

**23<sup>rd</sup> FishBase and SeaLifeBase Symposium**  
**2 and 3 September 2025**  
**Big Auditorium, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium**

Tuesday 2 September 2025:

8:30 Registration

9:15 Opening of the symposium by Michel Van Camp, Director-General of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

9:30 Rainer Froese (GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Kiel, Germany)  
'What are they waiting for? Some thoughts about the timing of reproduction'

10:00 Marine Banse (Laboratory of Functional and Evolutionary Morphology, University of Liège, Liège, Belgium)  
'When evolution clicks: congruence between phylogeny, morphology and acoustics in Holocentridae'

10:15 Gabriel Reygondeau (Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science, University of Miami, USA)  
'AquaX: An enhanced and revised AquaMaps methodology to model marine species distributions and biodiversity'

10:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

PARASITOLOGY SESSION:

11:00 Ana Santacruz (University of Münster, Münster, Germany)  
'Host-symbionts crosstalk in metabolism and inflammation during cavefish evolution'

11:15 Maarten Vanhove (Centre for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt University, Diepenbeek, Belgium)  
'Breeding critically endangered European weatherfish in captivity in Flanders (Belgium): a holistic approach also conserves threatened parasitic flatworms'

11:30 Nikol Kmentova (Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Freshwater Biology, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
'One Health perspectives on marine invasions: the case of *Callinectes sapidus* and parasite transmission in Moroccan lagoons'

11:45 Flash talks:

Miriam Shigoley (Department of Veterinary Management of Animal Resources, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Liège University, Liège, Belgium)

'The missing link in fish records: parasites and why we should care'

Tiziana Gobbin (Centre for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt University, Diepenbeek, Belgium)

'Darwin's nightmare revisited: a dual decline of cichlids and their parasites'

Archimède Mushagalusa Mulega (Département de Biologie, Centre de Recherche en Hydrobiologie, Uvira, Democratic Republic of the Congo)

'Morphological and phylogenetic analyses of species of *Bagrobdella* (Monogenea: Dactylogyridae) parasitising African achenoglanidid catfishes combined with barcoding of *Auchenoglanis occidentalis* provide insight into host taxonomy'

Martina Topić (Centre for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt University, Diepenbeek, Belgium)

'Diversity of fish ectoparasites in a South Carolina estuary, and the role of such data in online databases'

Armando Cruz-Laufer (Systems Ecology and Resource Management Research Unit, Université libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium)

'Parasite biodiversity and trophic dynamics of mangrove fishes in a Senegalese Marine Protected Area'

Imane Rahmouni (Laboratory of Biodiversity, Ecology and Genome, Mohammed V University in Rabat, Rabat, Morocco)

'Diversity and multiple origins of Moroccan monogenean parasites and their cyprinid hosts: tracing a complex evolutionary history'

Sofie Leen (Biological Laboratories of the Belgian Defence)

'Fish and food-borne transmission of disease-causing *Vibrio* spp.'

12:25 LUNCH BREAK

PALEONTOLOGY SESSION

13:35 Olivier Lambert (Operational Directorate Earth & History of Life, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)

'The fish and the whale: exceptional preservation cases from the Miocene of Peru inform on past trophic relationships between cetaceans, clupeoid fish and lamniform sharks'

13:50 Lauren Sallan (Macroevolution Unit, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Okinawa, Japan)  
'A morphospace for all fishes: ecomorphological traits date the assembly of modern fish form diversity to the Paleozoic'

14:05 Flash talks:

Stijn Goolaerts (Operational Directorate Earth & History of Life, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
'Colour patterns and pigments in 350 myr old marine invertebrates from Belgium'

Johan Vellekoop (Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Leuven University, Leuven, Belgium)  
'On the impact of Ypresian warming on marine fish populations in the Paris Basin, France'

Kristiaan Hoedemakers (Operational Directorate Taxonomy and Phylogeny, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
'The otolith collection at RBINS'

Sébastien Olive (Operational Directorate Earth & History of Life, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
'A new 'acanthothoracid' placoderm from the Arctic Canada (Early Devonian) and its bearing on the evolution of jaws and teeth'

Wim Wouters (Operational Directorate Earth & History of Life, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
'Fish bone remains as markers of dynamic distribution of fishes over time'

## INVASIVE SPECIES SESSION

14:35 Nazli Demirel (Institute of Marine Sciences and Management, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Türkiye)  
'Life-history variation in invasive fishes: a Mediterranean FishBase approach'

14:50 Rhea Maesele (Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Brussels, Belgium)  
'Untangling the loach labyrinth: *Misgurnus* mysteries in Flanders, Belgium'

## 15:05 COFFEE BREAK

## DATABASES AND AI SESSION

15:35 Alex Tilley (WorldFish, Penang, Malaysia)  
'Artificial intelligence in small-scale fisheries'

15:50 Leen Vandepitte (Flanders Marine Institute, Oostende, Belgium)  
'Exploring fish in the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS): how FishBase completes WoRMS and its many sub-registers, providing excellent service to the global marine biodiversity community'

16:05 Flash talks:

Kirk Larsen (Conservation X Labs, Washington DC, USA)  
'From research to reef: mobile ai tools for fish identification and citizen science'

Tuan Nguyen (Centre for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt University, Diepenbeek, Belgium)  
'The World Archives of Species Perception (WASP) project: what do the public think of fish?'

Geraldine Mertens (Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Freshwater Biology, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
'infraFADA: upgrading the taxonomic backbone of global freshwater animal biodiversity research infrastructures'

Hong Minh Le (Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
'Enhancing interoperability to enable broad data reuse: the Belgian Marine Data Centre perspective'

Willem Coetzer (South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, Makhanda, South Africa)  
'Updating FishBase with freshwater and marine information from southern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean'

16:35 End of day 1

17:00 ICA meeting (for ICA project members)

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Wednesday 3 September 2025:

9:00 Daniel Pauly (Sea Around Us, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. Canada)  
'Documenting the marine biodiversity of the world's archipelagos: practical and theoretical considerations'

- 9:15 Genevieve Lacroix (Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
[‘Integrating FishBase and SeaLifeBase into marine ecosystem models’](#)
- 9:30 Athanassios Tsikliras (Laboratory of Ichthyology, Department of Zoology, School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece)  
[‘A series of fisheries, ecosystem, and bio-economic models in the Aegean Sea’](#)
- 9:45 Fabrice Teletchea (Université de Lorraine, Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire des Environnements Continentaux, Nancy, France)  
[‘Levels of domestication in fish: update and perspectives for global aquaculture’](#)
- 10:00 Daniel Pauly (Sea Around Us, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. Canada)  
[‘Doubling down on the Gill-Oxygen Limitation Theory’](#)
- 10:15 Jessica Meeuwig (University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia)  
[‘Beyond diversity, abundance and size: a smorgasbord of applications of video-based methods to marine ecology and conservation’](#)
- 10:30 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:00 Anton Van de Putte (Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)  
[‘Advancing Southern Ocean fish knowledge: The SCARFISH contribution to FishBase and SeaLifeBase’](#)
- 11:15 Zacharie Sohoun (Institut de Recherches Halieutiques et Océanologiques du Bénin)  
[‘Biological diversity on the Beninese continental shelf during the demersal fish stock assessment survey’](#)
- 11:30 Flash talks:
- Elysée Rutakaza Nzigire (Department de biologie, Centre de Recherche en Hydrobiologie CRH-Uvira, Uvira, Sud-Kivu, DR Congo)  
[‘Resource partitioning and dietary shifts in \*Oreochromis niloticus\* and \*Oreochromis leucostictus\* in Lake Edward and Lake George \(East Africa\)’](#)
- Felegush Erarto (Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia)  
[‘Geometric morphometric otolith shape analysis of \*Labeobarbus\* species in Lake Tana, Ethiopia’](#)

Hendrik Segers (Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)

[‘The long and winding road towards the List of Available Names in Zoology \(LAN\), partim genus- and species-group level names in Phylum Rotifera’](#)

Heleen Maetens (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Leuvensesteenweg 13, 3080 Tervuren, Belgium)

[‘Fish without borders: unravelling hidden diversity in sawfin barbs from the Lake Edward system’](#)

Nathan Vrancken (Centre for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt University, Diepenbeek, Belgium)

[‘FishBased and “ParasiteBased” education for the digital age: a publicly accessible virtual learning environment’](#)

Margaret Fafa Awushie Akwetey (Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Cape Coast, Ghana)

[‘Ethnobiological documentation of marine invertebrates in Elmina and Tema fishing communities along the coast of Ghana’](#)

Sèlomè Wilfried Sintondji (Institut de Recherches Halieutiques et Océanologiques du Bénin)

[‘Towards sustainable shrimp fisheries in West Africa lagoon: stock estimation and gear efficiency in Lake Nokoué with its inlet’](#)

**12:10** Christopher Monk (GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Kiel, Germany)

[‘Interspecific allometric scaling of home-range size in teleost fishes’](#)

#### **12:25 LUNCH BREAK**

**13:35** Deng Palomares (Institute for the Ocean and Fisheries, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada)

[‘SeaLifeBase at 20: challenges and opportunities’](#)

#### **POLICY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION**

**13:50** Cornelia Nauen (Mundus Maris, Brussels, Belgium)

[‘FishBase and other stories at UNOC3’](#)

**14:05** Kelle Moreau (Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)

[‘Science behind the trade: safeguarding vulnerable fish species through CITES’](#)

14:20 Jos Snoeks (Section Vertebrates, Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium)  
'Twenty-five years of FishBase consortium membership and twenty years of capacity building in the Africa Museum: the good, the bad and the ugly'

14:35 Flash talks:

Anne-Julie Rochette (Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, Operational Directorate Natural Environment, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)

'Building capacities on taxonomy, ecosystem monitoring and science-based decision-making for sustainable fisheries in Africa and Asia'

Yves Samyn (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)

'The series *Abc Taxa* as a capacity building initiative & tool to advance taxonomy and collection management'

Laban Musinguzi (National Fisheries Resources research Institute, Jinja, Uganda)

'The integration of FishBase into decision support tools for the conservation of fishes of Uganda'

Rodrigue Pelebe (Research Laboratory in Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecotoxicology, Faculty of Agronomy, University of Parakou, Parakou, Benin)

'North-South collaboration for research using relatively unexplored approaches at the local level for the benefit of freshwater and brackish water fish biodiversity in Benin: achievements, challenges and prospects'

## 15:00 COFFEE BREAK

### GENETICS SESSION

15:30 Cheuk Ho Wu (The Swire Institute of Marine Science, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China)

'Fishy business: using genetic diversity to hook sustainable fisheries'

15:45 Nergiz Dukan (Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Oostende, Belgium)

'From species lists to sequences: building regional genetic databases by leveraging FishBase and SeaLifeBase'

16:00 Flash talks:

Leona Milec (Faculty of Biosciences and Aquaculture, Nord University, Bodø, Norway)

'High expectation, low implementation: perceptions of African fish and fisheries experts on genetic indicators in fisheries management'

Maarten Van Steenberge (Operational Directorate Taxonomy and Phylogeny, Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium)

[‘Reconstructing freshwater biogeography using catfish genomes’](#)

Marc Kochzius (Marine Biology – Ecology, Evolution & Genetics, Biology Department, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium)

[‘Connectivity of coral reefs and mangroves in the Indian Ocean’](#)

Lea Fourchault (Systems Ecology and Resource Management, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium)

[‘Fish community structure and diversity in the Tampo Lagoon, Madagascar: an integrative ichthyological inventory’](#)

**16:25** Donna Dimarchopoulou (Laboratory of Ichthyology, Department of Zoology, School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece)

[‘Fish n’ Ships Aegean Sea - A tabletop dive into marine conservation’](#)

**16:40** End of Symposium