

The Annual VLIZ North Sea Award is organized to recognize and reward outstanding marine scientific contributions.

- Art. 1 The Flanders Marine Institute North Sea Award is a scientific prize to foster innovative fundamental or applied marine research. The prize will be awarded to a researcher or research team.
- Art. 2 The prizes amount to **1.000 EUR** and is indivisible. It will be granted to reward a recent and original scientific work on the structure, functioning and/or sustainable management of the coastal and marine ecosystem. All science disciplines and categories (alpha, beta and gamma) are eligible. The contribution must be of postgraduate or postdoctoral level, referring to a maximum of four years of postdoctoral research since obtaining the PhD.
- Art. 3 An **expert jury** of at least 3 members from at least 3 universities or scientific institutes of Belgium – installed by the VLIZ Board upon proposal of the Scientific Committee – will evaluate the contributions submitted. The jury members must be suggested by the Scientific Committee by December 2025 and approved by the Board before the submission deadline. The jury members will be announced on the VLIZ website.

The submissions will be judged and evaluated based on the scientific results, the study design and the translatability to the wider audience.

The jury advises the Board, who grants the award. The jury will forward a ranked list of their **top 3 candidates to the Board**. The Board is not obliged to follow the suggestion of the jury. If none of the submitted theses are deemed to be acceptable, the Board can decide not to attribute the award and to add the prize money to the next edition of the VLIZ Awards.

The jury may further bring to the attention of the Board:

- Violation of open science practices
- Violation of good code of conduct
- Violation of ethical principles (if needed supported by an ethics committee)
- Offensive and hurtful language
- Content harmful to VLIZ, its Board or third parties

The jury will sign a **non-disclosure agreement**; submissions that were not selected remain anonymous. A violation of the non-disclosure may result in the cancellation of the award. The evaluation sheets of the jury will be archived at VLIZ.

- Art. 4 All awards will be judged by a **5-page submission package**, consisting of:
- A max. 2-page CV including a list of publications
 - A max. 1-page reference letter from an advisor
 - A max. 2-page summary of the submission, in English
- Art. 5 At least **3 submissions** must be received for the award to be granted.
- Art. 6 All jury members are required to judge all submissions. **Conflicts of interest** must be immediately brought to the attention of the head of the jury. These include, but are not limited to:
- Submissions from members of the same research lab
 - Submissions from relatives in 1st or 2nd degree
 - Submissions from individuals with whom the jury member published within the last 24 months
- Submissions from the same university or faculty do not cause a conflict of interest if the conflicts mentioned above are not applicable.
- Art. 7 Candidates must not have received any prior award for the contribution submitted.
- Art. 8 Candidates cannot submit the same contribution as in the previous year. However, a similar contribution by the same candidate will be accepted if sufficient amendments have been made to the previous contribution.
- Art. 9 Scientific contributions must contain a minimum of two published peer-reviewed articles.
- Art. 10 The award will be granted in February 2026. All candidates will be notified of the jury's decision by email before the end of the month.
- Art. 11 The award ceremony will take place at the VLIZ Marine Science Day on Wednesday 4 March 2026. The laureate will present the prize-winning contribution at the event.
- Art. 12 The laureate agrees to write a popularized article based upon the rewarded contribution and grants permission to VLIZ to publish it, provided credit is given to the author(s).
- Art. 13 VLIZ has the right to deposit all submitted contributions in its marine scientific library.
- Art. 14 All interested candidates can request a free individual membership of VLIZ for the year 2026.
- Art. 15 Any problems or disputes that possibly may arise with regard to participating in and granting of the VLIZ Bachelor Thesis Award will be settled by the Board. The candidates have no recourse against its decision and are not entitled to any remuneration.
- Art. 16 All participants must agree upon these regulations.

CANDIDACIES

You can register your candidacy at [link to form to be added](#)

Please bear in mind that your application can only be submitted if all mandatory fields are filled AND if you have attached all required documents.

For technical assistance or further information, please contact the VLIZ-secretariat by telephone on +32(0)59/33.60.00 or by email to awards@vliz.be