



30th annual conference

Coastal Futures 2023

***Our Ocean and Coastal Future
for the Next Decade***

Delegate Notes

25th & 26th January, 2023 | Royal Geographical Society, London & online



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Coastal Futures 2023

Our Ocean and Coastal Future for the Next Decade

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Welcome

Welcome to the conference

We are back! It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome colleagues, new and old, in person again for the first time since 2020. We are hosting a larger than ever audience at the RGS as well as livestreaming the whole conference to an online audience, the first time we have delivered in this hybrid way.

Our ocean and coast continues to be a place which is highly valued, but under enormous pressure. From coastal communities facing the frontline of climate change impacts, to meeting major targets for renewable energy and restoring biodiversity, there is a real sense that we have an incredible challenge on our hands to deliver change that is good for the environment, society and the economy. We are working in a growing field and it is crucial that we harness this community of practice to share our understanding and perspectives and meet the joint challenges we face.

This year's conference includes six sessions across two days with high level speakers from industry, academia, NGOs, local community voices, government and advisory bodies. There will be some reflection on recent work and achievements, but a real sense that we have challenging questions to ask about the future. Every session has a panel debate based on key questions which all speakers have been asked to give prior thought to their answers. All debates will include Q&A from the online as well as in-person audience. With the support of Mindfully Wired Communications, OCF will share reports from each session as well as the livestream recording, to help us keep up the momentum throughout 2023.

The traditional wine reception is back on Wednesday evening from 1730 –1930, alongside our sponsor's exhibits and a bookstall, with some new and well-loved titles. Let's make this a fantastic reunion and a year to remember: 2023 is the 'Year of the Coast'!

Background to Coastal Futures 2023

Coastal Futures conferences began in 1994, organised by Bob Earll of CMS. For thirty years Bob convened a community of people working in different sectors across the coastal and marine environment. His weekly news services, job adverts and conferences to water and marine professionals have brought thousands of people together over the past three decades.

In 2022 Bob stepped back from day-to-day operations and a new partnership - Ocean and Coastal Futures (OCF) - took on the weekly 'CMS News & Advertising' service and annual 'Coastal Futures' conference. Natasha Barker Bradshaw, alongside fellow directors David Tudor and Dickon Howell, has led the organisation of this year's Coastal Futures conference with Diana Hunt and Jayne O'Nions. It is with thanks and huge credit to Bob that the conference and its community adapted and grew online during the past two years with the 'Ocean Recovery' conferences.

This year supported by 21 sponsors, we are hosting over 600 delegates from 200 organisations, 400 in-person and over 200 online. Over the next decade, OCF aims to continue to grow services for the coastal and marine community of professionals through news, training and multiple events.



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Conference details

Wi-Fi: Name of conference network: **CoastalFutures23** Password: **@CF_Conf23**

Twitter: **#CoastalFutures23** Follow us at **@CF_Conf**

Access to the lecture theatre: Registration opens at 8.30am on both days. The main doors to the lecture theatre will close when the conference starts and at the beginning of each session. If you arrive late or wish to re-enter the theatre after this time, you will need to enter via the back doors downstairs, or access the balcony via the main staircase.

Timing: The conference needs to run on time to allow speakers their allocated time and for the panel debates. A bell will be rung 15 minutes before the start of each session and a final reminder 5 minutes before the doors close.

Refreshment Breaks: Hot and cold drinks will be served three times per day. There are two main refreshment breaks, with savoury food at the first break and sweet refreshments in the second break. On day one we are trialling a new boxed lunch offered by RGS, and would welcome your feedback. Please only take one box! On day two there will be a savoury and sweet buffet. Once you have collected your food, please move away from the serving table. Catering staff are on hand if you need anything, including extra drinks. All food is vegetarian or vegan. Special diets should be collected from the drinks station in the Main Hall.

No food is allowed in the theatre: We recommend bringing a water bottle to have in the theatre. Please do not bring any citrus fruits to the conference as we have a speaker with a severe allergy.

Wine reception: At the end of day one, wine and soft drinks will be served from 17:30-19:30. Please vacate the venue promptly and by 20:00 at the very latest.

Delegate notes: An electronic copy of the full delegate notes, including speakers' abstracts, is available on the Coastal Futures website. We will not be providing delegate packs with printed copies, but there will be screens showing the programme and reference copies of the Delegate Notes at the registration desk.

Networking: A delegate list is provided by email with the joining instructions, to facilitate networking. You will also be able to talk to the speakers after each session around the stage area. Q&A: Slido will be used throughout the conference to facilitate Q&A, panel debates and polls. You will be given a joining code each day, and do not need to download anything in advance. Slido can be joined through a laptop or smartphone.

Bookings – Receipts: If you have any questions during the event about bookings or finances, talk to Diana Hunt at the registration desk.

Sponsors – Logistics: please talk to Jayne O'Nions at the registration desk.

Evaluation Forms: Shortly after the event you will be sent a link to an online evaluation survey. This will also enable you to access the livestream recording.

Conference Outputs: The Coastal Futures archive will host the delegate notes, speaker presentations, recordings and other conference outputs for open access.

Valuables: If you have anything you value keep it with you i.e. do not leave laptops unattended.

Before you leave: Check you haven't left anything in the theatre. Please also take any leaflets or reports you have collected.



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Programme

Day 1 - Wednesday 25th January 2023: Session 1

Opening **Lord Benyon**, Minister of State for Biosecurity, Marine & Rural Affairs

09:45 Keynote **Dr Aisling Lannin**, Head of Evidence and Evaluation, Marine Management Organisation
Marine Management of our ocean and coast: the next decade.

TACKLING THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE: Working together for our ocean and coasts.

Chair: Dr Gareth Johnson, Atkins; Facilitator: David Tudor

10:10 *What is the future for our ocean and coasts over the next decade?*

Speakers will address the challenges & opportunities for adaptation to climate change. They will offer insights into our energy and biodiversity futures, the future for coastal communities & the use of evidence to inform our direction.

Huub den Rooijen, Marine Advisor, The Crown Estate: *Our Energy Future*

Dr Lissa Batey, The Wildlife Trusts: *Our Biodiversity Future: #Defend Nature*

Neil Hornby, Chief Executive, Cefas: *Our Science Led Future*

Dr Pamela Buchan, University of Exeter: *Our People's Coastal Future*

Panel debate

11:40 Refreshments

Day 1 - Wednesday 25th January 2023: Session 2

DELIVERING MARINE RESTORATION: Net gain, blue carbon, restoration & re-wilding.

Chair: Roger Proudfoot, Environment Agency; Facilitator: David Tudor

12:40 *Do we have the right policy and technical solutions to deliver environmental restoration?*

Speakers will share the latest policy thinking around net gain and blue carbon, followed by examples of technical solutions for restoration.

Policy Challenges:

Alexis Perry, Commercial Director, Environment Bank: *Making Nature Economically Visible*

Vicki Castro-Spokes & Dr Lewis White, Defra: *Embedding natural capital approaches into policy for marine and coastal environments*

Vicky West, Senior Marine Ecologist, ABPmer: *Implications of net gain*

Daniel Crockett, Director, Ocean & Climate, Blue Marine Foundation: *How to make blue carbon markets work for people & the ocean*

Q&A

Technical Solutions:

Tom Brook, WWF-UK: *The Blue Carbon Mapping Project – Establishing a baseline to inform policy and management*

Dr Benjamin Green, Environment Agency: *ReMeMaRe: spatial prioritisation to develop a national estuarine & coastal restoration strategy*

Dr James Robinson, Director of Conservation, WWT: *Restoration at scale: from local to global*

Dr Joanne Preston, Portsmouth University: *Moving towards seascape restoration in the marine environment*

Keith Cooper, Marine Ecologist/Data Scientist, Cefas: *OneBenthic: New insights using big data*

Dr Richard Lilley, *Project Seagrass: Becoming #GenerationRestoration: Innovation and ambition in seagrass conservation*

Panel debate

14:30 Refreshments



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Programme

Day 1 - Wednesday 25th January 2023: Session 3

GOVERNING FOR COMMUNITIES: Integration on the frontline.

Chair: Amy Pryor, Thames Estuary Partnership; Facilitator: Natasha Bradshaw

How can we manage the future of our coast in an integrated way?

15:30

Speakers will highlight the challenges facing our coastal communities, the value of blue health in the face of adaptation to coastal change, and focus on how to drive integration through collaboration and engagement.

James Grellier, Exeter Medical School: *Coastal blue space, health and wellbeing – opportunities and challenges*

Caroline Douglass, Executive Director, Environment Agency: *Adaptation to coastal change*

Becky MacDonald-Lofts, Local Government Association Special Interest Group: *Collaborative working to support coastal local authorities and their communities*

Dr Emma McKinley, Cardiff University: *Ocean Literacy for the UN Ocean Decade: UK insights*

Susannah Bleakley, Independent: *Voices from the frontline making an impact*

Panel debate

Hannah Rudd

Author & Policy and Advocacy Manager, Angling Trust

Britain's Living Seas: Creating connection with our shores & empowering everyday marine conservationists

17:00

Keynote

17:30-

19:30

Wine Reception



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Day 2 - Thursday 26th January 2023: Session 4

09:30 Keynote

Alan Lovell, Chair, Environment Agency
Working together for the coast

10:00

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT: The future for UK fisheries and fishing communities.

Chair: Stuart Rogers, Cefas; Facilitator: Dickon Howell

How do we tackle the disparity between aspiration and reality?

Speakers will answer this question through updates on Fisheries Management Plans, aquaculture and partnership working between industry, science, NGOs and the seafood supply chain.

Tony Tomlinson MBE, Chair, Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities: *IFCAs making a difference*

Jon Davies, Defra: *How Fisheries Management Plans can support sustainable fisheries around England*

Libby West, Natural England: *Implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries: evolution or revolution?*

Jo Pollett, Marine Stewardship Council: *Project UK, a sustainable future for UK fisheries*

Dawn Purchase, Marine Conservation Society: *Aquaculture's role in providing food for the future*

Panel debate: including Jerry Percy

11:30

Refreshments

Day 2 - Thursday 26th January 2023: Session 5

12:30

BALANCING ACT: Strategic compensation and spatial prioritisation.

Chair: Peter Barham, MBE, SUDG; Facilitator: Dickon Howell

How do we deliver strategic marine resource management in the UK?

Speakers will discuss the future for marine planning and how we manage environmental impact strategically, co-existence for offshore wind and fisheries, and what role there is for the UK Marine Strategy

Joly Macleod, Defra: *Domestic Marine Policy - Update on progress*

Olivia Thomas, The Crown Estate: *One space, multiple pressures: the need for a coordinated & holistic approach to managing the UK sea space*

Kat Route-Stephens, Offshore Wind Industry Council & **Audrey Jones**, Defra: *Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation*

Mark Duffy, Natural England: *Managing Environmental Impact Strategically*

Katie-Jo Luxton, Director of Global Conservation, RSPB: *Harnessing Nature Positive to deliver strategic ecosystem restoration solutions for our seas*

Celestia Godbehere, Orsted: *Strategic compensation as part of marine recovery*

Dr Andrew Gill, Cefas: *How can we understand the outcomes of co-existence?*

Panel debate

14:00

Refreshments





Programme

Day 2 - Thursday 26th January 2023: Session 6

MPAs: From paper to protection.

Chair: Dr Sue Gubbay; Facilitator: Natasha Bradshaw

How can governments and stakeholders be mobilised and motivated over the next decade to achieve real ocean protection?

14:50

Speakers will offer a global, European and UK perspective on how well countries are progressing protection of habitats and species through marine management.

Dr Simon Cripps, Executive Director – Global Marine Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society: *A global perspective on the UK reaching 30x30 targets*

Donal Griffin, Fair Seas Ireland: *Ireland's Fair Seas: on our way to 30x30*

Nick Greenwood, Head of Marine Conservation, MMO: *Managing Fishing in England's Offshore Marine Protected Areas*

Dr Jean-Luc Solandt, Marine Conservation Society: *UK MPAs: What after all this time and effort is an MPA?*

Panel debate

Hugo Tagholm

Executive Director and Vice President of Oceana in the UK
Campaigns for a Wild Ocean

16:00 Keynote

Bob Earll & Natasha Bradshaw

Reflection on thirty years of Coastal Futures and ambitions for the next decade

16:20

16:30

Close

Programme details and timings may be subject to change



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SPEAKERS ABSTRACTS

DAY 1 – Wednesday 25th January

Ministerial Address Lord Benyon, Defra, Secretary of State for the Environment

Keynote 1 Dr Aisling Lannin, Head of Evidence and Evaluation, Marine Management Organisation

Marine Management of our Ocean and Coast: the next decade

How are we collectively going to restore the marine environment; increase biodiversity to a resilient level; reverse climate change; and support and improve the prospects for coastal communities and citizens?

This is about making decisions about how we use the sea that are regenerative rather than depleting or deteriorating. We have many complicated processes, laws and regulations in place that try to achieve these aims (see the famous and eye boggling horrendogram of Boyes and Elliott 2016 ☺).

Our multiple assessments tell us we are not achieving what is required for planetary or human health, despite the various positive activities happening. What are the root causes and actions we are missing?

We have identified the need for more multidisciplinary input, more integrated assessments, more system-based approaches, and better multi-scale governance, but what needs to happen in the next decade to make an impactful difference?

The MMO has reflected on its role and has published a 2030 Strategic Plan including seven goals. We want these goals to steer our actions with the aim to collaborate with partners and stakeholders to restore marine ecosystems. We want to make a significant contribution to delivering our shared ambition for the ocean and coast.

References

Boyes, S. J., & Elliott, M. (2016). Brexit: The marine governance horrendogram just got more horrendous!. *Marine pollution bulletin*, 111(1-2), 41-44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2016.08.020>

Link for the MMO's 2030 Strategic Plan:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1114006/MMO_Strategy-Final_PP_v.11_July_2022_.pdf

Contact: Aisling.lannin@marinemanagement.org.uk

Session 1

TACKLING THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE: Working together for our ocean and coasts.

Speakers will address the challenges and opportunities for adaptation to climate change. They will offer insights into our energy and biodiversity futures, the future for coastal communities and the use of evidence to inform our direction.

Chair: Gareth Johnson, Atkins

Facilitator: David Tudor

Huib den Rooijen, Marine Advisor, The Crown Estate ***Our Energy Future***

Our energy future offshore is characterised by unprecedented demand for seabed space. Offshore wind will continue its stormy growth, driven by the need for clean and secure energy and the economic opportunity this brings. New technologies such as floating turbines and hydrogen production are opening up new areas of seabed. Meanwhile industrial amounts of CO2 need to be stored, oil and gas will continue for a long while, and we will see demand from emerging technologies such as tidal power. All that hardware needs to go somewhere, competing for space in a natural environment that already suffers from huge biodiversity pressures. For offshore wind alone, in the last 20 years, on average one turbine has been installed per 3 days for a current total of almost 3,000 turbines in UK waters supplying on average 12% of electricity. This rate needs to more than double over the years ahead. A nature inclusive approach is essential, and in doing so any and all activities in the marine environment need to be viewed through the lens of climate and biodiversity risk. This is a massive collaborative challenge that requires sustainable pathways be developed for all sectors engaged in the marine space, grounded in robust and freely accessible data and evidence.

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/huub-den-rooijen/>

Dr Lissa Batey, Head of Marine Conservation, The Wildlife Trusts ***Our Biodiversity Future: #Defend Nature***

We cannot tackle the climate crisis without similar ambition to meet the nature crisis head on – the two are inseparable.

Nature's incredible ability to trap carbon safely and provide other important benefits is proven. But nature in the UK is in a sorry state and important habitats are damaged and declining. Rapid cuts in our emissions and a move toward renewable energy must be matched with determined action to fix our broken ecosystems. We must bring nature back across at least 30% of land and sea by 2030.

And yet, with that target only 7 years away, the time available to us is woefully short. To make matters worse government is taking the Retained EU Law (Revocation & Reform) Bill through parliament. The Bill is intended to "save, repeal, replace, restate or assimilate" the retained EU law (known as REUL) applying in the UK. Time, which we don't have, will now be spent dropping vital protections from law or, in most cases, hastily rewriting our legislation.

The impact will have real-world impacts – green spaces will become greyer, water will become dirtier, and the air more polluted. Decisions we take now are crucial for avoiding total climate catastrophe. We must make #DefendNature a priority.

Contact: lbatey@wildlifetrusts.org
Tel: 01752 484311 / Mob: 07827 853808

Neil Hornby, Chief Executive, Cefas
Our Science Led Future

The highest quality science and analysis will be needed if we are to tackle the climate challenge facing our coasts and the ocean. Scientists used to predict what could happen if we didn't reduce emissions. Now we are seeing those changes happening before us - rising sea levels, higher water temperatures and ocean acidification - and can forecast with ever greater confidence the future changes we will see. How can marine policy and regulatory decisions we are making today be future proofed in light of these future changes to our environment and how can we use the additional insight advances in marine science and technology will bring over the next decade?

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Dr Pamela Buchan, University of Exeter
Our People's Coastal Future

For coastal communities, the coast is a source of identity, livelihood, wellbeing and threat, with property and prosperity tied to the physical geography of the coast. Coastal communities are among the first people to feel the impacts from climate change, major political, economic and public health events, and domestic policy on issues as far ranging as energy, transport infrastructure and health and social care. As a nation we have an inconsistent view of the ocean and coast, drawing conceptual lines between land and sea, and between conservation, marine industry, and planning development, inhibiting holistic approaches to coastal place-making and marine planning. Drawing on my knowledge, evidence and experiences, as a councillor in a coastal city, marine social scientist and marine citizen, I will consider the relationship between the future of our people's coast and the future of our coastal people. I will focus particularly on the institutions and governance that will shape how coasts and coastal communities face the future.

Contact: pb381@exeter.ac.uk
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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pamelabuchan/>
References:

Marine citizenship PhD report:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352508841_Citizens_of_the_Sea_-_A_PhD_Thesis_Summary_Report

Article: Buchan et al., 2023. Marine citizenship: the right to participate in the transformation of the human-ocean relationship for sustainability. PLOS ONE. *In press*.

Motion for the ocean links:

<https://lgacoastalsig.com/motion-for-the-ocean/>

<https://oceanconservationtrust.org/ocean-advocacy/our-campaigns/call-a-motion-for-the-ocean/>

Session 1 Panel Debate

What is the future for our ocean and coasts over the next decade?

Speakers will address the challenges and opportunities for adaptation to climate change. They will offer insights into our energy and biodiversity future, the future for coastal communities and the use of evidence to inform our direction.

Session 2

DELIVERING MARINE RESTORATION: Net gain, blue carbon, restoration and re-wilding.

Speakers will share the latest policy thinking around net gain and blue carbon, followed by examples of technical solutions for restoration and re-wilding.

Chair: Roger Proudfoot Environment Agency

Facilitator: David Tudor

Session 2 (a) POLICY CHALLENGES

Alexis Perry, Commercial Director, Environment Bank
Making Nature Economically Visible

Globally, biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. Since 1970, there has been a decline of almost 70% in the populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. With 1 in 4 species at risk of extinction due to lost habitat, industrial agriculture and invasive species, biodiversity loss represents an impending existential threat equal to that of climate change.

Led by Professor David Hill CBE, founding member of Natural England and James Cross, former CEO of Natural England and Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Bank team are delivering high-quality, landscape-scale restoration projects across England called Habitat Banks, a fully funded nature restoration project to cover the costs of creating, managing and monitoring exemplar new habitats over a 30 year term as required by the Environment Act 2021. They already have 20 underway and intend to create an additional 200 over the next 5 years to create a national nature recovery network that extends to over 15,000 acres.

Habitat Banks are strategically located in areas of ecological importance and comprise a mosaic of habitats appropriate to the surrounding environment. They connect vast networks of existing habitats through wildlife corridors, providing steppingstones for species to travel, recolonise and recover. They create more diverse land cover that makes space for nature and deliver a range of critical benefits from ecosystem resilience, such as flood mitigation, carbon storage, clean air and water, and healthy soil.

Environment Bank has secured c£200 million from a private sustainable investment fund to secure its landscape recovery projects. The team use the funds to raise biodiversity net gain (BNG) Units on the Habitat banks which they then sell to developers enabling them to meet their legal biodiversity obligations as set out in the Environment Act 2021, and this is only the beginning.

The deal approved at the COP15 UN Biodiversity Conference to reverse biodiversity loss and protect 30% of the planet for nature by 2030, combined with the ambition of the Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) to mandate corporate reporting for residual

impacts on nature and natural resources, has the potential to leverage the substantial finance needed to really move the dial on biodiversity. To this end, Environment Bank has launched Nature Credits which provides such corporates with a mechanism to buy-into our forward funded land restoration projects from which they are provided with transparent data and evidence which they can use to demonstrate that they are Nature Positive.

The regulatory framework introduced by the Environment Act 2021 has encouraged privately funded nature restoration to occur at scale and provides a vital option for tackling biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse long term. Could this model be applied to our seas and oceans to turn the tide on the vital restoration and protection of our marine ecosystems at the pace required?

Url: <https://environmentbank.com/>

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Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/2271549/admin/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/environmentbank/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EnvironmentBank>

Vicki Castro-Spokes and Lewis White, Defra

Embedding natural capital approaches into policy for marine and coastal environments.

We need to start applying natural capital approaches as standard practice when managing our marine environment in order to meet key political and legislative ambitions and to help stop the breakdown of the world's natural systems.

The marine arm of Defra's Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) programme is leading the way in supporting Government ambition to incorporate nature into decision making. We are collecting natural capital evidence and developing tools and frameworks to support better decision making for marine and fisheries policy, and more widely.

By taking a holistic approach – which looks across the marine system as a whole and brings together ecological, societal and economic data – the programme is considering interactions, dependencies, and trade-offs between different marine and coastal management options, enabling us to assess the net effect for people and the environment.

This talk will provide an update on progress in the first year of the marine NCEA programme, including examples of how we are integrating natural capital evidence into policy decisions.

Vicki Castro-Spokes

Head of Marine NCEA Programme, Marine and Fisheries Directorate, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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Dr Lewis White

Monitoring Science Lead, Marine NCEA Programme, Marine and Fisheries Directorate, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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Marine NCEA contact: marineNCEA@defra.gov.uk

Links: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-capital-and-ecosystem-assessment-programme/natural-capital-and-ecosystem-assessment-programme>

Affiliation: Marine NCEA is a partnership programme, led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and jointly delivered by Cefas, the Environment Agency, JNCC, the Marine Management Organisation, and Natural England.

Vicky West, Senior Marine Ecologist, ABPMer.

Implications of net gain

There is increasing recognition of the need for greater action to restore our marine environment in the face of a continued decline in marine biodiversity. Net gain has been identified as a potentially important mechanism that can contribute to halting and reversing marine biodiversity loss. From autumn 2023, two years following royal ascent of the Environment Act, it will be mandatory for all in scope developments in the terrestrial and intertidal environment to deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%. Although there is no formal net gain policy as yet for the marine environment, Government has committed to developing such a policy, and has held a first consultation on the principles of marine net gain (MNG).

However, there remains a need to identify and agree recommendations for a more local delivery of strategic net gain targets for the improvement and recovery/restoration of the marine and intertidal environments.

This presentation will briefly discuss the progress of net gain. It will then explore the need for a strategic approach to deliver net gain, the development of strategic delivery options and the potential barriers to delivering net gain actions. It will also consider the linkages between net gain and the natural capital approach, which has the opportunity to act as a communication and prioritisation tool, and how jointly they can provide the impetus to drive and inform action for marine and coastal restoration.

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www.abpmer.co.uk

Dan Crockett, Director, Ocean and Climate, Blue Marine Foundation

How to make blue carbon markets work for people and the ocean.

Driven by the climate emergency, governments, corporations and individuals across the globe are seeking to mitigate their carbon emissions through purchasing carbon offsets in global voluntary carbon markets (VCM). The VCM has grown rapidly in recent years, especially nature based projects. Although early stage interest in the blue carbon market is growing. This growth has come with consequences with many terrestrial projects being scrutinised for a lack or absence of equitable benefit-sharing with local communities and projects not delivering the carbon reductions, removals or avoidance measures they are claiming to. Historically, blue carbon habitats have not been recognised by policymakers for the role they play in combatting climate change, despite the host of co-benefits they provide. This is predominantly due to the large evidence gaps that remain around their carbon sequestration and storage potential. New blue carbon projects entering the market face implementation challenges, lack of funding for early-stage development, lack of clear regulatory frameworks as countries consider the implications of Article 6 and gaps in scientific evidence. Additionally, the various stakeholder groups often do not communicate. These barriers have meant that the supply of projects cannot meet the increased demand from investors. In this country, blue carbon finance has the potential to grow overall investment in coastal and ocean nature-based solutions and ensure that projects entering the market are of the highest quality and integrity. If we can learn from past mistakes and ensure robustness

of evidence, transparency and regulatory alignment on this topic - the blue carbon market could be a powerful catalyst for greater investment in marine conservation and restoration.

Contact: Dan@bluemarinefoundation.com
www.bluemarinefoundation.com

Q&A

Session 2 (b) TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

Tom Brook, Blue Carbon Technical Officer, WWF-UK

The Blue Carbon Mapping Project – Establishing a baseline to inform policy and management

The aim of the Blue Carbon Mapping Project is to synthesise information on coastal and marine carbon stores, drawing together research on habitats such as saltmarsh, seagrass beds, kelp forests, biogenic reefs, and marine sediments. Funded by WWF-UK in collaboration with The Wildlife Trusts and RSPB, the project will highlight the proportion of carbon contained within the UK's Marine Protected Areas, presenting opportunities to develop a joined-up response to climate and biodiversity management.

This work will add further evidence of the scale and importance of the UK's marine environment to act as a significant store of carbon, its role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the pressures faced by blue carbon habitats. This research paves the way for better understanding, enhanced protection, and sustainable management of blue carbon across the UK EEZ.

The Blue Carbon Mapping Project will be completed in three regional phases - English Channel/Western Approaches, Irish Sea, and Scottish Seas (with the North Sea assessment completed and published last year) - before combining these into a cumulative UK blue carbon report.

Press release: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/press-release/carbon-stored-uk-seas>

Contact: tbrook@wwf.org.uk

Dr Benjamin Green, Senior Advisor, Estuaries and Coasts Planning, EA

ReMeMaRe: spatial prioritisation to develop a national estuarine and coastal restoration strategy

Recent funding opportunities such as the Green Recovery Challenge Fund have led to an increase in small scale estuarine and coastal habitat restoration projects across England. Whilst beneficial, to reach the Restoring Meadows, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe) initiative's ambition of 15% of the current extent of saltmarsh, seagrass and native oyster reefs to be restored by 2043, a strategic national approach to restoration is required whilst maintaining support for local-based delivery on the ground.

Over the last 9 months, the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England have coordinated for ReMeMaRe the first stage of a national Restoration Prioritisation exercise. This aims to identify a shortlist of areas where the creation of new saltmarsh, mudflat, seagrass, native oyster, sand dune and shingle habitats is possible, based on existing restoration potential maps. The exercise aims to prioritise sites that would potentially generate the greatest ecosystem service benefits and that can be operationally and logistically delivered on a short-medium term scale.

A national shortlist of key estuarine and coastal restoration sites could link in with existing policies such as Biodiversity / Marine Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The next step is to work with delivery partners such as eNGOs to build projects that have support from across sectors.

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Environment Agency, Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5ZR

Web links:

ReMeMaRe Website: <https://ecsa.international/reach/restoring-meadow-marsh-and-reef-rememare>

Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) overview: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/championing-coastal-coordination-3c-s/>

Existing restoration potential maps:

Coastal Data Explorer portal (all can be visualised here)

<https://data.catchmentbasedapproach.org/apps/therivertrust::coastal-data-explorer/about>

Saltmarsh / Mudflat:

<https://data.catchmentbasedapproach.org/datasets/therivertrust::saltmarsh-potential-mmo-potential-habitat-creation-sites-within-floodplain/about>

Seagrass: <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/5b943c08-288f-4d47-a924-a51adda6d288/seagrass-potential>

Native oyster: <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/31530300-0f98-42ac-9b68-b6c980f5383c/native-oyster-bed-potential>

Dr James Robinson, Director of Conservation, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)
Restoration at scale: from local to global.

Coastal wetlands need strong and effective laws to protect them from harm; they need careful and well-resourced approaches to manage them – and they also need restoring. Globally, it's estimated we've lost about 50% of our saltmarsh and in more recent times their continuing absence – coupled with further loss and degradation – has helped fuel some of the greatest challenges we face: from the escalating climate crisis to plummeting levels of biodiversity. WWT has developed indicative maps that identify the potential to create over 300,000 hectares of new saltmarsh across the UK but restoring these coastal wetlands at scale will require supportive policies. This short presentation will identify the needs for information, plans and funding that will allow stakeholders to restore saltmarsh at scale in the UK and introduce the World Coastal Forum as a mechanism to bring together key actors to facilitate the protection, management and restoration of these habitats globally.

Contact: james.robinson@wwt.org.uk / T: 07585 902024

Links: <https://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/documents/2022-11-02/wwt-blue-carbon-route-map.pdf>

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Dr Joanne Preston, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of Portsmouth
Moving towards seascape restoration in the marine environment

Coastal and estuarine habitats in Europe have been decimated over the last 200 years. In England, we have lost 85% of our saltmarsh, extirpated seagrass from 50% of our coastal

waterbodies and removed 95% of our oyster habitat. Yet these habitats are some of the most important for carbon-storing and other provisioning services such as fisheries, improving water quality, and coastal defences, which Nature based Solutions so depend on. An increasing evidence base illustrates the critical value of these coastal habitats individually. In this UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the number and scale of restoration efforts is increasing and now is the time to reflect on the potential of the seascape to deliver for nature and people at a large scale. This talk will provide a brief overview of the Seascape Symposium held at the Zoological Society of London (22-23 November 2022), which brought experts from across temperate coastal habitats together to discuss the evidence and rationale for ecological connectivity across the seascape, and how this can be integrated into restoration policy and practice. The draft seascape statement developed at the symposium will be presented along with the key outputs planned to support the delivery of seascape restoration at scale.

Contact: Joanne.preston@port.ac.uk

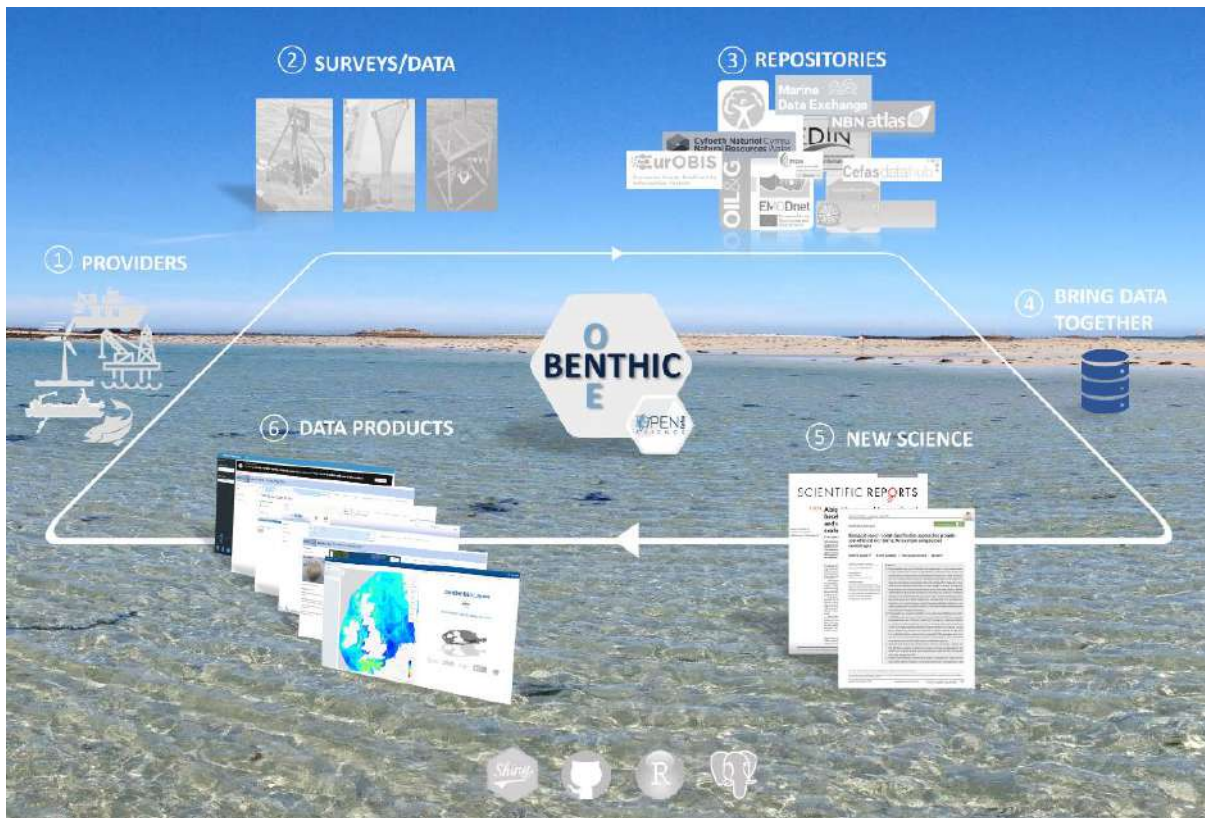
Links: <https://www.zsl.org/science/whats-on/symposium-ecological-connectivity-across-temperate-coastal-habitats>

<https://noraeeurope.eu/>

<https://nativeoysternetwork.org/>

Keith Cooper, Marine Ecologist/Data Scientist, Cefas
OneBenthic: New insights using big data.

As spatial squeeze begins to take effect, how can we bring data together to understand the challenges associated with delivering sustainable development? There is a wealth of seabed datasets which, used collaboratively, can begin to inform our understanding. Cefas developed the OneBenthic initiative which brings together datasets from grab/core, trawl and imagery surveys into a database platform in the cloud, realising the concept of '*collect once, use many times*'. This initiative has produced high-quality, standardised data that provides scientific insights using techniques such as machine learning – leading to innovative and collaborative ways of working. In this presentation, we will showcase examples of these datasets in action and explore how big data can provide new insights in support of sustainable marine management decisions.



OneBenthic infographic.

Contact: keith.cooper@cefas.gov.uk

Weblink: https://rconnect.cefas.co.uk/onebenthic_portal/

Twitter: @OneBenthic

Dr Richard Lilley, Project Seagrass

Becoming #GenerationRestoration: Innovation and ambition in seagrass conservation

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean but it will only work if everyone plays a part.

We know that strong narratives are performative, they can make things become real, and #GenerationRestoration has a strong narrative with people at its core. If we are going to inspire a generation of restoration practitioners, then people need to feel empowered to participate in restorative actions. We need to foster an enabling environment that allows people to take calculated risks and to innovate.

Ten years ago, sat in a small café at Swansea University we ambitiously set up a small marine conservation organisation called Project Seagrass. Swansea has always seemed a fitting place for Project Seagrass to start. It was deemed the 'lovely ugly town' by its most famous son, the poet Dylan Thomas who went on to describe the place as the 'graveyard of ambition'. This phrase is now referred to in an artistic inscription outside the local train station by a more modern Swansea poet that states "Ambition is Critical".

Like the modern, innovative, and ambitious city we call home, ambition is also critical when it comes to changing the narrative around marine restoration. So please let us not wallow in a graveyard of ambition any longer.

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Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/rjilley/>

Links: [UN Decade On Ecosystem Restoration](#) & [Project Seagrass](#)

Session 2 Panel Debate

Do we have the right policy and technical solutions to deliver environmental restoration? Speakers will share the latest policy thinking around net gain and blue carbon, followed by examples of technical solution for restoration.

Session 3

GOVERNING FOR COMMUNITIES: Integration on the frontline

Speakers will highlight the challenges facing our coastal communities, the value of blue health in the face of adaptation to coastal change, and focus on how to drive integration through collaboration and engagement.

Chair: Amy Pryor, Thames Estuary Partnership and Coastal Partnerships Network

Facilitator: Natasha Bradshaw

James Grellier, Research Fellow, European Centre for Environment and Human Health, University of Exeter Medical School, Exeter Medical School.

Coastal blue spaces, health and wellbeing – opportunities and challenges

Coasts have played a central role in human settlement throughout history, providing sources of food, transport, commerce, sewage treatment and—latterly—affording people recreation. The majority of Europe's population lives in cities which have developed on the continent's extensive coastline, on rivers or inland lakes. Although people have for some time associated the coast with leisure, social activity, and various potentially health-promoting activities, the science exploring linkages between environment and health has tended to focus on hazard and risk. Several years ago, a new body of evidence suggested that this utilitarian network of urban 'blue infrastructure' might also be able to provide a number of health and wellbeing benefits. In the European Commission-funded BlueHealth project, we sought to characterise and quantify these effects through concerted transdisciplinary research. Since health is determined largely by the environments we live in, changes made to coastal environments—and the way that these changes are decided upon and managed—have potential implications for human health and well-being.

Using the conceptual underpinnings of the BlueHealth project and the results of research conducted between 2016 to 2022, this presentation will focus on the why and how we believe blue spaces in coastal environments positively affect health and well-being. This will include an overview of the mechanisms by which these effects operate and an introduction to the tools that we can use to ensure that complex nature-health interactions are considered when making decisions about our coastline.

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Caroline Douglass, Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management, Environment Agency.

Adaptation to coastal change

With thousands of kilometres of open coast, the English coastline is a dynamic and exciting place for all those that live, work and play there. It is a complex environment, and how it is managed can have impacts spanning hundreds of years.

Our coast is at the frontline of climate change. People and wildlife that live there are experiencing first-hand the impacts of rising sea levels, weather pattern changes and altered wave heights and patterns.

Around 1.8 million homes are at risk of coastal flooding and erosion. Parts of England's coast are amongst the fastest eroding coastline in Europe, with around 700 properties in England vulnerable to coastal erosion over the next 20 years.

Caroline Douglass will explore the ways we need to live and work with the challenge of a changing coast. This will require adaptation, transition and a greater use of nature based solutions. Caroline will talk about how we are working with partners on initiatives such as:

- the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy Roadmap, which sets out the ambition and actions needed to make coastal communities more resilient
- the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme, which is looking into new ways of improving resilience to flooding and coastal erosion.

Beccy MacDonald-Lofts, Local Government Association Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG).

Collaborative working to support coastal local authorities and their communities

The Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG) has a membership of 57 coastal councils, covering ~60% of England's coastline and serving 16 million people. We champion for the collective interests of coastal communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast.

The communities of our coasts are complex, facing many different challenges and opportunities that are not only unique to the coast but also differ from one area to another. This complexity often pushes the coast to the periphery of infrastructure, levelling up and financial support. The LGA Coastal SIG strives to make our coastal communities viable and resilient, now and into the future, and recognises that for this to happen we need to work collaboratively, using partnership approaches to raise the awareness of the challenges faced by these unique communities and drive change. Through our work with the OneCoast Coalition, co-Secretariat role with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Coastal Communities, and partnership working with other organisations including the Coastal Group Network, Environment Agency, MMO and Defra, we believe that change can happen.

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Dr Emma McKinley, Cardiff University.

Ocean literacy for the UN Ocean Decade: UK Insights.

First introduced in the early 2000s, the concept of ocean literacy has evolved in recent years, not least since its inclusion as a mechanism for change within the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development's goals. Building on early definitions of ocean literacy, there has been increasing recognition of a range of additional dimensions which contribute to an individual or collective sense of 'ocean literacy'. Recent work from the UKRI Diverse Marine Values project recommends expanding previously recognised dimensions, such as knowledge and communication, and proposes a number of additional dimensions, including 'emoceans', access and experience, adaptive capacity and trust and transparency in a bid to ensure that ocean literacy encompasses diverse knowledges, values and experiences. Understanding ocean literacy across the UK, and how this might change over the coming years, is a key focus of the UK's efforts to deliver a successful and impactful Ocean Decade by 2030. This talk will describe the evolution of ocean literacy, provide a snapshot of the results from the 2022 Defra, Natural Resources Wales and Marine Scotland funded Ocean Literacy questionnaire, and what this might mean for UK ocean literacy research for the Ocean Decade and beyond.

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Susannah Bleakley, Independent.

Voices from the frontline making an impact.

Susannah led the work of Morecambe Bay Partnership for 25 years before stepping down as Chief Executive in 2021. She is now working freelance on several projects, and is heavily engaged in Our Future Coast – the DEFRA-funded NW Coast's Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme.

Key Questions

"Are we back where we were 25 years ago with Coastal Partnerships still making the case to secure resources for collaboration?"

And what can be done for Coastal Partnerships to gain traction?"

Here Susannah will reflect on her personal experiences on what has had an impact and how coastal partnership working can be most effective. The answers are perhaps too plainly obvious. In short, it is people, not structures, that make things happen. And, for Partnerships to be effective they need:

- i) clout – resources and support and
- ii) to be relevant - at the centre of things.

Given adequate support, the current Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) funding round is a perfect opportunity for Coastal Partnerships to gain traction.

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Session 3 Panel Debate

How can we manage the future of our coast in an integrated way? Speakers will highlight the challenges facing our coastal communities, the value of blue health in the face of adaptation to coastal change, and focus on how to drive integration through collaboration and engagement.

Keynote 2

**Hannah Rudd, Author, *Britain's Living Seas*
Policy & Advocacy Manager, Angling Trust**

Britain's Living Seas: Creating Connection with Our Shores & Empowering Everyday Marine Conservationists

Life below the waves around the British Isles is often overlooked in favour of warmer shores, yet our seas are filled with interesting species that are no less exciting than those found further afield. The very ecological diversity that makes our seas unique also makes them vulnerable to exploitation. Ultimately, the action we take in the next decade to curtail the climate emergency and ecological breakdown will dictate the future of our blue world. While leadership must be shown throughout society, we should never underestimate our power as individuals and as communities to use our voices in trying to turn the tide.

Forging a connection with our shores is key to empowering people and communities to take ocean action. Communicating ocean optimism through community projects and nature-based solutions to the ocean crisis is vital to mobilising sustained action for our seas. Yet access to blue spaces is unequal, and many sustainable choices are a privilege. It will take an ocean of people to generate the change required to safeguard a healthy future for our seas, life within them and the communities that depend on them. Our collective conservation success depends on a seat at the table for people from every background and walk of life. The ocean touches all our lives, and together, we must make a positive difference for our blue world.

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Britain's Living Seas – Book order: <https://linktr.ee/britainlivingseas>

DAY 2 – Thursday 26th January

Keynote 3 **Alan Lovell**, Chair, Environment Agency

Working Together for our Coast

Session 4

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT: The future of the UK fisheries and fishing communities.

Speakers will provide updates on Fisheries Management Plans, aquaculture and partnership working between industry, science, NGOs and the seafood supply chain.

Chair: Sally Songer, Cefas

Facilitator: Dickon Howell

Tony Tomlinson MBE, Chair, Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities.

IFCAs making a difference.

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA) are committees of local government, responsible for the sustainable management of inshore fisheries. IFCAs modernised the management of inshore fisheries to include wider environmental considerations, but they continue a tradition which has seen, for over 140 years, local authorities and communities playing a key role in inshore fisheries management. The value of this management is reflected in the importance of our coastal habitats and continued relative importance of these inshore fisheries, which is in contrast to many comparable economies.

The origins of this system of management can be traced to the recognition that the inshore areas need protection to ensure that smaller scale inshore fisheries and coastal communities are not overexploited by, amongst other things, more industrialised fisheries. Local decision bodies and the coastal communities are best placed to make such decisions – despite the many social and economic changes over time, these principles hold true.

The systems of inshore management are not without significant challenges. Competing demands, from often differing perspectives and industries make the need for effective inshore management greater. The Fisheries Act provides new opportunities and it is essential that IFCAs are fully enabled to engage in the developing domestic fisheries policy frameworks, to ensure that the value of inshore fisheries and the marine environment, is fully recognised and protected.

The presentation explores the role of IFCAs in inshore management and restoration as the UK takes on its full responsibilities as an independent coastal state.

Contact details: enquiries@association-ifca.org.uk

www.association-ifca.org.uk

Jon Davies, Defra

How Fisheries Management Plans can support sustainable fisheries around England.

The Fisheries Act (2020) together with the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) and Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) are the UK Government's flagship post EU exit fisheries management framework to deliver our responsibilities as an independent coastal state. They replace the common fisheries policy in the UK and underpin our ambition for sustainable fisheries. The UK Administrations will publish 43 FMPs over the next 5 years.

FMPs are a key policy tool helping deliver reform in our management to achieve sustainable fisheries around England. FMPs will be evidence-based action plans, developed with fishermen and stakeholders, setting out policies to deliver sustainable fisheries for current and future generations. FMPs will support management interventions, research and development, and our negotiations with other coastal states. Our FMPs will also contribute to the delivery of objectives in the Fisheries Act supporting environmental, social and economic improvements in our fisheries.

Defra have 6 'frontrunner FMP projects' led by delivery partners that include the fishing sector, arms-length bodies and Defra policy. These projects will pilot the development of this new policy with stakeholders and prepare the first English FMPs to be published later in 2023.

For further information, see our Fisheries Management Plans page on Gov.UK (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fisheries-management-plans/fisheries-management-plans>).

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Libby West, Natural England.

Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries: Evolution or Revolution?

The inclusion of the Ecosystem Objective in the Fisheries Act, and the commitment in the Joint Fisheries Statement to the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, are broadly considered as positive steps towards reducing the effects of fishing on the marine environment. But how many times in a week do you hear the term 'ecosystem approach', or 'ecosystem-based approach' mentioned, in reference to fisheries or other marine activities? What do those terms really mean and, more importantly, have we made any progress in *delivering* an ecosystem-based approach in the decades since the terminology first emerged? How might our post-Brexit fisheries framework support the delivery of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and where should we focus our efforts over the coming years?

Inspired by a recent presentation by the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate, this talk will consider whether achieving an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management requires evolution or revolution.

Contact: Libby.West@naturalengland.org.uk

Useful information

UK Fisheries Act 2020 [Fisheries Act 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

UK Joint Fisheries Statement: [Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

FAO guidelines on ecosystem approach to fisheries: [Fisheries management, 2. The ecosystem approach to fisheries | GLOBEFISH | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org)

Natural England Commissioned Report on implementing REM to reduce risk to UK MS

Descriptors: [Risk-based approach to Remote Electronic Monitoring for English inshore fisheries - NECR437 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Dawn Purchase, Aquaculture Programme Manager, Marine Conservation Society. ***Aquaculture's role in providing food for the future***

With wild capture fisheries at their maximum capacity and the global demand for fish increasing, aquaculture will continue to fill the fish gap. Producing around half of the seafood we eat, aquaculture is predicted to supply over 60% of our fish protein needs by 2030. But can this growth be environmentally responsible? Aspirations within the 3 pillars of sustainability indicate competing needs – healthy planet, low cost, available healthy food and economic viability. All of which to be delivered within the constraints of a nature and a climate crisis, whilst ensuring food security and delivering for planetary and human health.

But what is the reality? Can this be achieved within environmental limits without adding to existing pressures? Are there solutions to these competing demands? This talk will put forward some opportunities and solutions for the future of the sustainable development of aquaculture, including how innovation has to play a vital role in addressing these challenges.

Contact: Dawn.purchase@mcsuk.org

Good Fish Guide

<https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/>

Marine Conservation Society

<https://www.mcsuk.org/>

Jo Pollett, Senior Fisheries Manager, Marine Stewardship Council. ***Project UK, a sustainable future for UK fisheries***

Project UK is a collaborative partnership between the fishing industry, government, scientists, NGOs and the seafood supply chain. The project aims for an environmentally sustainable future for UK fisheries, through implementation of credible FIPs. Project UK is facilitated by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), building on the organisation's expertise and unique relationship with the seafood supply chain and other key fisheries stakeholders. The aim is to support UK fisheries aiming to improve their sustainability credentials to a level that meets best practice according to the MSC Fisheries Standard.

Project UK FIPs use the MSC's pre-assessment processes to identify areas where improvements are needed. They then develop fishery-specific Action Plans to address these improvements across MSC's key principles of sustainable stocks, environmental impacts and management, representing best practice in working towards an environmentally sustainable future.

Since launching there has been considerable progress and improvement across all Project UK FIPs, ranging from collaborative, industry led harvest strategy development, research partnerships to improve data and analysis on fishery interactions with non target species and

mitigation of gear impacts on habitats, as well as progress in understanding the human welfare elements of each of the fisheries.

Contact: jo.pollett@msc.org
[Project UK \(projectukfisheries.co.uk\)](http://ProjectUK(projectukfisheries.co.uk))

Session 4 Panel Debate

How do we tackle the disparity between aspiration and reality?

Speakers will provide updates on Fisheries Management Plans, aquaculture and partnership working between industry, science, NGOs and the seafood supply chain. **Jeremy Percy**, National Under Ten Fishermen's Association, has been invited to join the panel of speakers.

Session 5

BALANCING ACT: Strategic compensation and spatial prioritisation

Speakers will discuss the future for marine planning and how we manage environmental impact strategically, co-existence for offshore wind and fisheries, and what role there is for the UK marine Strategy.

Chair: Peter Barham, Seabed User Developer Group
Facilitator: Dickon Howell

Joly Macleod, Deputy Director for Marine Environment, Marine and Fisheries Directorate, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Domestic marine policy – update on progress

An update on the Government's progress over the past year towards its commitments to protect our seas. This will include updates on the United Kingdom Marine Strategy and working towards Good Environmental Status. We'll highlight the good progress to protect our MPAs, our consultation on Highly Protected Marine Areas, and how our domestic work feeds into our international work as an OSPAR contracting party. We will also update on implementation of the marine commitments in the British Energy Security Strategy including how we have responded to the ambition of delivering 50Gw of offshore wind by 2030 through the offshore wind environmental improvement programme. The presentation will cover the content and aims of the OWEIP, findings from the opportunity to comment on it, its proposed inclusion in the Energy Bill and our consultation earlier in the year on marine net gain. It will finish by outlining key priority areas for the year ahead.

Contact: Joly.Macleod@defra.gov.uk

Olivia Thomas, Head of Marine Planning, The Crown Estate.

One space, multiple pressures: the need for a coordinated and holistic approach to managing the UK sea space.

This presentation will explore the multiple demands being placed on the marine environment, ensuring energy security for the UK, needing to provide food security and continued extraction of natural resources, all whilst reaching a point in which the marine's ecosystems need to recover. Olivia will provide some high-level context of The Crown Estate's role in seabed management, the various of programmes of activity seeking to address evidence gaps, the development of digital tools, and the collective drive towards the necessary change required in how the sea space is managed.

Kat Route-Stephens, Offshore Wind Industry Council and **Audrey Jones**, Defra.
Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation (COWSC)

The offshore wind sector is set to expand significantly to meet the government's ambition of up to 50 GW by 2030. Many current, proposed, and future developments will need to consider a derogation under the Habitats Regulations and / or Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (or Devolved Administration equivalents) that will require compensatory measures to offset any residual adverse environmental impacts to achieve no net loss. To achieve this, a new, more strategic approach for delivering ecological compensation is required.

The Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation – COWSC is a collaborative governance structure aiming to explore, develop and implement strategic compensation solutions to enable an offshore wind industry that delivers on offshore wind ambitions and the UK's net zero ambition that is enshrined in law, whilst ensuring the ecological coherence of the UK's marine protected area network.

COWSC brings together government representatives, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs), environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (eNGOs) and industry across all four UK jurisdictions to work together in partnership.

Contacts

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Audrey Jones

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Links

<https://www.owic.org.uk/>

[Energy Security Bill factsheet: Offshore wind environmental improvement package - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



Mark Duffy, Marine Principal Advisor, Natural England.

Managing Environmental Impact Strategically

At the last face-to-face Coastal Futures in January 2020, I advocated “offsetting” offshore wind impacts on marine birds via improving the North Sea sandeel fishery i.e., getting better use out of our sandeels. As today I am sandwiched between others focussing in on this, I will delve into the wider context of managing marine environmental impacts strategically, and setting out the case for wider application of GES, Good Environmental Status.

Conservation efforts in the marine environment have largely adopted tried and tested terrestrial approaches which have largely translated into categories of marine protected area. Great strides have been made over the last 2 decades in this domain. But in the marine medium should we really treat *the environment* as just another sector that can be allocated its own space? For that is largely where we find ourselves today- every sector from wind, to fishing, to aggregates to cabling are all making their claim for a stake in the UK sea area. Are MPAs the marine environment's slice of the bigger pie? And more fundamentally will the network of MPAs (management pending) be sufficient to generate the much-needed recovery? In 2020 I suggested a shift from protecting components of the marine environment to a more holistic approach, whereby GES provided the overarching umbrella with both MPAs and Sustainable Development making their due contributions to marine ecosystem recovery.

3 years on, where do find ourselves? Well NE has just delivered GES advice in to the first set of Fisheries Management Plans; it is early days and may necessitate further refinement, but it signals a shift towards true systems thinking. Last year MRAG did work for Natural England, setting out how the various GES Descriptors could potentially be impacted by different fishing gears. We have since developed the Natural England Seabed Sensitivity Tool (NESST) that provides a data layer of the sensitivity of our seas to benthic disturbance and are currently developing this so that it can account for seabed pressures generated by any marine operation anywhere. We have also developed Natural Capital thinking and applied that approach to the Sandeel Fishery, demonstrating the full range of goods and services provided by that forage fish.

Going forward we intend to enhance both the tools and supporting evidence needed to inform the “balancing act” ascribed to this session. There does need to be recognition that trade-offs are inevitable and that the much sought-after *win-win* can't be achieved as much as we might like – it might be a case of more coexisting than co-locating. However, achieving optimal use from our marine environment needs to be done in a manner that supports ecosystem recovery, recognising that we will need to “recover” in a manner to be compatible with *future* prevailing environmental conditions.

Katie-Jo Luxton, Director of Global Conservation, RSPB.

Harnessing Nature Positive to deliver strategic ecosystem restoration solutions for our seas

Healthy, thriving restored seas are vital for net zero and at the heart of the UK Marine Strategy requirement to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES). Such an imperative should be central to strategic, 'Nature Positive' marine planning, fisheries management and energy deployment. However ineffective planning and failure to deliver conservation means GES is not being achieved and nature is in a downward spiral.

The need for joint action on the nature and climate emergency has never been greater. Strategically addressing the environmental impacts of renewables development is essential if

we are to halt the loss of nature, but this alone will not be enough. We must restore nature and the resilience of our seas, hand in hand with our offshore energy transition.

This presentation will outline strategic solutions for a truly transformative 'Nature Positive' marine energy transition – including the important role of the mitigation hierarchy and the place for strategic compensation. We must do this in collaboration, at scale internationally for the benefit of nature, people and climate.

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Celestine Godbehere, Ørsted.

Strategic compensation as part of marine recovery

Ørsted is the first developer to be granted development consent for an offshore wind farm (Hornsea Three) through the Habitats Regulations Assessment's derogation process, and also the first developer to put forward a full derogation case in a Development Consent Order Application (Hornsea Four). Experience of this highly complex and contentious process has led Ørsted to promote a strategic approach to ecological compensation, and there is now broad consensus amongst marine stakeholders that this is the best way forward.

The overarching purpose of strategic compensation for offshore wind is to enable delivery of ambitious climate targets and in parallel ensure the most ecologically effective measures for supporting at-risk habitats and species are delivered. With this in mind, the project-specific compensation cases Ørsted has put forward incorporate elements designed to inform future strategic delivery, including research, feasibility testing, and out-of-kind supporting measures. Activities which meet the criteria for strategic compensation will in most cases be activities considered under a range of scenarios, including Marine Protected Area management, habitat restoration initiatives, carbon sequestration, and Biodiversity Net Gain. For marine recovery to happen in practice, developer contributions, including through strategic compensation, must be part of the picture.

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Dr Andrew Gill, Cefas.

How can we understand the outcome of co-existence?

In the ever-busier UK marine space, the co-existence of Offshore Wind (OSW) and other marine uses is needed to meet the UK energy targets and associated net zero goals, whilst ensuring marine environment enhancement and social goals. This raises the question of how our scientific knowledge can be used to understand the outcomes of co-existence and to promote benefits whilst minimising potential conflicts and unfavourable outcomes? To understand this, we highlight the multidisciplinary and integrated socio-ecological system (SES) approach, where both individual and collective aspects of OSW-co-existence scenarios are considered to provide a balanced assessment to determine the outcomes of co-existence. In this presentation, we will highlight how we are applying this thinking to draw on existing knowledge and data and specify new data required to understand how we can manage environmental impact strategically, ensuring coexistence for OSW and the marine environment.

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Weblink: <https://www.cefas.co.uk/services/research-advice-and-consultancy/offshore-and-marine-renewable-energy/>

Session 5 Panel Debate

How can we deliver strategic marine resource management in the UK?

Speakers will discuss the future for marine planning and how we manage environmental impact strategically, co-existence for offshore wind and fisheries, and what role there is for the UK marine Strategy.

Session 6

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs): From paper to protection

Speakers will offer a global, European and UK perspective on how well countries are progressing protection of habitats and species through marine management.

Chair: Dr Sue Gubbay

Facilitator: Natasha Bradshaw

Dr Simon Cripps, Executive Director – Global Marine Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society.

A global perspective on the UK reaching 30x30 targets

Within Aichi Target 11 on protected areas, currently only about 7% of global oceans are designated, with half that total effectively managed. With biodiversity still in freefall this indicates that a much greater level of protection and restoration is required.

At the CBD COP in Montreal in 2022, many governments proposed a level of at least 30% protection and restoration by 2030 – the 30x30 challenge. Two coalitions of countries, the High Ambition Coalition (HAC), led by Costa Rica, France and the UK, and the marine-specific Global Oceans Alliance with over 73 countries led by the UK supported this 30% level of ambition. This is not though just a numbers game as 30x30 is part of a wider “Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”. Elements such as quality, indicators, evaluation and equity are important.

The definition of what can count towards the 30% target is being hotly debated. The UK has several types of protected area designations. With its system of feature rather than area based protection providing only partial protection from some threats such as bottom trawling, there is concern that a lack of credible protection domestically undermines the UK government's leading role in international policy. This is an opportunity for greater policy coherence.

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<https://www.wcs.org/our-work/marine-program>

Donal Griffin, Fair Seas Marine Policy Officer, Fair Seas Ireland.

Ireland's Fair Seas: on our way to 30x30

Ireland is lagging behind neighbouring and European Union (EU) countries in terms of the quantity and quality of its Marine Protected Area (MPA) network. Despite a Government commitment to delivering 10% of Irish waters as protected by 2020, increasing to 30% by 2030, Ireland's MPAs currently extend to only 8.3% of its seas. The main legal basis for designating

MPAs in Ireland comes from EU law, specifically the Birds and Habitats Directives. The Directives are limited by their EU level focus on vulnerable, rare and/or endemic marine habitats and species, thus excluding additional conservation features of national importance. The Irish Government acknowledged the limitations of the existing legal framework for marine protection, and since 2019, it has been in various preliminary stages of developing specific MPA legislation which will allow it to unilaterally implement new national MPAs. In December 2022, the Government approved the 'General Scheme' of the proposed bill, with work on drafting and enacting primary legislation to follow thereafter. Fair Seas is a coalition of environmental Non-Governmental Organisations and networks, working together to ensure Ireland's new MPA legislation is as ambitious and robust as possible, positively influencing marine protection and restoration efforts in Ireland for decades to come.

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Follow the campaign on [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Instagram](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [YouTube](#)

Nick Greenwood, Head of Marine Conservation, Marine Management Organisation.
Managing Fishing in England's Offshore Marine Protected Areas

There are 40 MPAs in England's offshore waters, covering 66,507 km² or 37% of this region.

These MPAs receive protections from many activities from the point of consultation, including most marine construction and aggregates dredging. However, until recently the EU Common Fisheries Policy blocked the UK from introducing measures to protect these sites from fishing without the agreement of the EU and member states.

The UK is now an independent coastal state, and the Fisheries Act 2020 gave the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) new powers to manage fishing for the conservation of marine species and habitats. The MMO is now undertaking a programme of work to assess and manage fishing in all 40 offshore MPAs by the end of 2024.

The first four MMO byelaws to protect our offshore MPAs came into force in June 2022 and protect important habitats including cold water coral gardens, and the English portion of the Dogger Bank – the largest sandbank in the North Sea.

This presentation will set out the next stages of the MMO's work to assess and manage fishing across all of England's offshore MPAs.

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Dr. Jean-Luc Solandt, Principal Specialist, Marine Protected Areas; Marine Conservation Society.

UK MPAs: What, after all this time and effort, is an MPA?

I seek to cut through the fuzz of information, experts, opinion to see what has happened, what people want to see changed, and perhaps what is essential for reversing a phase shift in ecosystem health. Are MPAs 'the ticket'? Will they show the way forwards for the rest of the seas' management? Are we now seeing too many MPAs? Has their efficacy been diluted?

Are we guilty of 'zeitgeist' MPAs? (climate change one day, biodiversity the next)? What can be done?

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Session 6 Panel Debate

How can governments and stakeholders be mobilised and motivated over the next decade to achieve real ocean protection?

Speakers will offer a global, European and UK perspective on how well countries are progressing protection of habitats and species through marine management.

Keynote 4

Hugo Tagholm, Executive Director and Vice President of Oceana in the UK: ***'Campaigns for a Wild Ocean'***

Closing

Bob Earll and **Natasha Bradshaw**, Ocean and Coastal Futures.
Reflections on thirty years of Coastal Futures and ambitions for the next decade

This year is the 30th Coastal Futures conference since Bob Earll initiated the conference series in 1994. Over the past year Bob has transitioned his business, including the CMS News service, to Ocean and Coastal Futures Ltd. (OCF). Natasha Bradshaw is now the lead organiser of the conference and has been working closely with Bob for several years. This talk will feature Bob reflecting on the origins of Coastal Futures and the journey to the conference as we see it today. We will also hear insights from some friends and colleagues, reflecting on the past three decades and the contribution which the conference has made to the coastal and marine community. Natasha will close the conference with a brief insight into the future direction of OCF, offer thanks to Bob for his substantial impact, and announce a new award programme.

Bob Earll
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Natasha Bradshaw
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Coastal Futures: <http://coastal-futures.net/>

CMS: Ocean & Coastal Jobs and Events Advertising your vacancies, events & services

The [CMS Email](#) service continues to provide an engaging and cost-effective opportunity to advertise job vacancies, training courses/conferences and reports/publications to a wide audience.

The details are circulated to our 7400+ contacts from the water and marine sectors who have strong experience of environmental & sustainability issues. From March 2022 to January 2023, we circulated 347 adverts and have received very positive feedback from our clients:

"We recently advertised a training course with CMS and it was very effective – almost a third of our participants heard about the course through CMS. It is very straightforward to submit an advert and the CMS team are extremely helpful and efficient."
Imogen George, Dialogue Matters (October 2022)

"Great service. Received some very good applications. Communication with CMS was excellent and they are always very helpful."
Diana Fu, Brown & May Marine Ltd (May 2022)

"The quality of applications we received for our consultancy role was an order of magnitude better than the expensive, non-specialist platforms we previously used for equivalent roles. We were delighted with the response and service we received."
Daniel Jones, Uplift (April 2022)

"We've advertised a few times for ecological positions through CMS and have always received a good response from well qualified applicants. It represents excellent value for money."
Andy Webb, HiDef Aerial Surveying Ltd (December 2021)

"I used CMS to advertise for an important national coastal specialist role. The process was quick and easy and the advert reached all corners of the globe. I had a fantastic response with many high quality candidates to choose from."
Robert Rhodes, National Trust (September 2021)

How your advert is promoted

There are three main elements to our service:

1. The main service is provided by direct mailing your advert to our Jobs/Water/Marine contacts who have signed up to receive our mailings (*the most relevant list*)
2. The advert text is uploaded to the [CMS website](#) (*to the Jobs, News or Events column*)
3. The details are promoted in the CMS Newsletters every Tuesday and Thursday; these mailings reach 7400+ contacts

Feedback

After the closing date we provide feedback on the click and open rates for both the direct mailing and the weekly publicity in the CMS Newsletters.

Cost

Our price remains very competitive, the cost is £180.00 plus VAT per advert.

[CMS Website](#)

Our user-friendly site emphasises 'What we do in the marine and water sector' making it easier for those looking for details of News, Jobs and Conferences, as well as our advertising clients.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please email or call Jayne.