Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

MARINE TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE (MTC2)

18.06.2026

Safdie Auditorium, University of Haifa

08:15 – 09:00	**Gathering**
09:00 – 09:10	**Opening** Prof. Zvi Ben-Avraham, Tel-Aviv and Haifa University
09:10 – 10:10	**Session 1. Ocean Engineering and Floating Structures** Chair: Gil Wang, University of Haifa
	Introduction to Seascape Lab Gil Wang, University of Haifa
	Artificial Reefs and Ocean Engineering Ofer Berman, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology
	Floating Future Gil Wang, University of Haifa & Delft University of Technology (TU Delft)
	Floating breakwater and coastal morpho-dynamics Shai Asher, CAMERI
	Ecological Footprint of Floating Cities Tomer Fishman, Leiden University
10:10 – 11:10	**Session 2. Swarm Meets Machine Learning** Chair: Oren Gal, University of Haifa
	Decoupled Delay Compensation: Enhancing Pre-trained MARL Policies via Learned Dynamics Filtering, Maxim Mednikov, University of Haifa
	Dancing with the flow: Learning coordinated micro-swarm control in oscillatory fluid fields, Assaf Berman, University of Haifa
	ARMS: Automatic Reward Shaping for Sparse-Reward Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning, Elie Abboud, University of Haifa
	AIS-assisted Extraction of Lloyd's-mirror Delay Trajectories from Single-Hydrophone Mixture, Amit Rozenkrantz, University of Haifa
11:10 – 11:30	**Break**
11:30 – 12:30	**Session 3. Acoustics** Chair: Roee Diamant, University of Haifa
	Underwater Acoustic and Navigation Activities Roee Diamant, University of Haifa
	Before and After the War: Soundscape Measurements from the Eilat Marine Protected Area, Ron Benjano, University of Haifa
	Now you hear me, now you don't: Electric Vessel Detection with Graph Signal Processing, Itamar Merfeld, University of Haifa
	Invitation for a Cocktail Party: Clustering of Dolphin Whistles by Source Lixing Chen, University of Haifa

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12:30 – 13:30	**Session 4. Neural-Aided Underwater Navigation** Chair: Itzik Klein, University of Haifa
	Neural-Aided Underwater Navigation Itzik Klein, University of Haifa
	From Euclidean Residuals to Geometric Innovations: Neural Adaptive Invariant Kalman Filtering, Barak Diker, University of Haifa
	Hybrid PINN-EKF Framework for Underwater Inertial Navigation Arup Kumar Sahoo, University of Haifa
	Improving Underwater Navigation Through Accurate Doppler Velocity Log Calibration, Zeev Yampolsky, University of Haifa
13:30 – 13:50	**Decoding the Ocean: Challenges in Blue Economy Driven by Academic Innovation** Sharon Erlichman, CTO & Head of Business Development, Israeli National Center of Blue Economy and Innovation
13:50 – 14:50	**Lunch**
14:50 – 15:50	**Session 5. Light, Optics, Vision and Color in the Ocean** Chair: Liraz Levy, University of Haifa
	Introduction to the COLOR Lab Liraz Levy, University of Haifa
	ColorLab Platform: A Unified Suite of in-house Scientific and Sperational Applications, Pavel Taratorkin, University of Haifa
	Adaptation of an Engineering instrument to Explore Biological Subjects Irena Kolesnikov, University of Haifa
	From Sunlight to Sensor: Monte Carlo Modeling of Underwater Image Formation Arseny Kargin, University of Haifa
	Generalizing Vision Foundation Models to Scattering Media Shai Wald, University of Haifa
	Dark Matters: Quantifying the Impact of Non-Uniform Illumination on Underwater Color Restoration, Mai Bonomo, University of Haifa
15:50 – 16:20	**Session 6: Subsea Vehicles,** Chair – Yizhaq Makovsky, University of Haifa
	Hi-Subsea – The University of Haifa Subsea Vehicles & Deep-Sea Research Facility – Capabilities, Activity & Plans, Yizhaq Makovsky, Zvika Fayer, University of Haifa
	Decimeter-precision SLAM of ROV Video to Synthetic Aperture Sonar (SAS) Backscatter, Ethan Haimov, University of Haifa
16:20 – 16:30	**Closing Remarks and Award Ceremony** Itzik Klein, University of Haifa