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WAMS Newsletter - 2026, Vol. 1

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The 3rd Biennial World Congress of Marine Stations

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



The abstract deadline is Friday, May 22nd. See more details in the caption!

Congress themes

1. Oceans and Human Health
2. Ocean Innovation and Bioeconomies
3. Community, Education, and Culture
4. Marine Stations as Distributed Research Platforms
5. Ocean Policy

www.event.fourwaves.com/wcms2026/pages

The World Congress of Marine Stations (WCMS), organized biennially by the **World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS)**, plays an essential role in advancing the work of around 900 marine stations worldwide. This congress provides a critical forum for fostering collaboration, sharing expertise, and establishing partnerships that enhance transformative marine research and education.

WAMS has successfully convened two congresses, including the first Congress online in 2021 and the first in-person meeting in [Japan in November 2024](#). These meetings have been instrumental in bringing together representatives from marine stations across the globe to discuss pivotal issues related to ocean health and sustainability.

The 3rd Biennial World Congress of Marine Stations is scheduled for September 1st - 4th 2026 hosted by the [Pacific Marine Science Alliance \(PMSA\)](#) at the [Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre \(BMSC\)](#) in Canada. It will continue to build on the foundation of previous meetings, focusing on global collaboration and the exchange of scientific knowledge to address pressing marine environmental and societal challenges.

This is the official Call for Abstracts (deadline 23 May), and WAMS warmly

invites contributions from across the international marine station community.

Abstracts can fall under one of the five congress themes:

- Oceans and Human Health
- Ocean Innovation and Bioeconomies
- Community, Education, and Culture
- Marine Stations as Distributed Research Platforms
- Ocean Policy

We are looking for submissions that demonstrate innovative and interdisciplinary research, cross-institutional and international collaboration, integration of science with policy, community engagement, societal impact, and the evolving role of marine stations within global observing and knowledge networks.

Given the unique congress program for the WCMS 2026, where talks in thematic groups will be followed by strategic working sessions, the call for abstracts is the first step before registration. Pending abstract acceptance by the organizing committee, registration will open.

Find more information on the website:

[The 3rd Biennial World Congress of Marine Stations](#)

Direct enquiries to Sean Rogers at

director@bamfieldmsc.com

This is your opportunity to help shape a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking scientific programme.

WAMS Atlas – New Updates

The WAMS Atlas has been updated recently to include new layers for historical data. A new project in collaboration with the CNRS on the history of marine stations has begun as a result of these new updates. Please stay tuned for more details on this! Special thanks to Dr. Jani Tanzil, Ms. Liesel Tjin, Ms. Denise McIntyre and team from St John's Island National Marine Laboratory, and the NaGISA team for their careful validation work, which greatly improves the consistency of our metadata layers

!!Access to WAMS Atlas!!





Become a WAMS Member!

WAMS is a community bringing together Marine Station representatives across the globe. WAMS will be launching its formal membership platform in 2026 but meanwhile, if you would like to join the WAMS community and receive updates please indicate [here](#) and we would be delighted to welcome you as part of WAMS!

!!Our Ocean Conference!!

"The Our Ocean Conference is critical in the global effort to protect and conserve the ocean, from our shores to the high seas"

WAMS will be represented at the Our Ocean Conference in June 16-18, 2026 at Mombasa, Kenya

Stay tuned for more information on how find WAMS during the conference!

Featured Marine Station

Discover New Caledonia's IRD Nouméa Research Center

A Hub for Science and Sustainability in the South Pacific



Located along the shores of [Anse Vata Bay in Nouméa, New Caledonia](#), the IRD Nouméa Research Center stands as a major research center addressing global challenges such as climate changes, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development in island environments. Established in 1946 as the Institut Français d'Océanie, it has grown into one of IRD's most prominent international research platforms beyond mainland France.



Today, the center plays a pivotal role in addressing the complex dynamics of global change in island and coastal systems. Through strong collaboration with regional and international partners, it promotes interdisciplinary research that integrates environmental, societal, and technological perspectives, contributing to more sustainable and resilient futures across the Pacific and beyond.

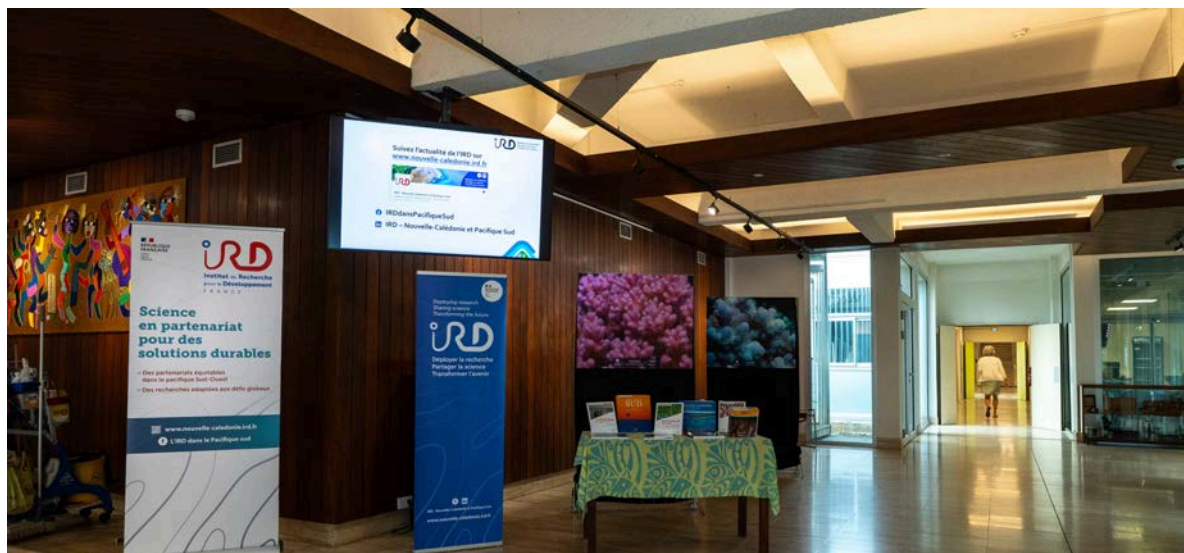
The IRD Nouméa Research Center A Multidisciplinary Scientific Campus

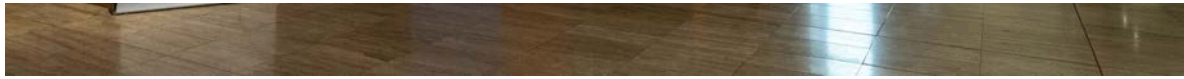
As part of the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) initiative, the Nouméa center operates at the forefront of international research collaboration. IRD's mission is to strengthen the resilience of societies facing environmental, social, and economic transformations, working across more than 50 countries worldwide.

The Nouméa campus brings together approximately 150 staff members, including researchers from partner institutions such as French Institute for Ocean Science (IFREMER), French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), IAC, and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). Over time, it has developed into a dynamic, multi-partner scientific campus hosting 13 Joint Research Units (UMRs), a Research Support Unit (IMAGO), and the national research infrastructure Data Terra.

The IRD center works closely with partners across New Caledonia and the wider South Pacific, addressing the specific challenges of insularity and global environmental change. Research projects are developed in collaboration with local stakeholders and communities, integrating diverse knowledge systems and fostering long-term partnerships.

This collaborative approach extends across multiple disciplines, reinforcing the center's role as a key node in regional and international scientific networks.





An Unique Environment for Marine and Environmental Research

Located in New Caledonia, one of the most biodiverse marine regions on the planet and key region for studying climate change, the IRD Center provides direct access to diverse ecosystem including coral reef, coastal lagoons, and open ocean environments. This unique setting enables cutting-edge research on oceanography, biodiversity, and climate change.

Research conducted in the region is structured around several major scientific areas:

- Oceanography (physical, chemical and biological).
- Atmospheric and climate sciences.
- Biodiversity and natural resources (terrestrial and marine).
- Mining, hazards and natural risks (seismicity, tsunamis, volcanoes, coastal erosion).
- Health (pharmacopoeia, traditional medicine, vector-borne diseases, etc.).
- Societies and the plurality of knowledge systems.

The center is particularly active in studying coral reef resilience, including experimental heat stress and ocean acidification through its comprehensive ReefLab aquarium facilities.





Technical Capacity and Research Infrastructure

The IRD Nouméa Research Center offers a wide range of advanced facilities and technical resources to support high-level scientific research:

- Analytical platforms (chemistry, spectroscopy, molecular biology)
- High-performance computing and geomatics resources (ARTGeodev NC network)
- Oceanographic and geophysical equipment
- Access to sea through three coastal vessels and the 35-meter research vessel *ANSEA*, operated by the French Oceanographic Fleet
- Professional diving and field operation teams

The center also hosts major observation networks such as ReefTEMPS (marine monitoring across ~15 Pacific countries), SISMOCAL NC (seismological network), and MELANOBS (tropical forest monitoring).



Training the Scientists of Tomorrow

Each year, the Nouméa campus hosts around 40 students and early-career researchers, providing training and mentorship in a wide range of scientific fields. The center actively promotes integration into international research networks and supports the development of future scientific leaders.

Educational initiatives, including regional summer schools and outreach activities across Pacific Island nations, further strengthen its impact beyond academia.



Looking Ahead: Science for Sustainable Futures

As global change continues to reshape island and marine systems, the IRD Nouméa Research Center remains at the forefront of efforts to understand and respond to these transformations. By combining cutting-edge science, international collaboration, and a strong commitment to societal impact, the center contributes to building more sustainable and resilient futures in the Pacific and beyond.

Useful Information

Station name: IRD Nouméa Research Center

Location: Nouméa, New Caledonia

Coordinates: -22.301, 166.444

Website: <https://en.ird.fr/>

Local page (FR): <https://nouvelle-caledonie.ird.fr/>

Be the Next 'Featured Marine Station'!

Would you like your marine station to be featured in our next newsletter?

We're looking for volunteers for the upcoming "Featured Marine Station" spotlight. If you'd like to showcase your research, infrastructure, or outreach programs, simply send us a few photos and a short paragraph about your activities—we'll do the rest!

Get in touch via worldmarinestations.com/contact

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