8th International Symposium
Deep-Sea Corals
29 May - 2 June Edinburgh, Scotland

Workshops & Side-Events

Please note that the time Zone is BST (GMT + 1)!

Wednesday 31 May				Thursday 1 June			
13:45–15:30	Good practices for estimating damage to deep-sea coral and sponge habitat from existing bycatch data	**Image analysis made easy**: introduction to a new machine learning software for automatically measuring species area	BOEM **Town Hall**: 50 Years of Ocean Science for Decisions in the US Offshore	14:15-16:00	Applying data to the challenges of **restoration, protection, and management** of deep sea corals	Creating Vital Metrics for Cold Water Corals: Establishing an **Essential Ocean Variable** (EOV) for Scleractinia and Stylasteridae	
15:30-16:00	Coffee			16:00-16:30	Coffee		
16:00-17:30	Good practices for estimating damage to deep-sea coral and sponge habitat from existing bycatch data	**Public engagement for ocean literacy**: approaches and implementation (**Dynamic Earth**)		16:30-18:00	**Restoration and Conservation** of Deep Sea Corals. CORDAP results, findings and discussion	Exploring Opportunities and Implications for Scientists under the **BBNJ Agreement**: A Roundtable Discussion	Advancing Achievements Through Increasing Collaboration in Ocean Sciences Research

Locations:

Pentland Room, JMCC – Conference Centre
Holyrood Room, JMCC – Conference Centre
Salisbury Room, JMCC – Conference Centre
Dynamic Earth

- ## Good practices for estimating damage to deep-sea coral and sponge habitat from existing bycatch data

Chair: Heather Coleman, NOAA

Date and time: Wednesday 31st May 13:45-17:30. Pentland Room (JMCC)

Description:

A common problem internationally is how to best interpret data on bycatch of deep-sea corals and sponges to understand and manage the effects of fishing gear on habitats. Therefore, this workshop is guided by the following goals: (1) Share current good practices regarding the use of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent bycatch data to improve our ability to locate and understand the effects of fishing gear on deep-sea corals and sponges; (2) Identify methods of reducing bycatch and gear interactions through commercial fishery management; and (3) Identify specific research questions and knowledge gaps that need to be addressed for the estimation of fishing impacts and development of management-based bycatch reduction. For this workshop, fishing gears to be considered include trawls, longlines, pots, traps, and others that touch on or near the seafloor. We consider bycatch as coral or sponge material that is brought on board. We hope that sharing international strategies for collecting and interpreting bycatch data will help scientists and managers improve methods of analysis that can inform policies. Desired outcomes from this workshop include a set of relevant international references and a paper summarizing international strategies and agreed-upon good practices.

Format: hybrid, link to be provided.

- ## Image analysis made easy: introduction to a new machine learning software for automatically measuring species area

Chairs: Poppy Clark, Abraham Smith, Laurence De Clippele

Date and time: Wednesday 31st May 13:45-15:30. Holyrood Room (JMCC)

Description:

This workshop will present an open-source and user-friendly machine learning tool capable of measuring species surface area from images. The workshop will demonstrate the tool's key features, such as its intuitive training process, in-built metrics calculator and model-sharing capabilities. During the workshop, attendees will be guided through the installation of the tool and gain first-hand experience in training models on a practice dataset.

Requirements: The workshop is open to all and no previous experience with machine learning or image analysis is needed. Please bring your laptop and charger.

Registration: Registration is not mandatory, but please submit a note of interest here.

Format: hybrid, link to be provided.

- ## BOEM Town Hall: 50 Years of Ocean Science for Decisions in the US Offshore

Chair: Jennifer Ewald, BOEM

Date and time: Wednesday 31st May 13:45-15:30. Salisbury Room (JMCC)

Description:

Since its inception in 1973, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Environmental Studies Program (ESP) has provided valuable information to predict, assess, and manage impacts from offshore energy and marine mineral exploration, development, and production activities on human, marine, and coastal environments. The vision of BOEM's ESP is to realize ocean stewardship through science. This approach complements BOEM's mission of managing development of U.S. Outer

Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. The ESP also seeks to align the program with the broader stewardship role the Department of the Interior (DOI) plays in managing the Nation's public lands—the federal government and ocean users working cooperatively with mutual respect to achieve shared natural resource management goals. Dr. Rodney Cluck and his team will be presenting on the historical program and goals for future collaboration and scientific stewardship.
https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-studies-program-celebrates-golden-anniversary

Format: hybrid, link to be provided.

- ## Public engagement for ocean literacy: approaches and implementation

Chair: Hermione Cockburn, Dynamic Earth

Date and time: Wednesday 31st May 16:30-18:00. Dynamic Earth

Description:

This 1.5-hour workshop will explore different models for engaging public audiences with deep-sea science. The workshop is suitable for anyone with an interest in ocean literacy and will draw on examples from recent projects led by Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh's science centre. It will include ideas and examples of hands-on activities and also cover evaluation techniques.

Capacity: 24 people

Location: Dynamic Earth

Format: In-person at Dynamic Earth, registration via the link

- ## Applying data to the challenges of restoration, protection, and management of deep sea corals

Chair: Kristopher Benson, NOAA

Date and time: Thursday 1st June 14:15-16:00. Pentland Room (JMCC).

Description:

This workshop will seek input on applications of data compiled and generated in the first three years of ongoing projects to restore of deep sea coral communities in the Gulf of Mexico that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Workshop conveners will provide in-depth examples of project team applications including gap analyses to prioritize and direct implementation of specific project activities in specific geographic and locations to meet project objectives and performance criteria. These internally-focused applications support establishment of monitoring, sampling, data collection, and data management standards; sequencing implementation mission and mobilization plans; and assessing progress towards project objectives and overall restoration outcomes. Conveners would like feedback from workshop participants on these self-reflective applications intended or performed by the project teams. Participants are also encouraged to consider and discuss the potential for externally-focused applications of these data as they are made public through open-access portals, and to explore this data management and evaluation effort as a model for others supporting the restoration, protection, and management of deep sea coral communities globally.

Format: hybrid, link to be provided.

- ## Creating Vital Metrics for Cold Water Corals: Establishing an Essential Ocean Variable (EOV) for Scleractinia and Stylasteridae

Chair: Narissa Brax, Tom Hourigan, Ariane Buckenmeyer

Date and time: Thursday 1st June 14:15-16:00. Salisbury Room (JMCC)

Description:

To standardise deep sea stony coral (Scleractinia and Stylasteridae) data, the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) community is developing an Essential Ocean Variables (EOV) specification sheet, to complement the existing shallow hard coral EOV. This effort to monitor and understand the ocean environmental parameters for deep sea corals which are critical to ocean health and biodiversity, is guided in part by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The Deep Ocean Observing Strategy (DOOS) and other efforts are helping to coordinate input, including both the national and international regulations and conservation issues driving coral observing needs, and the capabilities to deliver this information. The final specification sheet should ideally be adaptable to a broad range of research objectives and sampling methodologies, assisting researchers, resource managers, and policymakers in understanding deep sea coral ecosystems and informing conservation management efforts, while also supporting consistent data collection and analysis and interdisciplinary research. As part of this effort, we invite you to comment on the EOV specification sheet to provide feedback and suggestions, as well as to discuss current challenges and opportunities in deep sea coral research and conservation. This collaborative effort will aid in ensuring that the EOV specification sheet is comprehensive and widely applicable, and that it can support global monitoring and conservation.

Format: hybrid, link to be provided.

- ## Restoration and Conservation of Deep Sea Corals. CORDAP results, findings and discussions

Chair: Michelle Taylor, CORDAP

Date and time: Thursday 1st June 16:30-18:00. Pentland Room (JMCC)

Description:

Prior to the conference, CORDAP hosted a workshop on Restoration and Conservation of Deep Sea Corals. The workshop was a scoping study into deep sea corals, to identify gaps in knowledge regarding deep-sea corals and to develop a roadmap giving recommendations of priority future R&D investment areas and directions. The workshop at ISDSC8 will summarize these findings, and invites ISDSC8 delegates to join them in discussion around this with the aim a roadmap for developing this research area further.

Format: hybrid, link to be provided.

- ## Exploring Opportunities and Implications for Scientists under the BBNJ Agreement: A Roundtable Discussion

Chair: Christine Gaebel, Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)

Date and time: Thursday 1st June 16:30-18:00. Holyrood Room (JMCC)

Description:

In response to growing global concern for marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), the international community came together to negotiate a new international agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ. After five years of negotiations, the text of this new agreement was recently finalised in March 2023 and is now awaiting formal adoption. Given the recent finalisation of the BBNJ negotiations, the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI) and friends are hosting a roundtable discussion to bring together deep-sea scientists to explore the opportunities and implications for the scientific community under the new agreement. The event will begin with a series of brief presentations, followed by open round-table discussions designed to foster dialogue among attendees. All are welcome to attend and no prior knowledge of the BBNJ process is required.

Format: In-person.

- ## Advancing Achievements Through Increasing Collaboration in Ocean Sciences Research

Chair: Stephanie Sharuga, BOEM

Date and time: Thursday 1st June 16:30-18:00. Salisbury Room (JMCC)

Description:

At the Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022, a diverse group of scientists and resources managers from government agencies, academia, industry, and NGOs met to discuss collaboration in ocean sciences. Improving relationships and collaborations by sharing knowledge, capabilities, and resources promotes cross-boundary and interdisciplinary studies, which are becoming increasingly common and needed. Increased collaboration will help create and maintain synergies, as well as reduce repetition and redundancy in research and other initiatives. All of this will ensure the best scientific research is being done as efficiently and effectively as possible and will improve return on investment. This workshop is a continuation of discussions related to collaboration and aims to promote knowledge-sharing and discussions on how to increase collaboration in funding and carrying out ocean sciences.

Format: hybrid, link to be provided.