



Erasmus Mundus Joint  
Master Degree in  
**Marine Environment**  
UPV/EHU–SOTON–UBx–ULiège  
[merconsortium.eu](http://merconsortium.eu)



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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## MER COMMUNITY SUMMIT 2022 – PROGRAMME

September 7-11, 2022 Bilbao

Organised by

**MER CONSORTIUM**

U Bordeaux, U Southampton, U Liège, U Basque Country

*Wealthy Seas in a Healthy Global Ocean*

### Venues

#### Academic Venue:

Bizkaia Aretoa - UPV/EHU

#### Associated Venue:

Aquarium Donostia-SS

#### Working Groups Venue:

PIE-UPV/EHU

### Registration\*

**Reduced: 50 €**

*For all MER Consortium members & invitees*

**Fully waived: 0 €**

*For current students*

**Regular: 300 €**

*For sponsors, institutions & other attendees*

\* This includes attendance, social activities,  
bus trip to SS & documentation

### REGISTER HERE

### Sponsors

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MER Consortium  
Bilboko Udala  
Euskotren

### Travel Grants and Scholarships

EM Scholar Scholarships  
MER Consortium Scholar Travel Grants  
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Esther Blanco-Rayón - UPV/EHU  
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Sylvie Gobert - U Liège  
Tifanie Briaudeau - UPV/EHU  
Urtzi Izagirre - UPV/EHU

### Live Sessions On-Line (video-streaming)

**MITXELENA AUDITORIUM**

**SEPTEMBER 7-9**

**AQUARIUM SS AUDITORIUM**

**SEPTEMBER 10**

### Secretariat (PiE-UPV/EHU)

**Master:** Feli Olivares & Jon Bazeta  
**PiE:** Lorea Otero & Carlos Oleagoitia

### Contact email

[pie.mersummit@ehu.eus](mailto:pie.mersummit@ehu.eus)



**September 7 Wednesday (UPV/EHU Bizkaia Aretoa; Bilbao)**

- 10:00–11:00 Registration – Entrance Hall**
- 11:00–13:30 Opening Session – Mitxelena Auditorium**
- 11:00–11:30 Salutation by Academic Authorities – Prof. Eva Ferreria, UPV/EHU Rector (Chair)
- 11:30–12:00 MER JPB members Video – Manu Soto  
Memories of MER Consortium – Ionan Marigomez
- 12:00–12:30 EHU Choir
- 12:30–13:30 **OPENING LECTURE** – "The Global Ocean Science Report (GOSR) and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" – **Luis Valdés (IOC & IEO)**
- 13:30–15:00 Who-is-Who Poster Lunch – Chillida Hall** (Chairs: Urtzi Izagirre, Mathieu Poulicek & Student Board)
- 15:00–17:10 Science Session – Mitxelena Auditorium** (Chairs: Jorg Schafer, Maria J Bebianno, Karla Parga)
- 15:00–15:30 **KEYNOTE** – Fate and effects of anticancer drugs in the environment  
– **Maria J Bebianno (CIMA – U Algarve)**
- 15:30–17:10 **ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**
- Mercury from offshore pipelines in the food web: human and environmental risks – Rebecca von Hellfeld
  - Plastic pollution in Greenland: fate in glaciarmarine sediment – Karla Parga
  - Polyethylene degradation: the challenge of breaking the unbreakable – Davi Munhoz
  - Marine debris management in Indonesia – Ariyo Sahid Sujivo
  - Implications of kinetically-hindered metals in ecotoxicological studies: effect of platinum spike aging on its toxicity to *Dunaliella salina* – Antonio Cobelo
- 17:10–17:40 Coffee Break – Chillida Hall**
- 17:40–19:40 Community Session: Alumni & Students' Day – Mitxelena Auditorium**  
(Chairs: Manu Soto, Dragana Palecek, MMH Mredul)
- 17:40–19:40 **GATHERING** – Testimonials, worries, expectations and reflections
- 19:40–20:00 Group Photo at Bizkaia Aretoa**
- 20:30–22:00 Institutional Reception (Bilboko Udala)**



**September 8 Thursday (UPV/EHU Bizkaia Aretoa; Bilbao)**

- 09:30-11:00 Science Session - Mitxelena Audit** (Chairs: Nestor Etxebarria, Mary-Lou Tercier-Waeber, Ahmad Widyatmoko)
- 09:30 - 10:00 KEYNOTE** -Advanced Sensors for in situ monitoring of bioavailable metals  
- **Mary-Lou Tercier-Waeber (U Geneva)**
- 10:00- 11:00 ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**
- Application of an Electronic Monitoring (EM) system and Artificial Intelligence (AI) data analysis in a small-scale tuna fishery - Ahmad Widyatmoko
  - Scalable mapping of chlorophyll-A photopigments in coral reef using spectral images - Michelia Wibowo
  - Exploring deep ecosystems of the Galapagos Marine Reserve and their benthic fauna: the world Darwin never saw - Marie Creemers
  - Data science ethics: bias in data and algorithms - Isabel Corona
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break - Chillida Hall**
- 11:30-13:30 Community Session: Associates' Day - Mitxelena Auditorium**  
(Chairs: Maren Ortiz-Zarragoitia, Patricia V García)
- 11:30-12:30 GATHERING** - Testimonials, worries, expectations and reflections
- 12:30-13:30 COMMUNITY BUILDING - Marine Quiz** by Danila Uvarov & Imanol Agirre
- 13:30-15:00 Who-is-Who Poster Lunch - Chillida Hall** (Chairs: Jon Saenz, Sylvie Gobert & Student Board)
- 14:00-15:00 Workshop – Axular Hall:** "Multilingual Science Communication" by Chris Fischer
- 15:00-17:10 Science Session - Mitxelena Auditorium** (Chairs: Krishna Das, Naiara Rodriguez-Ezpeleta, Iraide Artetxe)
- 15:00-15:30 KEYNOTE** - An eco-evolutionary genomics perspective to marine management  
- **Naiara Rodríguez-Ezpeleta (AZTI BRTA)**
- 15:30-17:10 ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**
- The influence of shellfish farming in bottlenose dolphin ecology - Severine Methion
  - Innovation in North Sea beam trawl fisheries and survival of plaice, thornback and spotted rays - Allard van Mens
  - Population structure of catadromous thicklip grey mullet in the Basque Coast in connection to estuarine homing, exposure to xenoestrogens and development of intersex condition - Anthony Nzioka
  - Yellowfin tuna connectivity in the Indian Ocean: otolith d 18 O composition as a tracer - Iraide Artetxe
  - Genetic connectivity and hybridization with its sister species challenge the current



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management paradigm of white anglerfish – Imanol Agirre

**17:10-17:40 Coffee Break – Chillida Hall**

**17:40-19:50 Science Session – Mitxelena Auditorium** (Chairs: Elisa Sainz de Murieta, Regina Asariotis, Jordan Gacutan)

**17:40-18:10 KEYNOTE** – Climate change and coastal transportation: a sustainable development challenge – **Regina Asariotis (UNTAD)**

**18:10-19:50 ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- Kenyan coastal community perceptions on climate change and fisheries resource management – Enmanuel Gafo
- Ocean accounting: bridging marine science and policy for sustainable development – Jordan Gacutan
- Nature-Based Solutions in coastal and estuarine areas of Europe – Roberta Pegorer
- How Is the ocean anthropogenic carbon reservoir filled? – Xabier Davila
- Somos OceanoS (SOS) - Innovative science communication to combat climate change and improve marine conservation – Verónica Relación

**19:50-21:30 Get-together Party – Bizkaia Aretoa Terrace**

### September 9 Friday (UPV/EHU Bizkaia Aretoa; Bilbao)

**09:30-11:20 Science Session – Mitxelena Auditorium** (Chairs: Mathieu Poulicek, Carlota Escutia, Hoi Ming Lam)

**09:30-10:00 KEYNOTE** – Past, present and future of Antarctic ice sheet dynamics – **Carlota Escutia (CSIC-U Granada)**.

**10:00-11:20 ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- Snow depth on Arctic sea ice estimation from Satellite Altimetry and SAR using advanced deep learning methods – Hoi Ming Lam
- A SST and carbonate chemistry reconstruction of the post-industrial revolution Southwest Pacific – Sara Todorovic
- Radiocarbon dating and paleoclimate reconstruction on mollusc shells – Dragana Palecek
- Spatial-ecological relationships of a threatened foundation species across multiple spatial scales – Rick Leong
- A long-term study of the marine heatwaves in the Western Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea – Manal Hamdeno

**11:20-11:50 Coffee Break – Chillida Hall**

**11:50-13:30 Community Session: Stakeholders' Day Mitxelena Auditorium** (Chairs: Ibon Cancio, Adonis Velegarakis)

**11:50-12:10 MER graduates Portfolio**

**12:10-13:30 GATHERING** – Worries, expectations and reflections



**13:30-15:00 Science Poster Lunch – Chillida Hall** (Chairs: Jerome Bonnin, Jon Saenz, Ikerne del Valle)

- How to get a job after MER - Ana Elisa Almeida Ayres
- The pore density of benthic foraminifera: a quantitative nitrate reconstruction tool in the intermediate Pacific - Anjaly G Menon
- The ISA time series: a high- Arctic model system for climate change - Chestaa Chitkara
- Zooplankton survival due to instantaneous salinity reductions: a REDstack experimental power plant case - Danila Uvarov
- Factors affecting the conservation of African Oystercatchers on Robben Island, South Africa - Josu Melendez
- Tintenstrich communities: occurrence, mobility and potential risk of cyanobacteria and their toxins in lichen communities - Juliana de Araujo
- PADAV: A Shiny App to help with the analysis and visualisation of protein microarray data - Marie-Catherine Bouquieaux
- Novel sustainability standards for supply chain operations: paving the way for innovative traceability system in the Adriatic seafood sector - Nicola Matovic
- Glacial - Interglacial atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> variability: testing of biological pump/ventilation change hypothesis in Southwest Pacific - Priyanka Soni
- Applications of numerical models at Coastal Dynamics Ltd. (CDL) - Salomi Seeram
- Galician marine mammals: ecology and behaviour of whales, dolphins and porpoises - Séverine Methion
- Photogrammetry, a emergent tool for marine conservation - Torcuato Pulido
- Assessing sea-level trends in South East Asia to the Pacific Islands and sensitivity test with IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6) Sea-Level Projections - Yochi Okta Andrawina
- Microplastic contamination: A review of policies and solutions - Davi Munhoz
- Impact of polystyrene nanoplastics on a Wadden Sea microbial community capable of biodegrading biopolymers - Lia Corbett
- Genetic structure of Corsican spiny lobsters as revealed with nuclear markers - Nine Doutreloux
- Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and marine conservation - Veronica Relaño
- A mussel, a zebrafish, and a whale meet in a bar... - Rebecca Von Hellfeld
- Water Science Policy – an NGO founded by MER graduates at Oxford - Christian Fischer
- Arteries.blue – An interactive storytelling platform about rivers - Christian Fischer
- Trends in abundance and catch for the silver scabbard fish, *L. caudatus*, from 1990 to 2019 in the Azores Archipelago - Gloria Mariño-Briceño
- Changing seawater temperature, sand, air and weather phenomenon due to climate change on nesting survivance, abundance and size, their impact on ratio male/female and prediction for future of the *Dermochelys coriacea* sp - Florian Sellier
- How can we create successful conservation projects? – Romina Preciado-Perez

**14:00-15:00 Workshop – Axular Hall:** “El Pueblo es El Mar (*The People are the Sea*)” by Veronica Relaño

**15:00-17:10 Science Session – Mitxelena Auditorium** (Chairs: Miren P Cajaraville, Kari K Lehtonen, Rebecca von Hellfeld)

**15:00-15:30 KEYNOTE** - The dark legacy of sea-dumped munitions: environmental risks and management prospects - **Kari K Lehtonen (SYKE)**

**15:30-17:10 ORAL PRESENTATIONS :**

- Synergic effect of nitrate exposure and heat wave on the growth and antioxidative activity of microalgae, *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* and *Raphidocelis subcapitata* - Sabiha Akter
- Environmental interactions with an offshore, long-line mussel farm and its conservation potential - Lluçia Mascordà
- Oil dispersant application in cold environments: copepod toxicity and microbial community dynamics - Tamer Hafez
- Mangrove Threat Index: an easy-to-use tool for local decision makers to predict the likelihood of mangrove loss – Valentina Platzgummer
- Determination of the size at first sexual maturity (SL50) for the Manila clam (*Ruditapes philippinarum*) in the Arcachon Bay (French Atlantic coast) for a potential Minimum Conservation Reference Size revision – Tifanie Briaudeau





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**17:10-17:40 Coffee Break - Chillida Hall**

**17:40-19:30 Marine Woman Scientist Session- Mitxelena Auditorium** (Chairs: Belen González-Gaya, Johan Etourneau, Andrea Osorio)

17:40-18:00 **MER Alumni video**, presented by Andrea Osorio

18:00-19:30 **GATHERING** - Testimonials, worries, expectations and reflections

**19:30-20:30 OPEN GUEST LECTURE** – Trends in Ocean Sciences – **Marie-Alexandrine Sicre (IOC UNESCO)**

### September 10 Saturday (Aquarium, Donostia-San Sebastián)

**09:00-11:00 Bus to Aquarium SS**

**11:00-13:30 Closing Session - Aquarium SS Auditorium**

11:00-11:30 Salutation by Institutional Representatives

11:30-12:00 Memories of the MER students and alumni - Tifanie Briaudeau

12:00-13:00 **CLOSING LECTURE** - "Designing the Global Observing System for marine life"  
- **Patricia Miloslavich (SCOR-ISC)**

13:00-13:15 MER Community Summit 2022 PRIZES & "AGURRA" - MER JPB

13:15-13:30 BASQUE FOLK DANCES

**13:30-22:00 Lunch Break & Community Building**

13:30-16:30 PINTXO BREAK - Free time at Old Town

16:30-19:00 **ESTROPADA** - MER Community Rowing Race

19:30-22:30 **SAGARDOEGIA** - Cider house "see-you-soon" dinner

**22:30-24:00 Bus to Bilbao / Plentzia**

### September 11 Sunday (PiE-UPV/EHU; Plentzia)

**11:00-13:30 Summit Aftermath** (public transportation at each one's convenience)

10:30-13:30 Working group Meetings (to prepare cooperation plans, proposals ...)

11:30-13:30 Open Day: Visit tours to PiE-UPV/EHU (Chairs. Urtzi Izagirre & Xabier Lekube)

**13:30-16:00 Beer House Lunch**



## Guest Lecturers



**Luis Valdés Santurio** (Research Professor) is the current Director of the Centro Oceanográfico de Santander (Instituto Español de Oceanografía-SCIC), before he was the Head of Ocean Sciences at the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO during seven years (from 2009–2015), and formerly (2000–2008) he was the Director of the Centro Oceanográfico de Gijón (EO-CSIC). With more than 35 years of experience in marine research and field studies related with marine ecology and climate change, he established in 1990 the time series programme based on ocean sampling sites and marine observatories maintained by Spain in the North Atlantic. He has a long experience in science management and has advised various governmental, intergovernmental and international organizations as well as research funding agencies. He also served as Spanish Delegate in the IOC-UNESCO and in ICES where he chaired different Working Groups and Committees including the Oceanographic Committee. At the IOC he has coordinated the Global Ocean Science Report "The current status of Ocean Science around the World".



**Marie-Alexandrine Sicre** is a senior scientist of CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) based at LOCEAN, Sorbonne University, Paris, France. She is vice-chairperson of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and currently serves as past president of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR). She is co-chair of the second International Indian Ocean Expedition program and member of the Indian Ocean Region Panel of Clivar/IOC-GOOS. She earned her PhD in Marine Sciences in 1987 at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA. Her research expertise is in oceanography and paleoceanography. Over the past 20 years, she worked on the role of the ocean on climate variability and published more than 100 papers in peer-review international journals. Her research has led to the emergence of high-resolution sea surface temperature and seasonal sea ice reconstructions over the Common Era.



**Patricia Miloslavich** is Executive Director of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) of the International Science Council (ISC). She is a retired senior professor from Simon Bolivar University in Venezuela from which she remains as *ad honorem* researcher. She was the recipient in 2015 of the Venezuelan National Science Award. She was the International Project Officer (2015–2019) of the Biology and Ecosystems Panel from the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) based initially at the Australian Institute of Marine Science and later at the University of Tasmania. She was Senior Scientist and Chair of the Caribbean Committee for the Census of Marine Life program (2000–2010). She contributed to draft the Science Strategy of the Ocean Science section of the IOC/UNESCO. She founded the South American SARCE rocky shore network and co-founded the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network of GEO-BON for Latin America. She was the President of the International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO) and served on the Executive Committee of SCOR. She was a Coordinating Leading Author for the Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) global assessment, a member of the pool of experts for the UN World Ocean Assessment (I and II), and a contributor to the Blue Papers commissioned by the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy.



## Keynote Speakers



**Maria João Bebianno** is full professor at U Algarve and Director of Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (CIMA). She was pioneer in Portugal in the field of marine contamination and ecotoxicology. She worked for the National Commission for the Azores Acoustic Fixed Range and for the National Institute for Fisheries Research. She was Portuguese delegate to negotiate the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and is currently member of the Group of Experts on the Regular Process for the Evaluation of the State of the Marine Environment including the UN Socio-Economic Commission. She was a member of the Portuguese Delegation to the OSPAR Convention, Barcelona Convention, ICES and UNESCO IOC). She has developed collaborative research with teams from several universities and research centres of the EU (Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, UK, and Finland) and non-EU countries (Brazil, Cape Verde and China). Her research focuses on the effects of organic and inorganic "old" and emerging contaminants on aquatic organisms from coastal areas to the deep-sea. She is the President of the Portuguese Association of Women Scientists-AMONET and participates in the European Platform of Women in Science.



**Mary-Lou Tercier-Waeber** is senior researcher scientist in analytical and environmental chemistry at U Geneva and consultant of Idronaut Co, a company specialized in the development of innovative underwater marine instrumentation. She has long-term interests in essential/toxic metal cycling in aquatic systems and the processes governing their (bio) geochemical behaviour and fate. Her research combines the development of bioanalytical sensors with ultra-trace detection limits (ppt level), mini/micro integrated analytical systems and submersible probes. She applies these tools to perform autonomous high-resolution *in situ* speciation analysis to investigate the mechanisms regulating the transformation of metals in aquatic systems and assess the combined effects of chemical and physical stress on their fate and impact. She was awarded in 1998 by the Swiss Technological Institute for her key innovation in sensors and submersible probes for *in situ* trace metal monitoring. She was Principal Investigator of the ESA project "Waterlens" (2013-2014) and the EU FP7-Ocean 2013 project "SCHeMA" (2013-2017).



**Naiara Rodríguez-Ezpeleta**, PhD in Biochemistry from the U Montreal, has extensive experience in the application of genetics and genomics to a variety of fields, including marine environment management and conservation. She works as senior researcher at AZTI and is currently Chair of the ICES Working Group for the Application of Genetics to Fisheries and Aquaculture. She has participated in numerous nationally and internationally funded projects, also as project, work package and task leader. She leads the Eco-Evolutionary Genomics Applied to Marine Management group, whose members develop and apply advanced genetic technologies, such as population genomics and eDNA metabarcoding for assessing connectivity and diversity in marine organisms. She is author of over 60 scientific manuscripts, has been invited speaker at international conferences such as the World Fisheries Congress, and is editor of Molecular Ecology and Molecular Ecology Resources. (<https://rodriguezezpeleta.com/>)





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**Regina Asariotis** is Senior Legal Affairs Officer and Chief of the Policy and Legislation Section (Trade Logistics Branch) in the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), where she is responsible for the Secretariat's work in the field of transport law and policy (see <http://unctad.org/ttl/legal>). This includes work, since 2008, on the implications of climate change for maritime transport and technical assistance with a focus on climate change impacts and adaptation for key coastal transport infrastructure, notably seaports and airports, in Caribbean SIDS (<http://SIDSport-ClimateAdapt.unctad.org>). Before joining UNCTAD in 2001, she was a Senior Lecturer in Law at the U of Southampton, and member of the University's Institute of Maritime Law, where she taught international maritime and trade law for more than 10 years. She holds a law degree from the U of Augsburg, an LL.M from the U of Southampton and a Dr. jur. from the U of Hamburg and is a Barrister (England & Wales) and Attorney at Law (Greece), as well as Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb).



**Carlota Escutia** is Research Professor at the Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences (U of Granada & CSIC). Her research focuses on seismic stratigraphy and sedimentology of clastic continental margins in high and low latitudes (global environmental and paleoclimatic change, geohazards, resource assessment). She contributed with crucial information on sedimentological record of climate change in Antarctica. She was coordinator of the ANTOSTRAT Project Land Regional Working Group, and European co-chief scientist of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Expedition 318. She is member of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling-Antarctic Detailed Planning Group and chair of the Extreme Climates Working Group APLACON. She was co-chief officer of the steering committee of the SCAR Scientific Research Programme Past Antarctic Ice Sheet Dynamics. She is a member of Antarctic Climate Change in the 21st Century and Spanish representative to the SCAR Standing Scientific Group on Geosciences. She was awarded with the SCAR Medal for International Scientific Coordination 2020 and is Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of America (GSA).



**Kari K. Lehtonen** is Head of the Marine Pollution Unit of the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE and Adjunct Professor in marine biology in the U of Helsinki. His work focuses on the use of biomarkers of pollution exposure and effects on marine organisms. He has been in leading roles in various international projects including the large pan-European EU 5FWP project BEEP (Biological Effects of Environmental Pollution in Marine Coastal Ecosystems, 2001-2004), and the BONUS+ programme BEAST project (Biological Effects of Anthropogenic Chemical Stress: Tools for the Assessment of Ecosystem Health, 2009-2011). He has participated on projects focused on risk assessment and effects on marine organisms of dumped chemical and conventional weapons (CHEMSEA 2011-2013; DAIMON 2016-2019; WARTOX 2021-2023) and oil and oil response methods (GRACE 2016-2019; OILRES 2015-2019). He is guest expert in HELCOM and ICES. He was a member of the Europe Council of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) 2012-2018 and co-chair of the Scientific Board and the Organising Committee of the SETAC Annual Meeting 2019.