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1 December 2025

UCT hosts International Stock Assessment Review Workshop

1-5 December 2024 | 09:00-14:00 | Mathematics Building, UCT Upper Campus

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) [Marine Resource Assessment and Management Group](#) (MARAM) is hosting the annual International Stock Assessment Review Workshop from Monday, 1 December to Friday, 5 December 2025 at UCT's Mathematics Building on the upper campus. Three world-leading scientists in the field are participating in the workshop.

Among the highlights of this workshop will be a discussion session on Improving Scientific Communication and the Media when reporting on Marine Resource Management, which will be jointly hosted by UCT's departments of [Biological Sciences](#) and [Mathematics and Applied Mathematics](#).

Although initially arising from concerns among scientists about the reporting of the local penguin-fisheries debate and associated litigation earlier this year, the issues involved frequently occur in marine resource management in various contexts locally and worldwide, and the event intends to have a broader focus. There are shortcomings in communication between scientists and the media, and the purpose of this discussion session is to seek to improve this situation locally.

Both presenters and the panel will be drawn from amongst marine scientists, lawyers, ENGOs, politicians and environmental reporters.

Professor Doug Butterworth from the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, and primary organiser of the event, said that discussions planned regarding sardines would be of particular importance. These will hopefully assist in resolving difficulties in deciding appropriate catch limits for this small shoaling species, where these limits also need to take account of the food requirements of its natural predators such as seabirds.

Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Willem Aucamp, will provide a video statement on the discussion topic and future national fisheries research issues for presentation during this session.

- Media interested in attending the event are requested to [RSVP](#).

Ends

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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