

South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity student symposium program

Time	Title	Speaker	In Person / Online	Degree level
8h00	Registration			
8h25	Welcoming and opening	Prof Coetzee Julie	In Person	
8h30	Keynote speaker introduction	Dr Mandla Magoro	In Person	
8h35	Keynote 1	Prof. Alan Whitfield	In Person	
	CHAIR: Dr Baso Nompumelelo		In Person	
09h00	Assessing the accuracy of YOLOv8 and YOLO-NAS for automated fish detection	Chieza, Kenneth	In Person	MSc
09h10	The impact of warming and ocean acidification on red algae, <i>Plocamium corallorhiza</i> (Rhodophyta, Plocamiales)	Naicker, Abigail	In Person	MSc
09h20	Mapping benthic invertebrate ecosystems as essential fish habitats of <i>Polysteganus undulosus</i> using underwater imagery and artificial intelligence	Adams, Luther	Online	PhD
09h30	Seascape mapping and modelling: shallow water habitat mapping in Cape Recife, Algoa Bay	Cweba, Sivuyisiwe	In Person	MSc
09h40	Dive into diversity: unravelling digenean parasites in Mozambique's <i>Nothobranchius</i> spp. from temporary pools	Donough, Nicole	Online	PhD
09h50	COMFORT BREAK			
09h55	Designing an effective long-term monitoring programme for the uThukela Banks marine protected area (MPA)	Dube, Thembelihle	In Person	MSc
10h05	The hidden world of trypanosomes: a dual approach in African freshwater fish	Le Roux, Chandre	Online	MSc
10h15	Development of ecological niche models to predict the future distribution of <i>Diplodus capensis</i> in South Africa	Ngcefa, Samkele	In Person	MSc
10h25	Traveling back a century to secure the next millennium: redescribing the South African fish ectoparasite, <i>Gnathia spongicola</i> (Isopoda: Gnathiidae) collected in 1902	Botha, Hesmarié	Online	MSc

10h35	Bridging the gap: inclusion of indigenous local communities in finding nature-based solutions for urbanised coastal environments	Mpanza, Nobuhle	In Person	PhD
10h45	Assessing the conservation value of South Africa's urban protected and conservation areas	Machuga, Lizzy	Online	MSc
10h55	TEA			
	CHAIR: Dr Mutizwa Tadiwa			
11h15	Shading and temperature effects on development rates and size at pupation for <i>Culex pipiens</i>	Mantshi, Hlumelo	In Person	MSc
11h25	Do floating aquatic alien invasive plants facilitate mosquito proliferation?	Masalesa, Thoriso	In Person	MSc
11h35	Redescription and first molecular characterisation of the monopisthocotylean <i>Dactylogyrus spinicirrus</i> from the largescale yellowfish <i>Labeobarbus marequensis</i> in the Letaba River, South Africa	Masilo, Tshenolo	Online	MSc
11h45	Movement ecology and thermal tolerance of sympatric mullet species (Teleostei: Mugilidae) in a warm temperate estuary	Ziko, Bantony	In Person	PhD
11h55	Performance evaluation of YOLOv5, YOLOv8, and YOLOv9 in underwater fish detection	Salie, Daanyaal	In Person	MSc
12h05	COMFORT BREAK			
12h10	Movement ecology, habitat connectivity and thermal tolerance of <i>Mugil cephalus</i> (Teleostei: Mugilidae): a multi-method approach using acoustic telemetry, otolith microchemistry and ecophysiology	Mukhari, Dinah	Online	PhD
12h20	Nursery habitat use by <i>Boopsoidea inornata</i> and <i>Sparodon durbanensis</i>	Matthews Ruth	In Person	MSc
12h30	Fish habitat associations in the marine bay region of the Knysna Estuary	Mabaleka, Lutholwethu	In Person	MSc
12h40	Bridging gaps in underwater fish observation research: insights from a global questionnaire	van Wyk, Angus	Online	PhD

12h50	Genetics, morphology, and resource availability of two morphologies of eelgrass in the Kromme Estuary, South Africa	Mokwa, Omphemetse	Online	MSc
13h00	What lies beneath? Updating the checklist of freshwater fishes in ephemeral and isolated waters of the Incomati Catchment in Kruger National Park (KNP)	Ndeleni, Esihle	In Person	MSc
13h10	Biodiversity assessments in Mpumalanga Highveld wetland systems: evaluating conservation strategies and biodiversity offsets	Leshaba, Elsie Nomcebo	Online	PhD
13h20	LUNCH			
14h10	Keynote speaker introduction	Dr Martin, Melissa		
14h15	Keynote 2	Ntombi Tshali	Online	
	CHAIR: Dr Mbandzi-Phorego Nokubonga			
14h35	The role of fucoid species in buffering temperature and promoting biodiversity in intertidal coastal habitats	Ndaba, Jabulani	In Person	PhD
14h45	Understanding the relationship between marine protected areas and commercial line fishing for holistic management	Munting, Enya	Online	MSc
14h55	Does heavy metal pollution from acid mine drainage undermine the biological control of water hyacinth, <i>Pontederia crassipes</i> (Commelinales: Pontederiaceae) in Blesbokspruit Wetland?	Bute, Tafara Frank	In Person	PhD
15h05	Residency and movement behaviour of blacktail <i>Diplodus capensis</i> in a shallow rocky cove using acoustic telemetry	Pollard, Melissa	In Person	PhD
15h15	Investigating the environmental influence on fish presence and relative abundance in the Keurbooms Estuary, South Africa	Ndlovu, Thembelihle	Online	MSc
15h20	COMFORT BREAK			
15h25	An assessment of inland fisheries contribution to rural livelihoods in the Luvuvhu River system, South Africa	Matam, Ncumisa	Online	PhD
15h35	Spatial connectivity of an important marine-shore-based fishery species assessed using acoustic telemetry	Knight, Thomas	Online	MSc
15h45	Frog diversity according to elevation in the Soutpansberg	Rambauli, Elelwani	Online	Hons

15h55	Abundance, distribution, and risk assessment of microplastics in freshwater fishes in a subtropical river system	Themba, Samkelisiwe	Online	MSc
16h05	A comparative study of YOLO models for effective and efficient marine sponge detection	Drinkwater, Richard	Online	MSc
16h15	Distribution, accumulation, and effects of microplastics on freshwater food web structure	Themba, Nombuso	Online	PhD
16h25	Demographics, status, and dietary habits of swordtail fish <i>Xiphophorus helleri</i> (Heckel 1848) in protected botanical garden and surrounding areas	Masina, Fannie	Online	PhD
16h35	Vote of Thanks			
16h45	Prize giving			
16h55	Close			