



March 2023 Issue

## Newsletter

### About Marine Life 2030:

Marine Life 2030 is a program endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to establish a globally coordinated system that delivers knowledge of ocean life to those who need it, promoting human well-being, sustainable development, and ocean conservation.

Learn more at [marinelife2030.org](http://marinelife2030.org).

### Affiliated Project Spotlight: Cozumel Coral Conservatory

*Provided by Colleen Flanigan, Founding Director of Living Sea Sculpture*

Cozumel Coral Conservatory (CozCC) is a unique place to preserve and grow corals uniting science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM). A diverse coalition of all ages, including nonprofits, universities, individuals, private entities, and governmental institutions, are working to protect, monitor,

and **rehabilitate the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef** in Cozumel, Mexico. CozCC aims to increase coral coverage, marine biodiversity, and shore protection in the Villa Blanca Reef tract through recognized best practices and groundbreaking innovation while offering novel opportunities for ocean engagement, science education, and employment made possible through trans-disciplinary collaboration. Natural coral heads, as well as artistic and functional artificial reef structures and sculptures, populate the seafloor in this shallow reef. CozCC bridges quantitative science and the originality of hands-on creation to scale coral restoration and strive for a balanced, healthy ocean. **Here's a [video clip](#) by a CozCC biologist!**



CozCC

Harmonizing  
Humans  
with Oceans

**Organizations and institutions in the coalition include:** Cozumel Coral Reef Restoration Program, CINVESTAV, CIMAC, Wave of Change, Living Sea Sculpture, Sand Dollar Sports Dive Shop, and more. CozCC is also engaged with the MesoAM SDG17 Coalition. A [virtual reality \(VR\) 360 degree tour of the CozCC zone](#) by Josh Bauer is in progress. When completed, there will be more information and hotspots to zoom and discover. Combining visual and textual content/data to complement the photogrammetry of corals, structures, etc., CozCC aims to capture more coral species and drone shots for all

*Continued on next page...*

Continued from previous page...

objects mapped in the zone, including information about the wetlab. Ensuring the VR tour is user friendly is part of the development process. For a CozCC publication about coral mortality and growth on different substrates, they are considering how to add these interactive elements to provide supplemental media to help portray data and augment still images through virtual experience.

In January 2023, Colleen Flanigan gave a live Tilt Brush/ Open Brush VR performance for the Winter Enrichment Program (wep) opening gala at KAUST. It was an opportunity to meet many coral scientists, tour their labs, and dive in the Red Sea. Though not in Cozumel, this type of performance artwork is **immersive storytelling for the UN Ocean Decade**. See her performance [here!](#)



Photo Credit:  
Colleen Flanigan

**Publications by CozCC partners** Dr. Johanna Calle-Triviño, Dr. Ernesto Arias Gonzáles, José-Luis Cabrera, Camilo Cortés-Useche, Guillermo Reyes Torres, Solène Jonveaux, and Colleen Flanigan are available [here](#), [here](#), and [here!](#)

## Upcoming Events:

### Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean (ECCWO5)

April 17-21, 2023

### 6th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (WCMB 2023)

July 2-5, 2023

### EuroSea High-Level Conference 2023

September 21, 2023

### Global Conference on Biodiversity and Monitoring (GEO BON)

October 10-13, 2023

### 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference

April 10-12, 2024

## Welcome to the following newly-affiliated projects:

### Unifying Approaches to Marine Connectivity for Improved Resource Management for the Seas

Project Lead: Audrey Darnaude, Center for MARine Biodiversity, Exploitation & Conservation (MARBEC), France

### Nord Observations and Research on Marine Life

Project Lead: Mark Costello, Nord University, Norway

Please visit the *Marine Life 2030* [website](#) to see all affiliated projects.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Calling Marine Life 2030 Volunteers!** If you are interested in helping review proposals for affiliated projects under Marine Life 2030, please email [marinelife2030@gmail.com](mailto:marinelife2030@gmail.com).

**Cozumel Coral Conservatory (CozCC) is looking for a project manager/liaison** to assist with the next phase of wet lab and coral nursery research and development on location in Cozumel.

*Required:* Diver with coral science background/restoration experience in-situ and ex-situ nurseries; great communicator/responsive, good time management and adaptability, able to lead and follow, takes initiative, follows through on tasks, can delegate, and help us to grow and achieve our goals. Bi or trilingual (Spanish and English); Experience as educator or team/collaborative experiences.

*Skills:* micro-fragmentation, saltwater aquaria maintenance, ocean nursery propagation, program development. Please contact Colleen Flanigan ([livingseasculpture@gmail.com](mailto:livingseasculpture@gmail.com)) for more information.

**MBON Pole-to-Pole will host a workshop** titled *Monitoring Network Workshop Marine Biodiversity Pole to Pole of the Americas: Implementation of Biodiversity Monitoring on Rocky Coastline with the Use of Photo-quadrants and Artificial Intelligence Tools*, from March 27-31, 2023 in Camarones, Chubut - Argentina. The workshop seeks to train Park Rangers of Natural Areas/Parks Marine nationals of the Argentine coast and scientific personnel for the monitoring of biodiversity on rocky coastlines of Patagonia using images (photo-quadrants) processed with Artificial Intelligence for classification of benthic species. This event is an endorsed activity of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Please visit the [workshop website](#) for more information.

Marine Life 2030 on  
Social Media:

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

**Check out these video clips  
from Marine Life 2030-affiliated  
projects!**

Canada's Coastal Environmental Baseline Project:  
[here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)

Submersible Technology to Advance Reef Science  
(2DegreesC): [here](#)