

# NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY



## Term 3 News

After a very busy first semester with numerous conferences, workshops and visits from and to various collaborators, the **Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR)** is looking forward to another successful and exciting term. We are excited to share highlights on past activities and upcoming events with our members!

### Campus Tours

The **Ocean Sciences Campus** has become quite an attraction, and this is not surprising, considering the variety of groups hosted here, the work being done, and the impressive infrastructure. Many groups, including local researchers, schools, government officials and international delegations, visit this campus on a regular basis and the CMR leads tours to showcase our beautiful facilities. Recent groups taken on tours of the Ocean Sciences Campus include:

- Michigan State University staff and students (16 May)
- University of Kansas staff and students (27 May)
- New Nelson Mandela University staff members (13 June)
- Malawi University of Science and Technology: VC, DVC & two other staff members (14 June)

On 22 May, the CMR took members from **The Ocean Race** on a tour of the Ocean Sciences Campus, followed by presentations on research taking place on this Campus and a brief of the University's vision and strategies. This was a particularly important visit, because the University was approached by the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality earlier this year with a request to form part of the bid application committee for host stopovers for the **2021-2020 Edition of The Ocean Race**. As an international living laboratory for excellent science research investigating integrated ocean management for healthy oceans, the Nelson Mandela University, through the CMR, will host the summit should the city be successful.



# Past Events

## World Oceans Day

This was celebrated on 8 June. The CMR hosted a photo competition with two categories to celebrate **Diversity**:

- Stunning Seascapes
- Coastal Companions

The winning photograph in each category will be printed on branded banners to be used at CMR events, and the winning photographers each won a R100 John Dory's voucher. A total of 50 photographs were received, and the CMR thanks all entrants for their participation. Photographs will be featured in the CMR's Glossy Reports, marketing materials and presentations.

Congratulations go to Emily Whitfield and Gideon Williams who submitted the winning photographs for **Stunning Seascapes** and **Coastal Companions**, respectively.



Deciding on the winning photographs was difficult, and submissions from Stuart Dunderdale, Nina Rivers and Heather Nel are acknowledged.



# Celebrating the Whales Festival

## Festival celebrating the Arrival of Humpback Whales in Algoa Bay

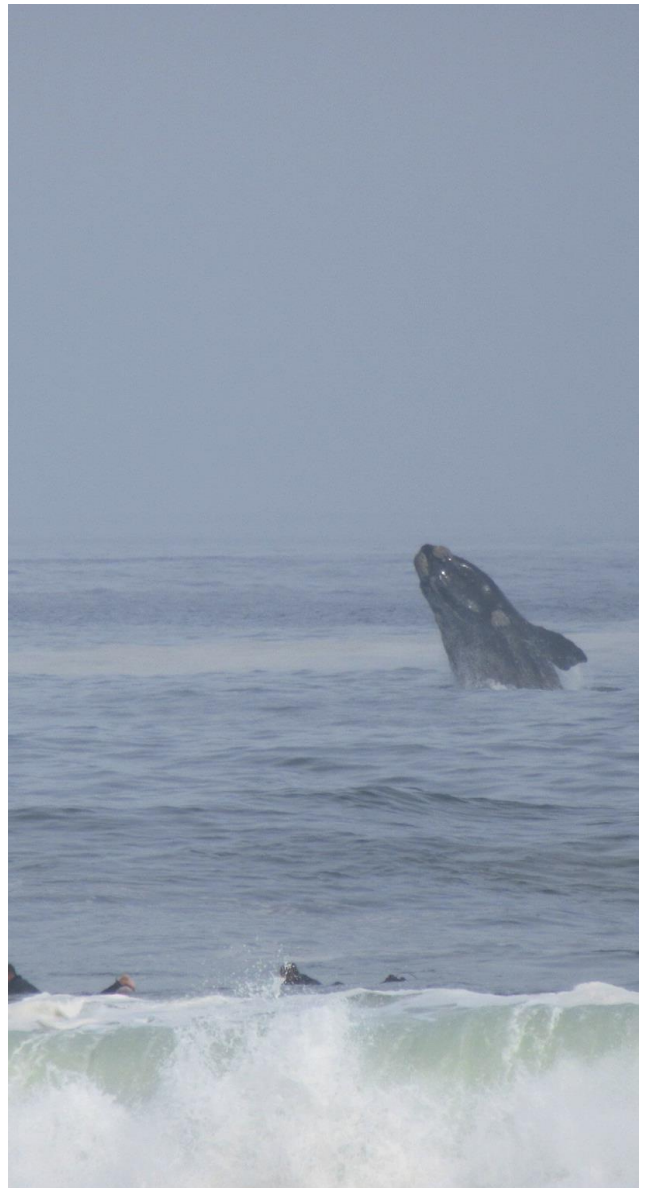
This was hosted at Pine Lodge Resort on 16 June. The CMR had three stands at this event:

- General information sharing and a game, *Pin the Tail on the Whale*, to entertain children
- Whale research and information, supported by Dr Gwen Penry (Post-Doctoral researcher focusing on the incorporation of cetaceans in marine spatial planning) and members from the SARChI Marine Spatial Planning Research Group
- BOATS mobile app, developed by the Department of Computing Sciences to educate children about plastic pollution in the ocean



## Day of the Seafarer

The Department of Transport celebrated Seafarers on 25 June 2019 at the Beach Hotel and other Maritime hubs around the country. Ms Danai Tembo represented the CMR at this **Day of the Seafarers** celebration, where a variety of stakeholders were in attendance. Particularly noteworthy was the large group of female cadets in attendance. The theme for this occasion was **#IamOnBoard** with gender equality and it was encouraging to hear accounts of female seafarers that are achieving exceptional things in the maritime space. Unfortunately, there is still only a handful of female seafarers and everyone in attendance was in agreement that efforts need to be improved to create a better gender balance of seafarers – not only in South Africa, but globally.



# SASUF Seminar & Workshop

Through the CMR, the Nelson Mandela University has forged a strong collaboration with Sweden's **University of Gothenburg**. Of particular research interest are food security, natural resources, and climate change. The **Erasmus Mundus + Exchange Programme** has been running between these two institutions since 2017, and has given a number of staff and students the opportunity to visit each University and obtain invaluable input into project and research design.

This exchange programme provided the opportunity for the CMR to host a **SASUF Seminar Series and Workshop** at the Dolphin's Leap Conference Centre. The South Africa-Sweden University Forum is a strategic internationalisation project running from 2017-2020. The overall aim of the programme is to strengthen links between Sweden and South Africa in the areas of research, education and innovation. The CMR was delighted to host Dr Susanne Lindegarth, Dr Elisabeth Jönsson Bergman and Mr James Hinchcliffe from the University of Gothenburg for this occasion. The theme for this SASUF event was **Sustainable Aquaculture Development for Coastal Communities and Food Security**. 13 May was dedicated to a seminar series where seven researchers, ranging from the Departments of Development Studies and Botany, InnoVenton, Nelson Mandela Bay Maritime Cluster and the University of Gothenburg shared their research surrounding aquaculture development. Delegates were taken on a tour of the hydroponics set-up and InnoVenton after the presentations. A collaborative proposal writing workshop for partnerships towards sustainable development was held on 14 May, and this was reserved for invited delegates only to ensure focussed discussions. Apart from our Swedish visitors, delegates were from the Faculties of Science, Law and Business and Economic Sciences, and from external stakeholders such as the Nelson Mandela Bay Maritime Cluster, Port Alfred Maritime Cluster, Two Oceans Aquarium, Stellenbosch University and WESSA.





# The Tributaries Project

The **Sea-to-Source Pilgrimage** is part of **The Tributaries Project**, initiated by the newly established, prestigious Faculty of Arts **SARChI Chair in Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa (ISCIA)**. This Chair is headed by Professor Andrea Hurst. This pilgrimage is an extension of the **Art meets Science meets Place Project** (originally led by Professor Mary Duker of the Nelson Mandela University Visual Arts Department). The primary purpose of The Tributaries Project is to promote cross-disciplinary, co-operative engagement and creative activity in order to understand and find creative ways to address social and environmental problems and challenges. The emphasis is on the connections between ecological and social problems, which should be addressed together.

Dr Bernadette Snow participated in the Pilgrimage from **21-23 June**, and presented to the group on Friday evening. Berny shared her life's journey (even a couple of childhood photographs!) and how this has influenced her research and outlook on life. She also gave an overview of CMR and the bigger projects that bring together different disciplines that address socio-ecological systems. Professor Hurst agreed to add her Chair as a member under the umbrella of CMR.



# Past Lectures & Talks

## Estuary Talks

Professor Janine Adams presented on **The Health Status of South Africa's Estuaries and Interventions for Restoration** in Jeffreys Bay on 30 April. As part of the *Know Your Bay* lecture series arranged by CMR Member Dr Lorien Pichegru, Prof. Adams presented on **Present status of Swartkops Estuary and management challenges** on 28 May and was particularly well attended. These lectures are hosted on a monthly basis at the Bayworld Events Complex.



## SOCO Lecture

Dr Sandy Thomalla from the Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observatory was hosted by the CMR on 29 May. She met with a number of CMR members to discuss climate and carbon research, enjoyed a tour of the Ocean Sciences Campus, and presented a lecture entitled **Do small scales make a big difference? A seasonal cycle approach to understanding carbon-climate linkages in the Southern Ocean** at the South Campus Council Chamber.



## Inaugural Lecture

Professor Nadine Strydom's Inaugural Lecture took place on 10 June at the North Campus Conference Centre. The lecture was entitled: **Coastal Fishes under the Microscope: A Marine Biologist's Journey**.



## Salt Marsh Talk

The SARChI Shallow Water Ecosystems and CMR hosted Professor Julien Pétillon for a talk on the **Ecology, Functioning and Conservation of European Salt Marshes** at the South Campus Council Chamber on 24 June. Julien is from the University of Rennes (France) and was hosted by Prof. Janine Adams from 20-27 June to collaborate on salt marsh research.



## University of Oldenburg Visit

The CMR has formed a strong connection with the **Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at the University of Oldenburg (HIFMBD)** through collaborators, Professor Helmut Hillebrand and Ms Ruth Krause. They were hosted by the CMR for meetings to discuss collaborations during October 2018, and received funding to host a delegation from the Nelson Mandela University during the first semester, and to visit us during the second semester of 2019.

Dr Bernadette Snow, Prof. Janine Adams, Prof. Pierre Pistorius, Prof. Mandy Lombard, Dr Phumelele Gama, Dr Gavin Rishworth and Dr Gavin Snow from the Nelson Mandela University, and Prof. Tommy Bornman and Dr Shaun Deyzel from SAEON, visited the University of Oldenburg from 2-5 June to attend the **2<sup>nd</sup> HIFMB Symposium on Functional Marine Biodiversity**. Thereafter, our delegation was hosted for a workshop from 6-7 June to collaborate on **interdisciplinary approaches to marine biodiversity and its conservation – forming a new international alliance**. To continue these discussions and further develop an exchange programme, the CMR will host guests from the University of Oldenburg during November. These delegates will also play a role in the CMR's annual Research Symposium.



# Upcoming Events

## Interactions with Swedish Fish Researchers

As part of the **Erasmus Mundus + Exchange Programme** with the University of Gothenburg, Dr Joachim Sturve and his PhD candidate, Lina Birgersson, are visiting the Nelson Mandela University, hosted by the CMR, during July. On Wednesday, 3 July, they will present talks on their research: **Integrated fish monitoring in a changing environment** and **Effects of mixtures of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in fish**.

## Facilitator Development Course

Dr Nina Rivers is running a **Facilitator Development Course** by the Community Development Resource Association (CDRA). The impetus for this course stems from the need to capacitate scientists with the skills to facilitate heterogeneous groups of people around issues of natural resources management. This course is scheduled to take place from 16-18 July 2019. Queries can be directed to Dr Rivers at [nina.rivers@gmail.com](mailto:nina.rivers@gmail.com).

## TTOG Conference

The **Transformed and Transformative Ocean Governance Conference** will be hosted by the CMR, the SARChI Chairs in Law of the Sea and Development in Africa and Marine Spatial Planning, and the International Ocean Institute (IOI) from 22-24 January 2020. The first save-the-date announcement has been circulated.



## Conservation Successes

Dr Kerry Sink, a Research Associate with the CMR and principal scientist with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), received the very prestigious PEW Fellowship in 2016. It is critical that policy is informed by sound science, and Dr Sink has succeeded in this by playing a key role in South Africa recently formalising a plan to set aside **5% of its ocean space as official Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**. The ultimate goal is to increase this to 10%. Many CMR members were involved in this process, but Dr Sink was the driver behind many initiatives and she is therefore given due recognition. The PEW Charitable Trust recently interviewed Dr Sink about this achievement, and this can be accessed at the following link:  
<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2019/05/23/scientists-vision-and-drive-yield-major-ocean-protections>



# Housekeeping

CMR Members are kindly reminded to include the CMR in all affiliations and addresses. This is particularly important with regards to academic publications. Please use the full **Institute for Coastal and Marine Research** title.

Information on CMR membership and templates for documents and presentations are available at: <https://cmr.mandela.ac.za/Members-Page>



## Thank You

Thank you to our members for your continued hard work and support of the CMR. May the second half of 2019 be successful!

If you have any news or exciting events to share, please send details to Liza by e-mail ([Liza.Rishworth@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Liza.Rishworth@mandela.ac.za)) and she will include this in the next newsletter.

Kind regards,  
*Berny Snow*  
CMR Director

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