

Third Maldives Marine Science Symposium – Schedule

12th & 13th December, 2020

To be held via Zoom video conferencing platform



12th December 2020, Saturday

0915 – 0930: Opening remarks by the Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, Zaha Waheed

0930 – 0945: Convenors Remark by Director General of Maldives Marine Research Institute, Shafiya Naeem

* Please note that all times are in the Maldives time zone (GMT + 5 hours)

Time-slot* Presentation # Presentation title / authors

Reef Monitoring and Coral Regeneration		
0945 – 1000	Instructions by moderators	
1000 – 1015	Presentation 1	An assessment of the current state of Maldivian coral reefs to support marine spatial planning efforts, by Katie Lubarsky, Brian Zgliczynski, Hana Amir, Nicole Pedersen, Esmeralda Alcantar, Nizam Ibrahim, Mohammed Shimal, Ali Shumais Abdulla, Aminath Angeela, Ahmed Basheer, Clinton Edwards, Mohamed Ashwag Ismail, Ahmed Najeeb, Aya Naseem, Ali Nishan, Vid Petrovic, Aminath Zana Shiraz, Christopher Sullivan, Hussein Zahir, Mohammed Ahusan, Andy Estep, Shafiya Naeem, Stuart Sandin
1015 – 1030	Presentation 2	Assessing the current health of coral reefs on Laamu Atoll to help guide future management decisions by Nastazia FEMMAMI, Vivienne EVANS, Aminath Shaha HASHIM & Philippa ROE
1030 – 1045	Presentation 3	Seasonal variation of coral recruit density and diversity: preliminary results from South and North Malé Atolls by Hana AMIR, Aminath Zana SHIRAZ & Mishka AZLEE
1045 – 1100	Presentation 4	Evidence of coral bleaching and recovery in Noonu Atoll, Maldives 2020 by Austin LAZZARI & Emeline BOUCHET
1100 – 1115	Presentation 5	Cross-atoll comparison of benthic and morphological coral reef community compositions in North Ari atoll by Hana AMIR, Azim MUSTHAG, Emma KENNEDY, Katheryn MARKEY, Eva KOVAC & Chris ROEFLSEMA

1115 – 1130	Presentation 6	Multi-temporal UAV data and Object-Based Image Analysis (OBIA) for estimation of substrate changes in a post-bleaching scenario on a Maldivian reef by <i>Luca FALLATI, Luca SAPONARI, Alessandra SAVINI, Fabio MARCHESE, Cesare CORSELLI & Paolo GALLI</i>
1130 – 1145	Presentation 7	Turning rubble to reef: quantifying rubble mobilisation and binding dynamics to assess recovery potential of disturbed reefs by <i>T.M. KENYON, C. DOROPOULOS, S. DOVE, G. WEBB, D. HARRIS, S. NEWMAN & P.J. MUMBY</i>
1145 – 1200	Presentation 8	Improving resilience of coral ecosystems to extreme temperature events through an innovative reef cooling system by <i>Paolo GALLI, Diego VICINANZA, Simone MONTANO, Davide SEVESO, Davide MAGGIONI, Enrico MONTALBETTI, Alessandra SAVINI & Luca FALLATI</i>
1200-1300	LUNCH BREAK	
1300 – 1315	Presentation 9	Suitability assessment of mid-water lagoon nurseries for coral restoration in the Maldives by <i>Inga DEHNERT, Valerio ISA, Luca SAPONARI, Phanor H. MONTOYA MAYA, Paolo GALLI & Simone MONTANO</i>
1315 – 1330	Presentation 10	Growth and survivorship of hard coral species for their first year in a rope nursery by <i>Tiana WU</i>
1330 – 1345	Presentation 11	Natural and non-natural mitigation tools for Maldivian coral diseases by <i>S. MONTANO, D. SEVESO, M. CONTARDI, G. STRONA, D. MAGGIONI, E. MONTALBETTI, I. DEHNERT, I. BAYER & P. GALLI</i>
Reef Biodiversity		
1345 – 1400	Presentation 12	New insights into the ecology and corallivory of <i>Culcita</i> spp. (Echinodermata: Asteroidea) in the Republic of Maldives by <i>Enrico MONTALBETTI, Luca SAPONARI, Simone MONTANO, Davide MAGGIONI, Inga DEHNERT, Paolo GALLI & Davide SEVESO</i>
1400 – 1415	Presentation 13	Maldivian symbiotic Hydrozoans: diversity, ecology and evolution by <i>Davide MAGGIONI, Simone MONTANO, Davide SEVESO, Enrico MONTALBETTI & Paolo GALLI</i>
1415 – 1430	Presentation 14	Molecular diversity of Maldivian demosponges and genetic connectivity with other Indian Ocean sponge faunas by <i>Dirk ERPENBECK, Oliver VOIGT & Gert WÖRHEIDE</i>
1430 – 1445	Presentation 15	Diversity of calcareous sponges of the Maldives by <i>Oliver VOIGT, Lena WILDE & Gert WÖRHEIDE</i>
Mangroves and Seagrasses		
1445 – 1500	Presentation 16	To what extent do seagrass ecosystems support marine food webs? Maldives meadows within a global context by <i>Philippa ROE, Jonathan LEFCHECK, Kaia MOHAMED & Humaam NIHAD</i>

13th December 2020, Sunday

Time-slot*	Presentation #	Presentation title / authors
Mangroves and Seagrasses		
1000 – 1015		Instructions by moderators
1015 – 1030	Presentation 17	Characterisation of seagrass meadows and associated fish assemblages in Laamu Atoll, Maldives by Abbey BLATCHFORD, Vivienne EVANS, Aminath Shaha HASHIM, Ali SHAREEF & Philippa ROE
1030 – 1045	Presentation 18	Daily variation of the associated microbial community and the Hsp60 expression in the Maldivian seagrass <i>Thalassia hemprichii</i> by Davide SEVESO, Simone MONTANO, Davide MAGGIONI, Enrico MONTALBETTI, Luca FALLATI, Alice ROTINI, Chiara CONTE, Astrid MEJIA, Luciana MIGLIORE & Paolo GALLI
1045 – 1100	Presentation 19	A characterization and comparison of the mangrove habitats and their fish assemblages on the islands of Hithadhoo and Maabaidhoo, Laamu Atoll, Maldives by Leah WHITE, Vivienne EVANS, Aminath Shaha HASHIM & Philippa ROE
Megafauna		
1100 – 1115	Presentation 20	Humpback Whales (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) in the Maldives by R. Charles ANDERSON
1115 – 1130	Presentation 21	Green turtle nesting in Laamu by Joanna GOODFELLOW, Jillian HUDGINS & Martin STELFOX
1130 – 1145	Presentation 22	Swimming with turtles: the behaviour of sea turtles in proximity to tourist resorts in the Maldives by Stephanie KÖHNK, Jillian HUDGINS & Martin STELFOX
1145 – 1200	Presentation 23	Eyes on the Reef: using remote cameras to uncover the hidden habits of reef manta rays (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>) in the Maldives by Kaitlyn M. ZERR, Lotte KRUGER, Simon HILBOURNE & Tam SAWERS
1200 – 1300 LUNCH BREAK		
1300 – 1315	Presentation 24	Gone with the wind: seasonal distribution and habitat use by the reef manta ray (<i>Mobula alfredi</i>) in the Maldives, implications for conservation by Joanna L. HARRIS, Peter K. McGREGOR, Yvonne OATES & Guy M.W. STEVENS
1315 – 1330	Presentation 25	The impact of injury on apparent survival of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) in the South Ari Atoll Marine Protected Area, Maldives by Jessica HARVEY-CARROLL, Joshua D. STEWART, Daire P CARROLL, Basith MOHAMED, Ibrahim SHAMEEL, Irthisham H. ZAREER, Gonzalo ARAUJO & Richard REES

1330 – 1345	Presentation 26	Drivers of reef shark abundance and spatial distribution across an oceanic atoll by <i>Danielle ROBINSON, Mark WHITTINGHAM, Selina STEAD, Richard FRANCKSEN & Steve NEWMAN</i>
1345 – 1400	Presentation 27	Citizen science surveys of one of the world’s most threatened coral reef fish, the Napoleon Wrasse in Laamu Atoll indicate successful management of the species by <i>Philippa ROE, Yvonne SADOVY DE MITCHESON, Aminath Shaha HASHIM & Vivienne EVANS</i>
1400 – 1415	Presentation 28	Megafauna observations of Laamu Atoll: The tourism industry provides a platform for sustainable and valuable data collection by <i>Philippa ROE</i>
Fisheries and Management		
1415 – 1430	Presentation 29	Marine spatial planning: an experience in the Maldives by <i>Elisabetta MANEA, Niccolò BASSAN, Alberto INNOCENTI, Vittore NEGRETTO, Luca FALLATI, Davide SEVESO & Tundi AGARDY</i>
1430 – 1445	Presentation 30	A current overview of the general reef fishery in the Maldives based on fishery sampling by <i>Mohamed SHIMAL, Yousuf ZIYAAN, Mohamed Ashwaq ISMAIL, Aishath RANEEN & Mariyam THUHUFA</i>
1445 – 1500	Presentation 31	A current overview of the grouper fishery in the Maldives based on landing site sampling by <i>Ahmed NAJEEB, Mariyam THUHUFA, Yousuf ZIYAAN, Mohamed Ashwaq ISMAIL & Aishath RANEEN</i>
1500-1600	BREAK	
1600 – 1615	Presentation 32	Maturity study for five key species of groupers exploited in the Maldivian grouper fishery by <i>Ahmed NAJEEB, Mohamed SHIMAL & Mariyam THUHUFA</i>
1615 – 1630	Presentation 33	Data limited length-based assessment for Maldives reef fisheries with preliminary results for two species by <i>P.A. MEDLEY, A. NAJEEB, M. SHIMAL, M. AHUSAN, M. THUHUFA, Y. ZIYAAN, M.A. ISMAIL & A. RANEEN</i>
1630 – 1645	Presentation 34	Evidencing sustainability credentials of Maldives pole and line fisheries: estimating non-targets and ETP interactions by <i>Ibrahim NADHEEH, Ibrahim SANEH & M. Shiham ADAM</i>
1645 – 1700	Presentation 35	Estimating time series of tuna consumption in the Maldives by <i>M. Shiham ADAM, M. SHIMAL & M. AHUSAN</i>
1700 – 1730	Closing remarks	