



International Symposium **MECOS4**

Marine Ecosystems
Challenges and Opportunities

12-13 December 2024
ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi




Organised by:
The Marine Biological Association of India, Kochi
&
ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi



MBAI
The Marine Biological Association of India





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Announcing MECOS4

The Marine Biological Association of India (MBAI), in collaboration with the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI), is hosting the fourth edition of its International Symposium on Marine Ecosystems Challenges and Opportunities (MECOS 4) in Kochi, Kerala this year. Building on the success of previous editions, MECOS 4 follows MECOS 3, which attracted 356 participants and featured 23 keynote speakers from 20 affiliations across five countries. Healthy oceans and seas are essential to human existence and life on Earth. Conserving marine ecosystems and biodiversity is crucial for maintaining the health and resilience of our oceans. Marine habitats host diverse species and provide vital ecological services such as nutrient cycling and climate regulation. Protecting marine biodiversity ensures ecosystem stability amid environmental pressures, thereby safeguarding the livelihoods of coastal communities. Investing in marine conservation is fundamental to sustainable development and securing a healthy marine environment for future generations. Sustainable fisheries and mariculture are pivotal in meeting global seafood demand while ensuring environmental stewardship. Effective fisheries management, including fish stock assessments, bycatch reduction, and adherence to certification standards, promotes responsible fishing practices that preserve marine biodiversity and support coastal livelihoods. Innovations in aquaculture technologies and minimizing environmental impacts are essential to sustaining the supply of protein and economic benefits. Promoting climate resilience in marine environments is vital for protecting ocean health amidst climate change impacts. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events threaten marine biodiversity and disrupt ecological processes. Enhancing resilience through strategies such as resilient coastal infrastructure and sustainable management practices mitigates these effects, protecting marine ecosystems and supporting communities reliant on marine resources. Fostering sustainable marine products is essential for economic prosperity and community well-being while conserving marine ecosystems. Seafood production supports global food security and livelihoods in coastal areas. Enhancing value chains through responsible fishing practices, market diversification, and sustainable processing ensures economic sustainability and equitable socio-economic benefits. Prioritizing sustainable practices protects marine resources, supports resilient livelihoods, and secures long-term benefits for coastal communities. Integrating these approaches ensures robust marine ecosystems, supports thriving fisheries and aquaculture sectors, builds resilience to climate change impacts, and fosters equitable economic opportunities for coastal communities worldwide.

MECOS 4 aims to address these concerns by providing opportunities for scientists, researchers, academicians, students, and stakeholders to deliberate and present their work, framing strategies towards achieving healthy oceans and a healthy humanity.

Themes

- ◆ Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation
- ◆ Sustainable Fisheries and Mariculture
- ◆ Climate and Environment Resilience
- ◆ Products, Value Chains, Livelihoods

Special Track

- ◆ Research in Marine Mammals and Seabirds
- ◆ Marine Fisheries and aquaculture in 'Amritkal'

Registration

Only registered participants will have the privilege of attending the Scientific sessions, Special sessions, Conference Lunch, Tea and Dinner. Registration fees for various categories are the following.

MBAI Members	Rs. 8000/-
Non-members	Rs. 10000/-
Retired MBAI Members	Rs. 2000/-
Students/Spouses	Rs. 2000/-
Exposition Stall	Rs. 2.5 lakhs

Call for Abstracts

Both oral presentations and posters are welcome at MECOS 4. All contributors for oral and poster presentations are required to submit a page of abstract in English, the official language of the Symposium, as per instructions provided on the webpage of MECOS 4.

Abstracts can be sent to mecos4abstract@gmail.com

How to register & submit abstracts?

The process is online. Please visit www.mecos4.org.in

Date of Registration	: August 1- November 30, 2024
Abstract Submission	: August 15- October 31, 2024
Acceptance	: November 15, 2024

Fish, Agri and Marine Expo

All research institutions, marine equipment manufacturers and suppliers have a unique opportunity to present their new findings and products to MECOS 4 participants at the Expo. The organizers will provide stalls of 3x3m dimension in the venue. Early Registration will receive concessional rates.

Venue



ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute



Awards

- ◆ **Fourth Dr. S. Jones Memorial Prize:** The MBAI has instituted a triennial Dr S. Jones Memorial Prize in memory of its founder President for researchers who have made outstanding contributions in marine biology and fisheries. The prestigious fourth Dr. S. Jones Memorial prize carrying a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/ a Medallion and Citation would be given away during MECOS4 to a researcher identified by the Committee.
- ◆ **Dr. M. Devaraj Memorial Award:** Instituted by MBAI in memory of its past President, Dr. M. Devaraj. It carries a Rs. 10,000 cash award and citation and will be given to the Best Oral presentation during MECOS 4
- ◆ **Dr. N. R. Menon Memorial Award:** Instituted by MBAI in memory of its former Vice President, Dr. N. R. Menon. It carries a Rs. 10,000 cash award and citation and will be given to the Best Oral presentation during MECOS4.
- ◆ **Dr. R. Reghuprasad Memorial Award:** Instituted by MBAI in memory of its founding Secretary, Dr R. Reghuprasad. It carries a Rs. 10,000 cash award and citation and will be given to the Best Poster presentation during MECOS4.
- ◆ **Dr. P.S.B.R. James Memorial Award:** Instituted by MBAI in memory of its past President, Dr. P.S.B.R. James. It carries a Rs. 10,000 cash award and citation and will be given to the Best Poster presentation during MECOS 4.
- ◆ **Young Marine Biologist Award:** Researchers below the age of 35 years have the opportunity to win 5 Young Marine Biologist Awards (one for each track) for the Best paper/Poster of each track. A certificate and citation will be given to winners.

For more details contact:

President MBAI & Director, ICAR-CMFRI

PB No. 1604, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi- 682018

Kerala State, India

Tel : +91 484 2394420, 2394867, Extn. 289

Fax : +91 484 2394909

Email : mecos2024@gmail.com

Web : www.mecos4.org.in



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