies arise from fragmented sources, varying reporting standards, and limited integration between conservation and maritime spatial planning initiatives.

Some key recommendations made here include harmonizing data collection, standardizing legal indicators, and improving connectivity between existing databases and governance frameworks. Challenges include reconciling sectoral interests (e.g., fisheries, energy infrastructure) and enhancing transparency for public participation. The paper calls for legally binding reporting requirements, detailed spatial data on restrictions, and collaboration across scientific, legal, and policy communities to ensure MPAs effectively mitigate human impacts.



Read more about this interesting publication first authored by the ECR Juliette Aminian-Biquet

Pathways for converting zooplankton traits to ecological insights are paved with findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR) data practices



The use of trait-based approaches and trait data in zooplankton ecology is rapidly growing to better understand and predict the patterns of zooplankton distributions and their role in aquatic ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles. Although the number of zooplankton trait-based studies and available trait datasets is increasing, several challenges remain for the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability (FAIR) in trait-based approaches that, if unaddressed, may stifle progress in this research area.

In this paper, researchers reviewed recent applications of trait-based approaches in zooplankton research and summarized the currently available trait data resources. To realize the potential of trait-based approaches to resolve ecological roles of zooplankton, datasets and approaches must adhere to FAIR principles.

Authors provided recommendations and pathways forward to ensure FAIRness while highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts. These practical and easily implementable strategies will enhance the FAIRness of trait data, ultimately advancing zooplankton ecological research and connecting these findings to aquatic ecosystem functioning.



Read more about this interesting publication co-authored by our colleague S Rist

SIECS SEMINAR SERIES



Next seminar series event will be held on **8 April 2025**. This online seminar series provides an informal and supportive forum for especially early career scientists to practise their communication skills.

Your attendance matters!

Help ECS give an unforgettable presentation and get a memorable experience. Q&A and feedbacks are welcome after each participant rehearses their presentation.

Session on:
8 April, 13:00 - 14:30 CET

REGISTER NOW



Angelika Mbazuvirua Veii
MSc Student

Long-term growth rate changes in two populations of west coast steenbras (*ILthognathus aureti*) in the northern Benguela



Angela Solanilla
Economist & Policy expert
Marine Prosperity Areas:
Integrating Conservation and
Socio-Economic Well-Being for
Ocean Sustainability



Sara Purca
Researcher
Approaches to understanding
and monitoring sources,
distribution, and fates of plastic
waste generated on the
Peruvian coast

Another seminar series is planned for the **10th June 2025**, send your application for training your presentation skills.

Apply Now

ICES AND SIECS ACTIVITIES

ICES and BlueMissionAA Nature Restoration Webinar

Join us for an engaging and insightful webinar on marine ecosystem (and policy-driven) restoration, focusing on how science can inform and support effective restoration initiatives and policy frameworks.

Participation is free

Date: 8 April 2025, 10-15h CET

Location: Online

REGISTER NOW



Close-Kin Mark-Recapture for Fisheries and Bycatch

This course will train scientists in basic population dynamics and stock assessment. Instruction is mainly aimed at advanced stock assessment modellers and statisticians: people who could, in principle, write their own code for basic age-structured stock-assessment.

DEADLINE for registration: 11 June 2025

Fee: 950€ for ICES member country affiliated participants

Date: 18 - 22 August 2025

Location: ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark

REGISTER NOW



Introduction to Stock Assessment Summer 2025

This course will train scientists in basic population dynamics and stock assessment. The course not only presents the theoretical elements but also puts theory into practice through case studies and hands-on exercises.

Fee: 950€ for ICES member country affiliated participants

Date: 2-6 June 2025

Location: ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark

REGISTER NOW



JOB AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Call for expressions of interest

Seeking marine taxonomists and ecologists willing to participate in a collaborative effort to validate Species Distribution Models (SDMs)

Location: Online



Application deadline:
21 April 2025

Take a look here



PhD student position at NIOZ

“Resilience of benthic communities to deep-sea mining”.

Wanted: a candidate with a background in marine ecology to join the “MiningImpact 3” project with Dr. S. Gollner (NIOZ), in collaboration with Prof. W. Renema (Naturalis)

Location: Texel, Denmark

Application deadline:
27 April 2025

Take a look here



2-year researcher position at the Norwegian Polar Institute

Successful applicant will work with an existing coupled physical and biogeochemical fjord model to study how sediment loads from glacier discharges affect fjord physics and biogeochemistry.

Location: Tromsø, Norway

Application deadline:
30 April 2025

Take a look here



2-year postdoc position at DTU Aqua

Focus on the fluid dynamics and functional ecology of flagellates and early eukaryotic evolution.

Location: Lyngby, Denmark

Application deadline:
22 April 2025

Take a look here



JOB AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

CIIMAR Research Grant

In the framework of the project MICROCHAR - Structures of biochar immobilized microorganisms for the removal of pharmaceuticals in wastewater treatment plants,

Location: Matosinhos, Portugal

Application deadline:
21 April 2025

Take a look here



Post-Doctoral Associate for Enhanced Coral Restoration

Using corals that have been identified as having uniquely high thermal tolerance from prior research, the candidate will focus on enhancing coral survival, growth and condition (health).

Location: Abu Dhabi

Application deadline:
19 April 2025

Take a look here



5 PhD Student positions at University of Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB)

The PhD scholarships cover underwater landscape mapping (PROG.1), marine biomaterials (PROG.2), microplastic interactions (PROG.3), and offshore survey optimization (PROG.4).

Location: Milan, Italy

Application deadline:
24 April 2025

Take a look here



Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Officer (IFCO) – Sussex IFCA

The candidate will conduct inspections, collect and record data, and give advice and guidance using your knowledge and understanding of the different fisheries and fishing methods in the Sussex IFCA district.

Location: Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, UK

Application deadline:
22 April 2025

Take a look here



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Stock Assessment with generalized depletion models combined with population dynamics models

The course shows how to use the R package CatDyn to achieve statistically solid estimations of stock parameters using elementary fisheries monitoring data. The modelling framework is useful to data-poor and data-limited fisheries, small-scale and coastal fisheries. It is versatile, accommodating different life histories, multi-fleet cases, seasonality, and other common specificities of diverse fisheries.

Event **in person** at Olhão (Portugal)

Attendance: **23-26 June 2025**

Student price: 180€

REGISTER NOW



GEO-Inquire Sicily Summer School

Novel technologies and observing systems for geohazard and environmental monitoring: integrated approach of the Eastern Sicily test bed

Course for 40 persons from PhD Students to ECS

- 4 days of lectures and hands-on activity
- 2 one-day trips

Event **in person** at Acitrezza (Italy)

Attendance: **16-23 October 2025**

Some fees are covered by the event

Registration deadline: 6 May 2025

REGISTER NOW



AZTI Summer School 2025 Artificial intelligence and citizen science in monitoring and assessing biodiversity and invasive species at sea

The main objective is to present, both theoretically and practically, different tools and methods for monitoring and assessing biodiversity and alien species.

Event **in person** at Aquarium de Donostia-San Sebastián. Donostia-San Sebastián (Gipuzkoa) (Spain)

Attendance: **3-5 June 2025**

Early registration until 11 April: 100€.
Regular registration from 12 April to 30 May: 170€.

REGISTER NOW





EVENTS

The International Society for Ecological Modelling Global Conference

The 2025 conference will be held under the theme, From Data to Decision: Empowering Ecosystem Management through Modelling. It will highlight the pivotal role of advanced ecological modelling in transforming diverse datasets into decision making and actionable management strategies.



19-23 October 2025



Kashiwa, Japan



XII International Conference on Marine Bioinvasion

An international forum where scientists and policy makers from around the world meet to review current challenges in the global management of invasive marine organisms and to share new developments in science and policy.



7-9 October 2025



Madeira Island, Portugal



CrossGov Policy day

A full-day event dedicated to strengthening policy coherence for a healthier, more resilient ocean. This event will bring together policymakers, researchers, industry representatives, and stakeholders to explore the key intersections between offshore wind, fisheries, and biodiversity conservation.



23 June 2025



Brussels, Belgium



International Conference for Young Marine Researchers (ICYMARE) 2025

ICYMARE is a bottom-up initiative entirely driven by passionate volunteers. It provides a dynamic and inspiring international platform, offering a valuable networking opportunity and a unique introduction to conference participation early in your career.



8-12 September 2025



Bremerhaven, Germany





BRAIN-WAVES

Fusion of Food for ears with other formats.

We would like to let you know about some newly released podcasts and videos that we think will capture SII ECS members' interest – we think they are enriching experiences in the diverse and fascinating realms of the marine.



Gossip Gills

First episode on March 13th
Introducing ASC and the world of fish farming

Click here to listen



Hidden Gems by ICES

Posted on March 17th,
2025

Smart fisheries: Near-real-time acoustic monitoring for sustainable management

Click here to watch

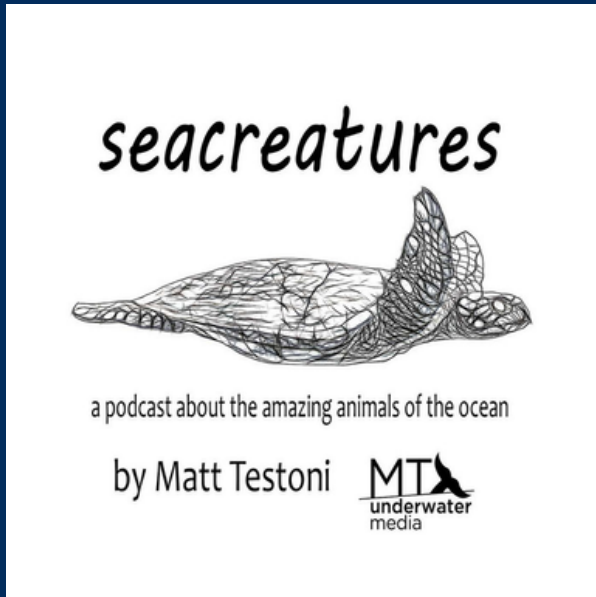




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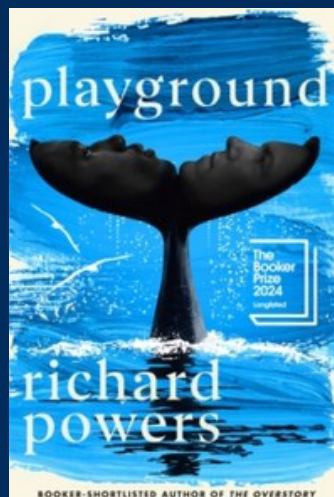
Seacreatures

A show all about the amazing animals that live beneath the waves.

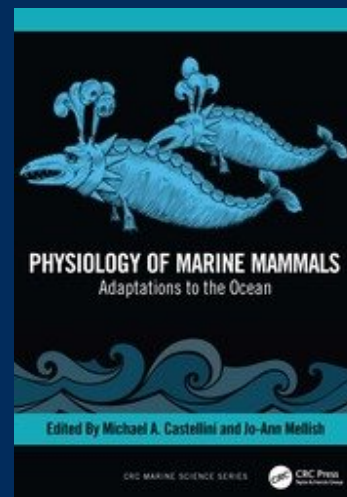
Click here to listen the first episode!



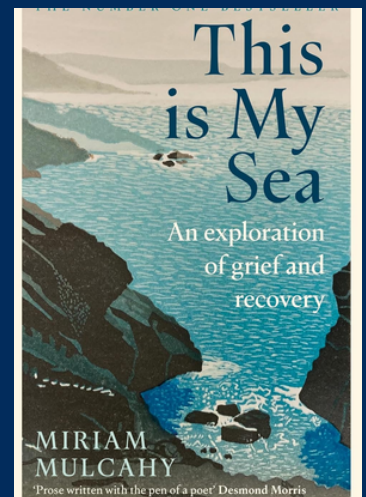
Books from the sea



First publication: 2024



First publication: 2023



First publication: 2023



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SII ECS
Strategic Initiative on Integration
of Early Career Scientists

ICES Newsletter

If you would like to stay up to date with the latest news from ICES (not just the early career scientist stuff!), please subscribe to their online newsletter by sending an email to news@ices.dk indicating your interest.

Know someone who might be interested in this?

Feel free to forward this mail to anyone who might be interested in SII ECS activities. They can also sign up for SII ECS via the link on this webpage.

Unsubscribe?

If you would no longer like to receive messages related to the Strategic Initiative on the Integration of Early Career Scientists then please reply to this email with the subject line "Unsubscribe" and we will remove you from the mailing list.

With best regards,

SII ECS (the Strategic Initiative on the Integration of Early Career Scientists)

Do you know of any exciting activities or opportunities for ECS? Please send any content you would like to share in the newsletter by emailing sii ecs@ices.dk.

Entries will be included in the following edition.

ICES and SII ECS do not necessarily endorse the views presented in any documents or events shared herein.