

International Symposium

MECOS 4

Marine Ecosystems Challenges and Opportunities

4-6 November 2025
ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi

Organised by
The Marine Biological Association of India, Kochi
In collaboration with
ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi
Bay of Bengal Programme IGO, Chennai



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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) and the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP-IGO) 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 and Livelihoods

Special Track

- Marine Fisheries and aquaculture in '*Amrit Kaal*'
- Women Leaders in Marine Biology
- Research in Marine Mammals and Seabirds

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

Abstract Submission

Authors are invited to submit their abstract online on before 31 August 2025 by creating an account in the www.mecos4.org.in website. After account creation you will be notified with a user id and password. Using this information you may login and submit the abstract. You will then receive the acknowledgment containing the abstract receipt number. The acceptance of the abstract for Oral/ Poster presentation will be intimated to you in due course. Once accepted, you have to login again and complete the registration process by paying the requisite fee on-line. After confirmation of the receipt of the registration fee, you will receive the receipt for the payment made and your registration process shall then be treated as complete. Without paying the registration fee authors will not be permitted to attend the Symposium and the abstracts will not be included in the book of abstracts.

Date of Registration	: March 1 - October 31, 2025
Abstract Submission	: March 1 - August 31, 2025
Acceptance	: October 15, 2025

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 3 x 3 m area at the venue. Further details visit www.mecos4.org.in

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 MECOS 4 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 MECOS 4.

- **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 MECOS 4.

- **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 the Best paper/Poster of each track and one for Young Women Marine Biologist (below the age of 40). A certificate and citation will be given to winners.

For detailed information and opportunities for sponsorship and collaboration, kindly watch for our next announcement.

For more details contact:

President MBAI & Director, ICAR-CMFRI
PB No. 1604, Ernakulam North P.O., Kochi- 682 018
Kerala State, India
Tel : +91 484 2394420, 2394867, Extn. 289
Fax : +91 484 2394909
Email : mecos2025@gmail.com
Web : www.mecos4.org.in

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