

Plastic pollution in marine ecosystems

22nd November 2019, IPMA - Algés

9h30-10h00: Registration

10h00-10h15: Welcome by Pedro Pousão, President of the IPMA Scientific Council, and, Antonina dos Santos, Coordinator of GelAvista

10h15-11h00: “Plastic pollution and you: How we can solve a growing global conservation crisis”, by Peter Ross, Ocean Wise

11h00-11h20: “*Plasticus maritimus*, an invasive species”, by Ana Pêgo, *Plasticus maritimus*

11h20-11h50: Coffee break with exhibition by *Plasticus maritimus*

11h50-12h10: “Microplastics in the Portuguese Coast”, by Joana Raimundo and Clara Lopes, IPMA

12h10- 12h30: “Microplastics: knowns and unknowns”, by Paula Sobral, FCT-UNL

12h30-13h00: Round Table discussions, lead by Cátia Bartilotti, IPMA

Participation is free, but e-mail registration is needed:

seminarios@ipma.pt



Seminar: Plastic pollution in marine ecosystems

Plastic pollution and you: How we can solve a growing global conservation crisis

Peter S. Ross is the Vice-President of Research @ Ocean Wise, based @ the Vancouver Aquarium. He currently oversees five research programs that deliver conservation science to the international community. He is an international authority in the area of ocean pollution, having published over 150 scientific articles, with a focus on the source, transport, fate and effects of priority pollutants. He discovered the region's killer whales to be the most 'contaminated marine mammals in the world' in a groundbreaking study, and recently reported on the widespread distribution of microplastics and ingestion by zooplankton in the Pacific Ocean. He and his team launched PollutionTracker (<http://pollutiontracker.org/>), the first comprehensive monitoring program for pollutants of concern in coastal British Columbia; Ocean Watch (<https://research.ocean.org/program/ocean-watch>), a coast-wide ocean health report card; and the Plastics Lab, a dedicated high resolution facility working on microplastic pollution in the oceans.



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***Plasticus maritimus*, an invasive species**

Ana Pêgo studied Marine Biology and Fisheries @ Universidade do Algarve, and worked as a researcher for a few years. In 2012, she started to dedicate her time to projects within environmental education, combining science with art. The realization and growing concern with marine litter led her to deepen knowledge creating educational projects on this topic. In December 2015, she created *Plasticus maritimus* to share her findings on our beaches (<https://www.facebook.com/plasticusmaritimus/>). Since then, this theme has become her main focus of work, exploring it in the form of workshops, lectures, teacher training and exhibitions. The activities that she has been doing are shown in schools around the country and institutions such as the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, the Centro Cultural de Belém (CCB) or the Museu de Arte, Arquitectura e Tecnologia (MAAT). A year ago she published the book "*Plasticus maritimus*, an invasive species", written with Isabel Minhós Martins. The book is illustrated by Bernardo P. Carvalho and edited by Planeta Tangerina (<https://www.planetatangerina.com>).



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Microplastics in the Portuguese Coast

Joana Raimundo is currently a Researcher @ the Portuguese Institute of Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) - Division of Environmental Oceanography. She graduated in Marine Biology (2000), holds a MSc in Marine Sciences (2003) and a PhD in Biochemistry (2010). **Clara Lopes** is graduated in Biology (2012) and holds a MSc in Biotechnology (2014). Since 2016, their work is mainly focused in the presence of microplastics in the marine environment and in the optimization and harmonization of methodologies for sampling, extraction and analysis of microplastics from different environmental matrices.



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**Microplastics: knowns and unknowns**

Paula Sobral, Professor of Environmental Sciences @ Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, researcher @ MARE - Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre working on marine litter and microplastics sources and sinks and, the effects of microplastics contamination on marine organisms. Since 2008, she has coordinated several research projects on microplastics and published several papers in international journals. She is the FCT designated expert for the issue of microplastics, and collaborated with the Portuguese Environmental Agency and other government bodies onto the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Member of GESAMP– Group of Experts on the Scientific aspects of Marine Pollution integrating the Working Group 40 – ‘Sources, fate and effects of microplastics in the marine environment – a global assessment and integrates the pool of experts for the United Nations 2nd World Ocean Assessment. She has founded the Portuguese Marine Litter Association – APLM, an engagement platform for multiple stakeholders to prevent and reduce marine litter, developing awareness and science communication activities for the various publics.

