

## Education Committee Report 2019

This has been an exciting year for the Education Committee and its members (see Appendix for list of members). 2018 was the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2018), with many innovative educational events for the public worldwide. The IYOR website <https://www.iyor2018.org/> has an list of news and what has been happening, many of the items involving ISRS members.

IYOR2018 kicked off at the European Coral Reef Symposium (ECRS) in Oxford in December 2017, where the Education Committee was well represented. Subsequently, members have been involved in giving lectures and presentations, a couple are mentioned below.

The Chairs of both the Education and Student Committees met at ECRS and resolved to work together. Subsequently they had a Skype meeting in June 2018 at which they discussed areas of promising collaboration. These include:

1. Student Committee sharing and linking Education Committee materials on the [isrs/reefstudents](#) website.
2. Mutual promotion of social media/Committee activities (in particular a possible copy-editing initiative by Education Committee).
3. Mentoring activities, including mentoring for careers outside academia :

We recognise the need to facilitate mentorship for students (and non-students) for reef/science related careers outside of traditional academic pathways, e.g. natural resource management, policy, NGOs, publishing, science communication (journalism) etc.

Some ideas for achieving this:

1. Student blog post: on careers outside of academia including lists of options, tips, links to useful information and resources.
2. Recorded webinar(s) on careers outside of academia (invited webinars by people in different sectors, e.g. Alison Green, TNC; Jon Day, ex-Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; etc) to give an overview of working in that sector, personal experience, tips, list of skills required for entry, etc.
3. Career-focused mentor scheme: invite/list experienced mentors in a range of non-academic sectors willing to volunteer, to i) offer brief bio, top tips, and ii) contact details so that people may contact them for specific advice/brief mentor sessions by email/phone/skype. These people may be then listed on the main ISRS website, complete with photo, brief biography (& CV perhaps?), top 10 tips for getting into/working in their sector, contact details. Both committees may then promote the scheme to the ISRS membership (and beyond).

It was agreed that activities undertaken should be high reward to membership and the public at low maintenance cost (time and finance) to either committee.

Lectures and presentations this year included:

- a) Lecture at the Linnean Society, London:  
<https://www.iyor2018.org/resource/what-hope-for-corals-in-this-international-year-of-the-reef-professor-james-crabbe-fls/>
- b) Coral Reefs in their International Year; the Stanley Gray Lecture given in Trinity House, London: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UyRgT2ay50>

Follow the links to watch the presentations.

Committee members at the University of Bremen organised two events:

1) In collaboration with the WISSENSWERTE (the largest science journalist meeting in Germany), they organized a reef symposium titled "Check out the coral reef" with 5 speakers (Gertraud Schmidt, Sebastian Ferse, Götz Reinicke, Helmut Schuhmacher, Christian Wild) and lots of discussion. This event was joined by 25 science journalists.

2) They organized and chaired the annual BREMARE Day with the topic "What is happening to our coral reefs?". Here is the program: <https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/bremare/bremare-day-2018/>

Christian Wild also gave public talks about "The coral reef crisis - What can we do?" at the German Ocean Museum in Stralsund (March 2018) and at the Federal Natural History Museum in Braunschweig (June 2018).

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Chair, Education Committee

Appendix: ISRS Education Committee 2018

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