



# Coastal Futures Conference 2024

*An inclusive future for our seas*

## Delegate Notes

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online

 [CMS@coastms.co.uk](mailto:CMS@coastms.co.uk)

 [www.coastal-futures.net](http://www.coastal-futures.net)

 [Ocean & Coastal Futures](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ocean-coastal-futures)

 [@CF\\_conf](https://twitter.com/CF_conf)



# Thanks to our Platinum Sponsors



Reception sponsor



24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online



# Thanks to our sponsors



SOTEAG



AtkinsRéalis



24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online



# Welcome

## #CoastalFutures24

Coastal Futures has hosted a lively community of coastal and marine professionals for over three decades. The conference provides unrivalled knowledge sharing, networking, promotion, and training opportunities. Now in its 31st year, Coastal Futures continues to be the most comprehensive annual review and pointer to future trends for coastal and marine practitioners. We are excited to welcome in-person delegates to the historic Royal Institution, the home of scientific discovery with a rich history of innovation. There will also be an interactive livestream broadcast of the conference for delegates across the UK.

### **This year's theme: 'An Inclusive Future for our Seas'**

Coastal and marine practitioners are working in a growing field. An inclusive approach is needed to engage diverse perspectives in planning and decision-making, to increase our collective ability to meet sustainability challenges. Our ocean and coast are calling for restoration alongside meeting the needs of society.

We will hear from many specialists to help drive our community of practice towards a more inclusive future for our seas. Six sessions across two days will feature high level speakers from industry, academia, NGOs, local communities, government and agencies. There will be reflection on recent work and achievements, with a focus on the challenging questions about the future. Every session has a panel debate where we look forward to hearing thoughts of speakers as well as Q&A from the audience in-person and online. Speaker's presentations and a summary report will be made available after the conference via the [Coastal Futures archive](#) for your ongoing reference throughout 2024.

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online



# Welcome

## #CoastalFutures24

### The Venue: Royal Institution

It is a great privilege to be able to host this year's conference at the historic Royal Institution, at the home of scientific discovery. The venue provides more opportunities for networking which is one of the most important aspects of the conference. There are a wide range of spaces for you to have conversations including the ground floor Conversation Room, small group meetings in the basement cafe, and some quiet space in the first floor Demonstration Room. Sponsor's exhibits are located throughout the venue, with films being shown during breaks in the Theatre and Library on the 1st floor, Conversation Room on the Ground Floor and Cafe in the Basement. Please ask one of the OCF team or volunteers (with orange lanyards) if you need directions. The drinks reception on Wednesday evening runs from 18:00 to 19:30 – please vacate the building promptly. At the end of the conference, we will be announcing the winner of the 1st annual Bob Earll Award to recognise an outstanding contribution to ocean and coastal management.

### Your Hosts: Ocean and Coastal Futures 'OCF'

The Ocean and Coastal Futures (OCF) team are delighted to bring you this year's Coastal Futures conference. Natasha Barker Bradshaw has led the organisation with Diana Hunt, Jayne O'Nions and our new team member Hannah Ladd-Jones, together with the support of fellow OCF Directors David Tudor and Dickon Howell. We are grateful for the contributions from 26 sponsors to make the conference viable. This year we are hosting over 600 delegates from 200 organisations (400+ in-person and 200+ online) making Coastal Futures the largest ocean conference of its kind in the UK. This 2024 edition will provide delegates with wide-ranging coverage of the critical current and future issues for the estuarine, coastal and marine sectors with a focus on inclusivity throughout the two-day event.

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online

# Conference details



**Wi-Fi:** Name of conference network: **Ri-Public** Password: **Cavendish**

**Social Media:** Please use **#CoastalFutures24** and tag us on the relevant pages, Twitter/X: @CF\_Conf and LinkedIn: Ocean and Coastal Futures

**Registration:** Registration opens at **08.30 on day one** and from **08:00 on day two**.

**Access to the lecture theatre:** The main doors into 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 doors at the top of the stairs at the back of the theatre (and go up to the balcony). Do not try to enter via the main doors into the theatre from the Ante Room on the 1st floor as you will disturb the speaker.

**Timing:** The conference needs to run on time to allow speakers their allocated time and for the panel debates. A bell will be rung/announcement made 10 minutes before the start of each session and a final reminder 3 minutes before the doors close.

**Refreshment Breaks:** There are two main refreshment breaks, with savoury food at the first break and sweet refreshments in the second break. Once you have collected your food, please move away from the serving table. Catering staff are on hand if you need anything. All food is vegetarian or vegan.

**No food is allowed in the theatre.** We recommend bringing a water bottle. Please do not bring any citrus fruits or citrus flavoured teas or drinks to the conference as we have a delegate with a severe allergy.

**Evening reception:** At the end of day one, wine and soft drinks will be served from 18:00-19:30. Please vacate the venue promptly at 19:30 (and by 20:00 at the very latest).

**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 in the theatre.

**Q&A:** The *Slido* app will be used throughout the conference to facilitate Q&A, panel debates & polls. You will be given a joining code and do not need to download anything in advance. *Slido* can be joined through a laptop / 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.

**Feedback:** Shortly after the event you will be sent a link to an online evaluation survey.

**Conference outputs:** The Coastal Futures archive will host the programme, delegate notes and speaker presentations.

**Valuables:** If you have anything you value keep it with you, e.g. do not leave laptops unattended. You may store bags and equipment in the *Demonstration Room* but we cannot take responsibility or guarantee their safety.

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

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online





# Wednesday 24th January Session 1

10:00	Welcome	<b>Dr David Tudor</b> on behalf of the Ocean & Coastal Futures organising team
10:10	Opening address	<b>Sally-Ann Hart MP</b> , Chair of the Coastal Communities and Oceans All Party Parliamentary Groups
10:20	Keynote	<b>Yvette Curtis</b> , Equity Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Surfers Against Sewage: Ocean Advocates Everywhere: The importance of ensuring all voices stand together for the future of our ocean
10:35	Scene setting	<b>Dr Jen Ashworth</b> , Head of Domestic Marine Conservation, Defra: Protecting and managing England's seas – Defra marine update

## Community Aspirations

*How are coastal and marine practitioners responding to the inclusivity agenda?*

Speakers will navigate the future for coastal communities facing the extremes of social and economic inequality, environmental stewardship and how we can support a 'just transition' through the management of our coasts and seas.

**Chair: Sarah Young**, WWF

- 10:50
- **Samantha Richardson MBE**, Academy Director, National Coastal Tourism Academy - One Coast Coalition: Pledge for the Coast
  - **Nicola Rimington**, Natural Resources Wales: Approaches to Integrated Coastal Management for future generations
  - **Joe Perry**, Highland Council, Climate Action Coastlines: Nature-based solutions for threatened coastal communities
  - **Mandelai Wolfe**, Lyme Bay Fisherman's CIC: A model for small-scale coastal fleet representation; for fishermen, by fishermen
  - **Elaine Hayes**, Chief Executive Plymouth Sound National Marine Park: developing a marine identity for people, planet and place
  - **Jetske Germing**, Wales Coast and Seas Partnership: Investment, literacy and capacity building - actions for future generations

Panel Debate

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online



# Wednesday 24th January Session 2

12:20

Refreshments

## Capitalising on Values

*How will knowledge of 'values' make a difference to our prospects?*

Speakers will consider how to bring the latest progress in evidence development tools for natural and social capital into mainstream decision-making, and whether they will support inclusivity and longer-term investment.

**Chair: Hugo Tagholm**, Oceana UK

13:30

- **Professor Graham Underwood**, Chair, UK Blue Carbon Evidence Partnership: How evidence of natural and social capital values will support the protection of blue carbon habitats
- **Mike Nelson**, Environment Agency: Catchment to Coast - Exploring natural capital approaches across the land-sea interface
- **Ellen McHarg**, Cefas: Valuing the King Charles III England Coast Path through benefit transfer
- **Elizabeth Beall**, Managing Director, Finance Earth: A roadmap towards establishing high-integrity marine natural capital markets
- **Leonie Robinson**, Marine Management Organisation: Decision-making for a thriving marine environment - are we doing this, and if not, why not?
- **Erika Hughes**, Diverse Marine Values: Performing the Coast, from North to South: Theatre, Arts-Based Research, and Coastal & Marine Management in England and Scotland

Panel Debate

15:00

Refreshments

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online





# Wednesday 24th January Session 3

## Delivering a Sustainable Blue Economy

*What approaches to decision-making are needed to balance the need for social and economic benefit alongside environmental recovery?*

From large scale, nationally driven new developments, to small scale community-led businesses, speakers will consider how to ensure that economic activities are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable.

**Chair: Prof. Dickon Howell**, Howell Marine Consulting & OCF Director

- 16:00
- **Michelle Moore**, The Crown Estate: Taking a whole seabed approach to delivering a sustainable blue economy
  - **Benj Sykes**, Head of Environment, Consenting & External Affairs, Ørsted Offshore Wind: Sustainability beyond carbon
  - **Geraint Evans**, Chief Executive, UK Major Ports Group: Coastal Communities and Major Ports
  - **Alyx Elliott**, Oceana UK: Fish not fossils - Introducing the Ocean Alliance Against Offshore Drilling
  - **Annabel Stockwin**, Defra: Fisheries Management Plans
  - **Louise O'Hara Murray**, Marine Planning Manager, Scottish Government: Developing a new national marine plan for Scotland.

### Panel Debate

17:30	Keynote	<b>Srabani Sen</b> OBE, CEO & Founder, Full Colour: The three C's of equity, diversity and inclusion
17:45	Guest Speaker	<b>Monty Halls</b> : Generation Sea Change
18:00		<b>Reception</b> , sponsored by Arc Marine

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online



# Thursday 25th January Session 4

09:00	Welcome	<b>Dr Natasha Bradshaw</b> on behalf of the Ocean & Coastal Futures organising team
	Keynote	<b>Helen Wakeham</b> , Director of Water Transformation, Environment Agency, Water Transformation: Source to Sea
09:15	Scene setting	<b>Dr Gemma Harper</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Joint Nature Conservation Committee: The ocean is calling us...are we listening?

## Evidence Assessment Into Action

*In response to the latest evidence and assessments, how will we drive action?*

Speakers will present a UK perspective on the recently launched OSPAR Quality Status Report for the NE Atlantic, the pollution challenges we face and the role of the UK Marine Strategy to protect and recover the state of our seas.

09:30

**Chair: Dave Stone**, Chief Scientist, JNCC

- **Dominic Pattinson**, OSPAR: The evidence we need for the North-East Atlantic we want
- **Christina Herbon**, JNCC: Key conclusions from the OSPAR QSR 2023 Biodiversity themes: challenges, risks and actions to halt and reverse biodiversity decline
- **Bob Earll**: Reporting annual change on a regional scale and building social capital
- **Keyleigh Thomas**, JNCC/Cefas: Assessing Marine Litter in UK Seas
- **Dr Matt Frost**, Chair, UK National Decade Committee/Plymouth Marine Laboratory: Supporting Ocean Action at a global level - the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the UK National Decade Committee.
- **Caroline Carr**, Clean Humber: Pollution Challenges and Blue Sky Thinking for Change - What if we cared about the sea?

Panel Debate

11:00

Refreshments

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online



# Thursday 25th January Session 5

## Restoration Prioritisation

*Are we evolving the right solutions to deliver marine restoration and a nature-positive approach to decision-making?*

Speakers will highlight recent efforts to realise restoration ambitions including new mapping, tools & techniques to help prioritise recovery from estuaries to the coast and offshore.

**Chair: Roger Proudfoot**, Environment Agency

12:30

- **Charlotte Johnson**, Natural England: Marine Restoration Potential (MaRePo)
- **Lily Pauls**, Natural Resources Wales: Building resilience of Welsh marine ecosystems through Nature Networks
- **Annika Clements**, DAERA Northern Ireland: Coastal mapping and new initiatives to prioritise habitat restoration
- **Tara Hooper**, Natural England: Marine Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment: Marine extensions to Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- **Will Melhuish**, Operations Manager, Exo Engineering: Achieving Biodiversity Net Gain for Coastal Infrastructure
- **Eve Leegwater**, Environment Agency: Scaling up estuarine and coastal habitat restoration – from policy to practical action

Panel Debate including Jenny Murray, Blue Marine Foundation

14:00

Refreshments

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online





# Thursday 25th January Session 6

## Mobilising Equitable Management

*How do we mobilise engagement in strategic marine resource management and choose between priorities?*

Speakers will offer perspectives on progress in marine spatial prioritisation and how to ensure that blue economy opportunities involve coastal communities, whilst protecting and restoring the quality of our coasts and seas.

**Chair: Prof. Clare Fitzsimmons**, Newcastle University

- 15:00
- **Rachel Brown**, MMO: English Marine Plans - the next generation
  - **Daniel Morris**, Orkney Islands Council: Unlocking the potential of regional marine planning; an Orkney Islands perspective
  - **Chloe Wenman**, Marine Conservation Society: Priorities for strengthening marine planning in Wales
  - **Sarah Coulthard**, Newcastle University: Trust and legitimacy - a two way street in the pursuit of marine resource co-management
  - **Simone de Winter**, Cefas: Cumulative effects of offshore wind farms in a marine spatial world
  - **Jennifer Godwin**, Seabed User and Developer Group: Principles for Marine Spatial Prioritisation: Space for Nature and the Blue Economy

Panel Debate including James Green, Orkney Islands Council

- 16:30
- **Katrina Ryan**, Mindfully Wired Communications: The real change that communications can bring about in co-management

- 16:45
- **Bob Earll Award**: Outstanding contribution to ocean and coastal management

17:00 Close

24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online

# Coastal Futures 2024 – Delegate Notes

## Contents

<b>Contents</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Speakers Abstracts</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>DAY 1 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Welcome Address: Sally-Ann Hart MP .....	2
Keynote speaker: Yvette Curtis .....	2
Scene Setting speaker: Dr Jen Ashworth.....	2
<b>Session One: Community Aspirations</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Session Two: Capitalising on Values</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Session Three: Delivering a Sustainable Blue Economy</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Keynote speaker: Srabani Sen .....	14
Guest speaker: Monty Halls .....	14
<b>DAY 2 – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Keynote speaker: Helen Wakeham .....	16
Scene setting speaker: Dr Gemma Harper .....	16
<b>Session Four: Evidence Assessment into Action</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Session Five: Restoration Prioritisation</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Session Six: Mobilising Equitable Management</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Keynote speaker: Katrina Ryan .....	27
Bob Earll Award .....	28
<b>Background to Coastal Futures Conferences</b> .....	<b>29</b>

# Speakers Abstracts

## DAY 1 – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

### Welcome Address: Sally-Ann Hart MP

**Sally-Ann Hart MP**, Chair of the Coastal Communities and Oceans All Party Parliamentary Groups

Sally-Ann is MP for the coastal constituency of Hastings and Rye and lucky enough to call it her home for over 25 years. Sally-Ann qualified as a lawyer specialising in corporate finance law with a City of London law firm. Sally-Ann later became a local Magistrate in Hastings, working in both the Adult Criminal and Family Proceedings Courts, and a District Councillor for a rural coastal ward.

It is whilst as a Magistrate and Councillor that Sally-Ann realised her determination to be a Member of Parliament to help improve and enhance the lives of the less fortunate and vulnerable residents in her constituency.

Sally-Ann is a member of several APPGs involving education and also Chairs the APPG on Coastal Communities, APPG for the Ocean and the APPG for the South East of England.

**Contact:** [sallyann.hart.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sallyann.hart.mp@parliament.uk)

### Keynote speaker: Yvette Curtis

#### **Ocean Advocates Everywhere: The importance of ensuring all voices stand together for the future of our ocean**

**Yvette Curtis**, Equity Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Surfers Against Sewage

The Ocean covers 70% of our planet, yet those engaged in its' protection, its' advocacy and even using water as a form of leisure time in the UK are limited to a small section of society. To ensure its' protection, and survival we must be including, engaging and ensuring all people, regardless of their background and circumstance have the opportunity to build their own relationships with water. SAS provide a guideline and support for its' protection, advocacy and activism that is safe, impactful and most importantly, relevant to them and their experiences. Our role is to ensure we are all part of the ocean's future – no matter how far we may physically or emotionally be from it.

**Contact:** [YvetteCurtis@sas.org.uk](mailto:YvetteCurtis@sas.org.uk)

#### **Further information**

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yvette-curtis-9a51ba174>

### Scene Setting speaker: Dr Jen Ashworth

#### **Protecting and managing England's seas – Defra marine update**

**Dr Jen Ashworth**, Head of Domestic Marine Conservation, Defra

Government has a number of domestic and international commitments to protect our marine ecosystems and biodiversity and help us reach net zero. In 2023 the Environmental Improvement Plan was published setting a new target to halt the decline in our biodiversity, so we can achieve thriving plants and wildlife. It sets out how we will strengthen protections of our Marine Protected Areas and put fisheries byelaws in place by the end of 2024 and commits to creating Highly Protected Marine Areas. These actions support our 30by30 commitment under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. We continue to work towards achieving good



environmental status and will be building on the OSPAR Quality Status Report intending to consult on the UK Marine Strategy Part 1 report this year. Our Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package under the British Energy Security Strategy commits Defra to a number of actions including on environmental assessment reform and strategic compensation. We recently published our response to the Marine Net Gain consultation and are working on developing detailed policy. Our Marine Spatial Prioritisation programme is working across government to look at how we can ensure the best use of our limited marine space. The talk will provide an update on progress on these areas.

Jen heads up Defra's Domestic Marine Conservation team covering Marine Protected Areas, Highly Protected Marine Areas, UK Marine Strategy, OSPAR, marine licensing and marine reform. Prior to this Jen led the HPMAs team to identify and designate the first HPMAs in England and led the secretariat for the Benyon Review. Before joining Defra Jen worked in Natural England for 14 years leading on MCZ identification, MPA network design and MPA conservation advice. Jen is a Fellow and Trustee of the Marine Biological Association.

**Contact:** [jen.ashworth@defra.gov.uk](mailto:jen.ashworth@defra.gov.uk)

# Session One: Community Aspirations

## *How are coastal and marine practitioners responding to the inclusivity agenda?*

Speakers will navigate the future for coastal communities facing the extremes of social and economic inequality, environmental stewardship and how we can support a 'just transition' through the management of our coasts and seas.

**Chair: Sarah Young, WWF**

### **One Coast Coalition: Pledge for the Coast**

**Samantha Richardson MBE, National Coastal Tourism Academy**

OneCoast is a coalition of coastal stakeholders working together to raise awareness of coastal issues and opportunities to enhance our coastal communities and landscapes. After an introduction to the group, Samantha will give an update on some of the current challenges and opportunities facing coastal communities including an overview of the current performance of the visitor economy and opportunities for growth.

In 2023 OneCoast worked collaboratively to deliver the Year of the Coast 2023 which included a wide number of initiatives and activities to celebrate our stunning coastline. It included the launch of the "Pledge for the Coast" encouraging stakeholders, residents and visitors to make a promise to support our wonderful and unique coast. As we move into our 2024 campaign "A Coast for All..." we encourage all coastal stakeholders to get involved and make their "Pledge for the Coast".

**Contact:** [samantha.richardson@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk](mailto:samantha.richardson@coastaltourismacademy.co.uk)

**Further Information:**

[Pledge for the Coast – LGA Coastal SIG](#)

[Download the A Coast For All... Toolkit | National Coastal Tourism Academy](#)

### **Approaches to Integrated Coastal Management for Future Generations**

**Dr Nicola Rimington, Marine & Coastal Physical Processes & Coastal Management, Natural Resources Wales**

The pressure to adapt to climate change at the coast is growing. In Wales, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Environment (Wales) Act 2016 drive what we do as public bodies, and importantly, how we do things. Whilst there is an inevitable focus on the direct impacts from increased flooding and erosion risk on communities, it is important that management decisions at the coast take account of a much wider range of interests. This includes business and industry, the natural environment and heritage, farming, transport and infrastructure, tourism, landscape and seascapes, and access to the coast for health and wellbeing. There are a wide range of stakeholders which represent these interests, all with their own particular drivers, funding opportunities and limitations, and legislation that dictates individual decisions. Implementing sustainable management which reduces the risks from climate change for our future generations, will require an integrated approach, but we recognise that conflict is inevitable. Natural Resources Wales is a complex organisation with a broad remit. Our vision is for people and nature to thrive together. I will explain how Natural Resources Wales is trying to work in an integrated way to support sustainable coastal management for future generations.

**Contact:** [Nicola.Rimington@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.Rimington@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

**Further Information**

Welsh Government, 2022. [Adapting to Climate Change: Guidance for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities in Wales](#)

Natural Resources Wales, 2023. [Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan](#).

Natural Resources Wales, 2014. [Wales Coastal Flooding Review Phase 1 Report](#) – Assessment of Impacts.

Natural Resources Wales, [Shoreline Management Plans webpage](#)  
Natural Resources Wales, [Nature-based Solutions for Coastal Management webpage](#)  
Natural Resources Wales, [Check your Coastal Erosion Risk webpage](#)  
Natural Resources Wales, [Porthmadog Flood Risk Management Project webpage](#)  
Wales Coastal Monitoring Centre, [Coast Snap webpage](#).

## **A model for small-scale coastal fleet representation; for fishermen, by fishermen**

**Mandelai Wolfe**, Lyme Bay Fisherman's CIC

For too long small-scale fleets, mostly owner/operators and micro businesses have suffered from little or no representation despite them being the iconic heart of many coastal communities. Individuals can find it difficult to engage with multiple workstreams and consultations in this highly regulated space that is controlled by various Government departments, agencies, and non-departmental public bodies.

In 2022 a group of 50 fishermen, scallop divers, potters, trawlermen, anglers and netters, from across the four ports of Axmouth, Beer, Lyme Regis and West Bay came together in a workshop to plan the UK's first fishermen led, CIC.

With Government support through the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FASS) the CIC has been up and running for 12 months. It is early days, but the evidence is already clear that the groups community projects have helped drive better relationships and support from and for local businesses and residents across their communities. In addition, regulators are making the time to come and chat to these fleets in a way that they have not before.

LBFCIC have now created a how-to guide to help others replicate their journey and help break down the barriers of setting up, running, and funding a truly representative body designed for fishermen, by fishermen. Could a network of these fishermen led, community interest companies change the dynamics of policy making and ensure small-scale fleets are at the heart of, not an afterthought of marine and fisheries regulation?

**Contact:** [mandy@lbfcic.com](mailto:mandy@lbfcic.com)

## **Climate Action Coastlines: Nature-based solutions for threatened coastal communities**

**Joe Perry**, Highland Council

When we imagine the Scottish Highlands, the vision we hold is one of snow-topped mountains, ancient woodlands and vast peatlands. The Highland coastline and its communities are often forgotten; however, they urgently need our attention as they struggle at the coalface of a changing climate.

Climate Action Coastlines is an ambitious attempt to reimagine a challenging stretch of coastline around the historic village of Golspie in Sutherland. The first stage of this project received Green Growth Accelerator Funding from The Scottish Government, which allowed us to assemble a team of experts, community organisations and local people to investigate the potential for nature-based solutions to protect the village from rising sea levels and storm surges into the future.

Like so many other coastal communities in Highland and worldwide, Golspie faces an existential threat from rising sea levels and increased storm surges. For these communities, the coast is more than just their home; it is intrinsic to their identity, sense of place, health and well-being. We must support communities through the turbulence to come and allow local voices to be at the heart of coastal change.

**Contact:** [Joe.Perry@highland.gov.uk](mailto:Joe.Perry@highland.gov.uk), <https://www.linkedin.com/in/josephperry-nature-based/>

### **Further Information**

Climate Action Coastlines Golspie & Coul [webpage](#)  
[Dyanmic Coast webpage](#)



University of Edinburgh "[Climate Action Coastlines Workshop](#)"

## **Developing a marine identity for people, planet and place**

**Elaine Hayes**, Plymouth Sound National Marine Park

There are just over 8 billion people in the world, each having an impact on their environment. 71% of the Earth is ocean, therefore there is a natural link between people and oceans you would think? Yet we have depauperate wildlife across the planet, a climate crisis and successive governments ignoring the harm to the planet.

Nature conservation used to be something that was done to people by experts who knew better. The outcome of this was that we disenfranchised people and communities from being involved in conservation.

Plymouth is no different; a city that has turned its back on the sea. People in the north of the city are more likely to look towards Dartmoor than the sea and yet they live less than a couple of miles from the ocean; everything they do has an impact on the sea.

How do we change this? One answer is the development of marine citizenship – enabling and supporting people to navigate their own path to the sea. Through an experience – learn-connect-act pathway. Our plan is to create an entire city of marine citizens. This presentation explains how we plan to do this.

**Contact:** [Elaine.hayes@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.hayes@plymouth.gov.uk) / [Natasha@bluemarinefoundation.com](mailto:Natasha@bluemarinefoundation.com) / [Rose@cnp.org.uk](mailto:Rose@cnp.org.uk)

To register for the National Marine Parks workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024, please email:  
[marineparks@bluemarinefoundation.com](mailto:marineparks@bluemarinefoundation.com)

### **Further Information**

[Plymouth Sound National Marine Park](#)

[National Marine Parks Vision, Framework and Guidance published by Blue Marine Foundation in 2023](#)

[Campaign for National Parks](#)

## **Investment, literacy and capacity building - actions for future generations**

**Jetske Germing**, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum CIC

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum CIC works to inspire, collaborate and deliver solutions for coastal communities, delivering activities on marine energy, nutrients & water quality, responsible recreation, climate adaptation, coastal education, and aquaculture and is an active member in the Wales Coast and Seas Partnership.

The Partnership is a group of organisations working to improve marine resilience in Wales, working together to deliver three key enabling themes, supporting delivery of the Wales National Marine Plan vision of Welsh seas that are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse:

1. Co-developing an Ocean Literacy strategy and action plan to support the connection between all people and Welsh coasts and seas. A stronger connection can enable better engagement and action at all levels to address the key opportunities and challenges facing marine and coastal communities and environments.
2. Developing a blended finance mechanism for the marine environment in Wales, the MARINE Fund Cymru, to maintain and enhance the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems for the long term, facilitating the delivery of wider benefits to individuals, communities and businesses.
3. The Coastal Capacity Building Fund to support the proliferation of skills, knowledge and networks to improve sustainable use of local resources in coastal communities.

**Contact:** [Jetske.Germing@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk](mailto:Jetske.Germing@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk)

Pier House, Pier Road, Pembroke Dock, SA72 6TP

**Further Information**

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

Wales Coasts and Seas Partnership (CaSP Cymru)

Wales Coasts and Seas Partnership (CaSP Cymru): shared narrative

Y Môr a Ni: Wales Ocean Literacy Strategy and Action Plan

## Session Two: Capitalising on Values

### *How will knowledge of 'values' make a difference to our prospects?*

Speakers will consider how to bring the latest progress in evidence development tools for natural and social capital into mainstream decision-making, and whether they will support inclusivity and longer-term investment.

**Chair: Hugo Tagholm, Oceana UK**

### **How evidence of natural and social capital values will support the protection of blue carbon habitats**

**Prof. Graham J. C. Underwood**, School of Life Sciences, University of Essex, Colchester

The UK Blue Carbon Evidence Partnership (UKBCEP) was established after COP26 to bring together representatives of the U. K. Government and the three Devolved Administrations (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) to support the implementation of better policy and actions to protect U.K. blue carbon habitats and enhance future ecosystem functioning under the pressures of climate change. Blue carbon habitats provide both natural and social capital, and protecting, restoring and recreating such habitats can play an important part in producing healthy, sustainable and climate-resilient seascapes for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Successful blue carbon policy implementation will require local and regional public support. Working with key stakeholders, for example, the U.K. Blue Carbon Forum, the UKBCEP will draw together quantified evidence of the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits of blue carbon habitats, to help facilitate coordination of policy interventions for blue carbon management, protection, enhancement, restoration or creation.

**Contact:** [gjcu@essex.ac.uk](mailto:gjcu@essex.ac.uk)

**Further Information**

[UK CEP Evidence needs statement](#)

### **Catchment to Coast: Exploring natural capital approaches across the land-sea interface**

**Mike Nelson**, Environment Agency

England's estuaries and coasts are home to a diverse range of species and habitats – or natural capital 'assets' – that provide vital ecosystem services such as flood protection, water quality regulation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, fisheries, wellbeing and recreation. However, there is currently a disconnect in monitoring, assessment, management and decision-making across the land-sea interface. This means that land-based pressures aren't always managed with due consideration of the effect they can have on these assets.

As part of Defra's flagship Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) programme, the Environment Agency are leading a project exploring how source-to-sea natural capital approaches can help ensure the full value – not just in economic terms – of our estuarine and coastal assets are understood and taken into account in decision-making, management and policy application.

This multi-faceted project aims to provide new evidence, information and tools to fill critical gaps in our understanding of how ecosystem services are delivered in estuaries and coasts and the benefits that adopting natural capital approaches may bring. The project ultimately aims to demonstrate how these approaches, used in a catchment-to-coast context, can help us achieve positive outcomes for nature and support the protection, restoration and sustainable management of our estuarine and coastal environment.

**Contact** [Mike.Nelson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Nelson@environment-agency.gov.uk), [www.linkedin.com/in/mike-nelson-2953aa5b/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mike-nelson-2953aa5b/)

## **Valuing the King Charles III England Coast Path through benefit transfer**

**Ellen McHarg**, Cefas

Coastal areas provide many Cultural Ecosystem Services (CES) offering valuable benefits to society, including aesthetic appreciation, inspiration for art and design, opportunities for recreation and more. Goal 10 of the UK Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 focuses on enhancing beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment, directly referencing ambitions to provide access to the entire English Coastline through the continued development of the King Charles III England Coast Path (ECP). To support management and decision making in this area, understanding the value and importance of such investments is crucial. However, accounting for the full range of benefits provided is challenging, due to the nature of CES and because primary valuation studies can be costly and time consuming.

As part of the marine Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment programme, a benefit transfer method was applied to value coastal walking along the ECP. Using primary online survey data of visitors to four study sites, values were determined and adjusted to similar policy sites for which primary data was not available. The approach demonstrated offers a cost-effective way to value large heterogeneous environmental goods, facilitating both national and local level decision-making where time and resources for primary data collection are limited.

**Contact:** [ellen.mcharg@cefas.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.mcharg@cefas.gov.uk)

## **A roadmap towards establishing high-integrity marine natural capital markets**

**Elizabeth Beall**, Finance Earth

Finance Earth and Pollination are leading an initiative to develop a roadmap towards establishing high-integrity marine natural capital markets in the UK. Supported by The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland, Blue Marine Foundation and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the roadmap aims to unlock vital investment in the protection, restoration and sustainable management of the UK's coastal and marine ecosystem. The partners published a synthesis [report](#) in September 2023, with input from almost 100 stakeholders and global experts across civil society, private sector enterprises, academia, government, and financial institutions. Workshops have since been delivered in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, to collectively prioritise recommendations and actions informing the roadmap. In this session, Finance Earth will share key findings from this work, which will culminate in a roadmap towards high-integrity marine natural capital markets, due to be launched in spring 2024.

**Contact:** [elizabeth@finance.earth](mailto:elizabeth@finance.earth)

## **Decision-making for a thriving marine environment - are we doing this, and if not, why not?**

**Leonie Robinson**, Marine Management Organisation

Achieving a thriving marine environment is not an easy ask, yet we are committed to this through a range of policy objectives set across government. But are we really considering how the decision-making that is happening every day around us, can affect the potential for our marine ecosystems and the sectors and communities that depend upon them, to thrive? Using a natural capital framework, the MMO have been leading work under Defra's marine natural capital and ecosystem assessment programme, to catalogue the landscape of decision-making that affects our marine systems and to explore how social, economic and environmental values are currently considered in different areas of decision-making. Working with partners across government, we have mapped out more than a hundred decisions including examples from fisheries management, licensing, planning, marine conservation, water quality, and coastal hazard management. We have explored who is



involved and how, what evidence is used, and to what extent impacts are considered in terms of those affecting social values, natural capital assets and services, and economic values. Perhaps not surprisingly, we have found that there are few, if any, decisions that are currently being made based on a systematic and balanced assessment of all three pillars of sustainability. There are reasons for this, and in some cases, regulations are tight in terms of what can or cannot be considered, but in many cases, improvements could be made. I will finish my talk by looking forward; considering how a natural capital approach to decision-making could underpin the transformative change needed to combat the current social and environmental challenges we face due to unsustainable use of nature.

**Contact:** [leonie.robinson@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:leonie.robinson@marinemanagement.org.uk)

### **Performing the Coast, from North to South: Theatre, Arts-Based Research, and Coastal & Marine Management in England and Scotland**

**Dr Erika Hughes**, University of Portsmouth

This talk discusses two interconnected devised performances that took place in 2023 in England and Scotland as part of the Diverse Marine Values project. The performance series, which was supported by the nationwide Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources program, brought together ocean scientists, coastal and marine managers, and community members to create original performances in Lerwick, Shetland, Scotland, and Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. The distinct but related performances combined elements of forum theatre, devised theatre, and storytelling, using theatre as an arts-based research method to better understand marine issues important within each respective community. The performance in Shetland, Ripple Effect, took place in collaboration with the Shetland Youth Theatre, a part of Shetland Arts, the region's central arts organisation, and featured the work of ten youth performers aged 12-17. The Portsmouth performance, Community Consultation, featured area marine managers and has since been included in the teaching curriculum for the MSc in Coastal and Marine Management and the MSc in Applied Aquatic Biology at the University of Portsmouth. In both cases, community artists rewrote and/or reframed the paradigms that professional marine and coastal planners and scientists initially brought to the fore.

Collaborative theatre making by marine scientists, area stakeholders, and artists working together ultimately led to deeper conversations and embedded engagement within these coastal communities. This presentation focuses on the ways in which theatre making served as fieldwork, and led to a fundamental reshaping of the questions and approaches that marine managers and scientists asked of the coastal communities with whom they had engaged.

**Contact:** [erika.hughes@port.ac.uk](mailto:erika.hughes@port.ac.uk)

## Session Three: Delivering a Sustainable Blue Economy

*What approaches to decision-making are needed to balance the need for social and economic benefit alongside environmental recovery?*

From large scale, nationally driven new developments, to small scale community-led businesses, speakers will consider how to ensure that economic activities are environmentally sustainable and socially equitable.

**Chair: Prof. Dickon Howell, Howell Marine Consulting & OCF Director**

### **The Crown Estate: Taking A Whole Seabed Approach To Delivering A Sustainable Blue Economy**

**Michelle Moore, The Crown Estate**

The Crown Estate is responsible for sustainable development of critical sectors in the waters around England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our Whole of Seabed approach takes a holistic view to how we manage the seabed and its many important and complex competing demands. Through this we have identified sectoral demand out to 2050 and undertaken detailed spatial analysis to identify and digitally map the marine areas required to meet that demand. Advanced processes and tools have been developed to combine spatial opportunities into groundbreaking scenarios that give confidence to decision makers, enabling the delivery of multiple priorities including Net Zero, Energy Security and Nature Recovery.

We have identified that demand for marine space will increase tenfold in the coming decades and with long lead times for development, action is needed now to plan opportunities in a coherent and sustainable way. Not only will the outputs drive the spatial design of The Crown Estate's longer-term seabed leasing processes, and identify where knowledge gaps exist, it will also enhance coordination of future activities out to 2050 and beyond.

**Contact:** [moore.moore@thecrownestate.co.uk](mailto:moore.moore@thecrownestate.co.uk)

### **Sustainability Beyond Carbon**

**Benj Sykes, Ørsted Offshore Wind**

Ørsted is the largest offshore wind developer in the world, providing 7% of Britain's electricity. Switching to renewable energy can help tackle over two thirds of carbon emissions globally.

However, sustainability of offshore wind stretches way beyond that. A truly sustainable transformation has to ensure it is sustainable also for nature and people. It is imperative to the transformation itself, that we minimize negative impacts on environment and engage communities. It is also a massive opportunity to leverage the investments that will go into the new infrastructure build-out for a positive outcome for the ecosystems and communities. That is why we have set a net-positive biodiversity ambition for our assets and are working on delivering a just and inclusive transition for people.

This talk will explore how offshore wind can deliver both environmental and social sustainability outcomes alongside the carbon savings that lie at the heart of the energy transition.

**Contact:** [BENSY@orsted.com](mailto:BENSY@orsted.com)

## **Coastal Communities and Major Ports**

**Geraint Evans**, UK Major Ports Group

Social and economic benefit for our coastal communities rely on one key trait: trust embedded in communities. We can only deliver a sustainable economy, with all the associated dividends, if key projects move off the drawing board and our communities can see and touch the social, environmental and economic benefits.

Such an approach requires significant acceleration of action and clarity of decision making in the public and private sector, with major ports seeking to lead, as we have for decades, on capturing the opportunity not just for ports and surrounding areas - but for UK plc.

The greatest challenge and least sustainable outcome is if we don't secure the opportunities that present themselves. Major ports are committed to a central role in the energy transition. If we miss the opportunities, communities could get left behind and do not benefit from the associated environmental progress from street to national level in and around our ports.

Around our coastline, the entire marine ecosystem (public and private) must manage the numerous calls on how our coastal communities adapt to environmental, technological and societal changes. We are also competing in a global race to capture the significant opportunities that are beginning to emerge.

Coastal communities, often the most passionate with an inherent understanding of their environment and coastline, need to be brought closer to the process and strategy for our coastline centred around the major ports of the UK.

**Contact:** [Geraint.Evans@ukmajorports.org.uk](mailto:Geraint.Evans@ukmajorports.org.uk)

## **Fish not fossils: Introducing the Ocean Alliance Against Offshore Drilling**

**Alyx Elliott**, Oceana UK

Oil and gas extraction has a deeply destructive – and often overlooked – impact on UK sea life. As well as the direct destruction of seabed habitats, these developments emit a deadly cocktail of different types of pollution: from deafening seismic blasts to neurotoxins, microplastics and the toxic oil itself. Protecting UK seas from this damage and contamination is an investment that will pay us back many times over. By allowing marine wildlife to recover and flourish, we can safeguard coastal livelihoods and enhance our 'blue carbon' stores as a vital part of tackling the climate crisis. Ending new fossil fuel developments and starting a fair transition to renewable energy will also enhance energy security and lower bills, alongside helping to safeguard our seas and climate.

Yet, this year, the government announced around a hundred new oil and gas licenses, 40% of which would fall within UK marine 'protected' areas. To raise the alarm and call for action, the Ocean Alliance Against Offshore Drilling – a group of NGOs, academics and businesses convened by Oceana UK and united by the desire to protect our ocean – has formed.

**Contact:** [aelliott@oceana.org](mailto:aelliott@oceana.org)

## **Fisheries Management Plans**

**Annabel Stockwin**, Defra

Since exiting the European Union and becoming an independent coastal state responsible for managing our own waters we have forged ahead with ambitious plans to achieve a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK - setting a gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world. The Fisheries Act published in 2020 set out the key objectives for achieving sustainable fisheries management.

The Joint Fisheries Statement published in 2022 set out our commitment to deliver 43 Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for key UK stocks to deliver these objectives.

The first 6 FMPs (now published in December 2023) set out key evidence and new management proposals to protect some of our valuable non quota species, chosen for the very first FMPs due to their vulnerability and economic importance.

FMPs are designed to be adaptive and flexible and will become the model for fisheries management in the long-term. Developed with the fishing industry at the centre and in close collaboration with key stakeholders FMPs set a new approach to collaborative fisheries management that should ensure their future as the key tool to protect stocks and the industry that relies on them.

**Contact:** [annabel.stockwin@defra.gov.uk](mailto:annabel.stockwin@defra.gov.uk)

### **Developing a new national marine plan for Scotland**

**Louise O'Hara Murray**, Scottish Government

Not only in Scotland, but globally, the decisions that govern our oceans are vital to the future of our planet. Scotland's first National Marine Plan was published in 2015 and Scottish Ministers announced the intention to update the plan in 2022.

We are working with stakeholders on the development of National Marine Plan ("NMP2") to further the sustainable development of our seas, support our commitments to net zero, protection of the marine environment, and thriving communities.

The new NMP2 will adopt a blue economy approach. It will help to get the right planning framework in place to address the increasing competition for marine space and resources, and that acknowledges the variety of demands and needs for and from the marine environment.

**Contact:** [Louise.oharamurray@gov.scot](mailto:Louise.oharamurray@gov.scot)

#### **Further Information**

[Scotland's National Marine Plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

[A Blue Economy Vision for Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)



## **Keynote speaker: Srabani Sen**

### **The three C's of equity, diversity and inclusion**

**Srabani Sen** OBE, CEO & Founder, Full Colour

Since 2020, there has been significantly increased awareness the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). As well as the moral imperative, the mountain of evidence that more equitable, diverse and inclusive organisations are much more successful makes it increasingly hard to ignore calls for action. The marine conservation sector has begun to acknowledge the need to make progress on EDI. The wider conservation and climate justice sector has begun to drive change, with initiatives such as the Route Map Towards Greater Ethnic Diversity and the Race Report. So why does the marine conservation remain un-diverse? Why does there continue to be unequal access to blue spaces? Given the crisis in marine conservation, why does the sector continue to take so little meaningful action? In this session, Srabani Sen, author of the conservation sector's Route Map Towards Greater Ethnic Diversity, will share her thoughts on the real reasons progress is so slow, and what leaders need to do to address this urgent issue.

Srabani marries her deep knowledge of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) with nearly 30 years' Board experience, including four chair roles, and senior executive leadership including three CEO roles. Srabani is regularly invited to speak on EDI at conferences, on podcasts and webinars across different sectors. She is a regular EDI columnist for *Charity Times* magazine. She has devised and delivered numerous bespoke audits, programmes of change on EDI and executive and Board leadership development programmes. Srabani devised Wildlife & Countryside Link's Route Map to Ethnic Diversity in the Conservation Sector.

**Contact:** [srabani.sen@fullclr.com](mailto:srabani.sen@fullclr.com)

#### **Further Information**

Website: [www.fullclr.com](http://www.fullclr.com)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/srabani-sen>

## **Guest speaker: Monty Halls**

### **Generation Sea Change**

Monty is best known for his three hugely popular BBC series 'Great Escapes', where he lived on the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland with his dog Reuben. Monty went on to present the multi-award winning BBC NHU blue chip series 'Great Barrier Reef, The Fisherman's Apprentice, again for the BBC as well as series for Discovery and Channel 5.

Since starting his own production company, Monty has produced and presented three series for Channel Four. "WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails" broadcast to critical acclaim in late 2017 and in 2018 the whole Halls family featured in a poignant conservation mission to the Galapagos for "My Family and the Galapagos". A second series of 'My Family' aired in 2020.

Monty is also the founder of "Leaderbox", an accessible, multi-purpose team and leadership training system drawn from the world of the military, business, elite sport, and education. Launched in 2018, it is being adopted widely throughout the UK.

Monty has written thirteen books, and is a regular contributor to magazines and newspapers, many of them communicating his enthusiasm for the natural world.

In 2020, during lockdown, Monty created and completed one of the world's most demanding Iron Man courses (with an elevation gain of three times sea level to the summit of Ben Nevis) along the cliffs, bays, paths, and lanes of his native Devon. The event ran in late July, and raised £50,000 to support veterans' charities.

His latest series about the Royal Marines, was broadcast on BBC2 in 2022 and his accompanying book released to co-incide with the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War. His book delves deep into the ethos and culture of one of the world's most successful military organisations.

This summer, in 2023, Monty and his family sailed around the coast of the South West of England, filming short films on the effects of climate change, plastic pollution and other environmental issues our country is facing. This project Generation Sea Change garnered huge support and Leaderbox Blue was born - a 'conservation project in a box' is now in development and will be available this year.

As a speaker he is in demand nationally and internationally, speaking on topics such as leadership under duress, team culture, operating in stressful environments and sustainability.

## DAY 2 – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January

### **Keynote speaker: Helen Wakeham**

#### **Water Transformation: Source to Sea**

**Helen Wakeham**, Director of Water Transformation, Environment Agency

Over the last three decades there have been major improvements to the quality of our water environment from catchment to coast, exemplified by the trend in bathing water quality, reductions in phosphorus and other pollutants, especially in our rivers. However, with so much focus on our rivers over the years, our estuaries and coasts and their ability to dilute what comes downstream, have almost been taken for granted. With more than a third of the population living at the coast and the need for greater resilience and levelling up of coastal communities, the third round of River Basin Management Plans, supported by our partners, sets out to change that.

By adopting a source to sea, catchment to coast approach, we have around 30 new specific estuarine and coastal measures – supported by many more source to measures, detailed in the plans. The measures have been informed by our Challenges and Choices consultation and aim to shift the dial on the status of our estuarine and coastal waters to benefit people and wildlife.

We acknowledge the challenges are complex. Population growth, climate change, and emerging pollutants present significant challenges. However, expectations for higher standards to be achieved, are greater than ever as the connection between people and nature grows stronger.

The Environment Agency can't do this alone and needs the coordinated support across public, private, and civil sectors to meet those expectations. Our resources need to be targeted and the new evidence base we are gathering under Defra's Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment Programme will help us strengthen the awareness of the value of our natural assets. It will also help inspire confidence in investment for solutions that benefit both people and nature.

The way we plan for water, together, will be key to ensuring we have clean and plentiful water to support a healthy water environment from source to sea, for people, businesses, and nature.

Helen Wakeham MSc FCIWEM is a water, land and environment professional with 30 years' experience in environmental policy and regulation. Her career has spanned incident management and prevention, research, European Directive and Best Available Technique development, agriculture and land management policy and flood risk. She is currently Director of Water Transformation at the Environment Agency. Outside of work she enjoys being in, on and under our rivers, lakes and sea.

### **Scene setting speaker: Dr Gemma Harper**

#### **The ocean is calling us...are we listening?**

**Dr Gemma Harper OBE**, Chief Executive Officer, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

The global ocean is the lifeblood of the planet – regulating the climate, providing half the oxygen on Earth, absorbing a quarter of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions, home to an astonishing array of biodiversity, provider of materials, transport, food and fuel, protector of coastal communities, inspiration for legends and mythological creatures, and a source of pleasure and wellbeing for many.

The ocean that surrounds us is what unites us. It is part of our evolution, our history, our society, our economy and our way of life. The UK truly is an ocean nation, with some of the best estuarine, coastal and marine pioneers, explorers, researchers, innovators and practitioners in the world. Together with our Overseas Territories, we have the fifth largest marine estate in the world. The ocean is in our DNA.

And the ocean has been calling us, increasingly loudly – we need to heed that call. Our science has shown that for decades, humanity has been heating the ocean, deoxygenating and acidifying, extracting, exploiting and polluting. The multiple demands on the world's largest ecosystem have destroyed habitats, eliminated species and poisoned the planet's lifeblood.

The science is clear – we have changed the chemistry of the ocean. The human power that drove – and continues to drive - that systemic change now needs to transform to restore the most important natural infrastructure on the planet. Our local, national, regional and global commitments are essential to that endeavour. And the UK can be proud of our many contributions to this. But are we truly leading inclusively, with hope and courage, given the scale, pace and consequences of deteriorating ocean health, to understand, protect and restore the lifeblood of the planet?

Dr Gemma Harper OBE FAcSS is Chief Executive of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) – the UK's statutory advisor on nature. Prior to joining JNCC, Gemma was Deputy Director of Marine policy and Deputy Race Champion in Defra. She was awarded an OBE for services to the marine environment in the New Year Honours 2021. In March 2020, Gemma was temporarily promoted to director to co-lead Defra's Food Vulnerability directorate, as part of the Government's COVID-19 response. She co-led the directorate to win the Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion 'Impact on the Citizen' award. From 2010 to 2017, Gemma was Defra's Chief Social Scientist and, in 2020, she was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences for her contribution to social science. In 2023, Gemma was appointed by Defra's Secretary of State to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Conservation Board. Civil Service Network for Nature, whose mission is to connect civil and public servants to celebrate nature.

**Contact:** [gemma.harper@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.harper@jncc.gov.uk)



## Session Four: Evidence Assessment into Action

### *In response to the latest evidence and assessments, how will we drive action?*

Speakers will present a UK perspective on the recently launched OSPAR Quality Status Report for the NW Atlantic, the pollution challenges we face and the role of the UK Marine Strategy to protect and recover the state of our seas.

**Chair: Dave Stone, Chief Scientist, JNCC**

### **The evidence we need for the North-East Atlantic we want**

**Dominic Pattinson**, OSPAR Commission Secretariat, The Aspect, 12 Finsbury Square, London

OSPAR's Quality Status Assessment (QSR) 2023 provides the most authoritative assessment of the North-East Atlantic to date. It reflects the collective efforts of OSPAR's 16 Contracting Parties, including the UK, and their scientists, experts and institutions. It covers everything from radioactive substances to eutrophication and marine litter and assesses the status of biodiversity in the North-East Atlantic. The findings from the QSR 2023 will be used to help OSPAR countries to deliver their North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 and their shared vision of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.

The key findings and how these will be used going forward will be presented along with examples how the evidence will be used to inform OSPAR actions to deliver the NW Atlantic that we want.

**Contact:** [Dominic.Pattinson@ospar.org](mailto:Dominic.Pattinson@ospar.org)

**Further Information**

[OSPAR](#)

[OSPAR QSR 2023](#)

### **Key conclusions from the OSPAR QSR 2023 Biodiversity themes: challenges, risks and actions to halt and reverse biodiversity decline**

**Cristina Vina-Herbon<sup>1</sup>**, Stefano Marra<sup>1</sup>, Kirsty Woodcock<sup>1</sup>, Stephen Duncombe-Smith<sup>1</sup>, Adam Smith<sup>1</sup>, Liam Matear<sup>1</sup>, Ian Mitchell<sup>1</sup>, Matt Parsons<sup>1</sup>, Roma Banga<sup>1</sup>, Nikki Taylor<sup>1</sup>, Abigail McQuatters-Gollop<sup>2</sup>, Matt Holland<sup>2</sup>, Christopher Lynam<sup>3</sup>, Robert Thorpe<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, UK

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth University

<sup>3</sup> Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science

The assessments of biodiversity components for the QSR 2023 were based on a wider set of indicators, combined with status and third-party assessments, to provide wide geographical coverage across OSPAR regions. The marine biodiversity thematic assessments cover marine birds, marine mammals, fish, benthic habitats, pelagic habitats and marine food webs.

Overall, the assessment results point to declining biodiversity and continued habitat degradation across many parts of the OSPAR Maritime Area. In particular, most marine birds, some fish and marine mammals are threatened by a combination of direct and indirect pressures, e.g. fisheries, hazardous substances, climate change and ocean acidification. Benthic habitats, especially in heavily used coastal areas, continue to be disturbed and degraded, while pelagic habitats are experiencing rapid transition through a combination of

changes in nutrient availability and climate change effects. Since all these components are interlinked in the OSPAR Maritime Area (and beyond), impacts can be seen across entire marine food webs.

Understanding how and why ecosystems change is crucially important for developing effective and efficient management. The QSR evidence on biodiversity assessments is currently being used to progress the OSPAR North East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030 objectives and can guide the additional management actions needed to achieve OSPAR's vision.

This talk will present an overview of some of the key findings of the Biodiversity Themes under the OSPAR Quality Status report 2023, and what practical actions are being discussed and put in place to halt and reverse biodiversity decline.

**Contact:** [Cristina.Herbon@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:Cristina.Herbon@jncc.gov.uk)

**Further Information**

[OSPAR QSR 2023](#)

[North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030](#)

## **Reporting Annual Change on a Regional Scale and Building Social Capital**

**Bob Earll**

How do we get to know about what is happening in the marine environment so that we can act in a timely fashion? The traditional approach in the marine environment has been to do assessments on four-to-six-time scale e.g. the UK Marine Strategy. Since Covid the South-West Marine Ecosystems programme has been exploring in a focussed way what reporting the state of the south-west seas would look like on an annual basis. Thematic topics in the south-west covering natural systems including oceanography, plankton, the seabed and seashore, fish, sea birds, seals and cetaceans and management topics including marine planning, MPAs, fisheries, water quality and plastics have been described annually. A developing communications programme including topic webinars, YouTube channel, annual conference, a state of the seas report and media work makes information on these thematic groups widely available in a systematic way. To complement this communication process and build a resilient and sustainable model we have been developing thinking on social capital for communities of interest and practice in the south-west. Timely reporting can have many benefits for researchers, managers and policy advisors. Reporting annual change is an exciting challenging and we have more work to do.

The idea of testing the SWME model in a different region has been taken up by the Defra marine NCEA programme and a pilot will be undertaken in the East Marine Planning region in 2024. Funding for the EAST Marine Ecosystems project (EASTME) will be directed at investing in building thematic topics communities of practice and the communications platform. If you are interested in SWME or EASTME please contact me.

**Contact:** [bob@bobearll.co.uk](mailto:bob@bobearll.co.uk)

**Further Information**

South-West Marine Ecosystems [website](#) – reports and SWME Model paper

South-West Marine Ecosystems [YouTube Channel](#)

## **Assessing Marine Litter in UK Seas**

**Kayleigh Thomas**, Marine Monitoring Manager, JNCC

Marine litter is a global concern. International and national agreements require the UK to reduce the amount of litter in the marine environment. At present, the UK uses information on beach litter, seabed litter and plastic particles in fulmar stomachs to assess and report on marine litter at international and national levels (e.g. for OSPAR, the UK Marine Strategy, and 25 Year Environment Plan).

JNCC and Cefas have undertaken work to improve the knowledge base on marine litter and fill evidence gaps, to help improve assessments. The aims of these scoping projects were to improve understanding of (1) the potential

use of marine litter seabed imagery in monitoring and assessment, and (2) the scale and distribution of impacts associated with Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG).

These projects have identified hotspots for marine litter around the UK and suggest that current seafloor litter assessments (which use only data from fisheries trawl surveys) underestimate the amount of litter on the UK seafloor. Incorporating seafloor imagery data into future assessments would allow for a more accurate understanding of the scale of the issue, in turn allowing targeted action to help the UK progress towards achieving Good Environmental Status for litter.

**Contact:** [kayleigh.thomas@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:kayleigh.thomas@jncc.gov.uk) and [ellen.last@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.last@jncc.gov.uk)

**Further Information:**

[OSPAR – Monitoring and Assessing Marine Litter](#)

[OSPAR Indicator Assessment 2023 – Composition and Spatial Distribution of Litter on the Seafloor](#)

[Marine Online Assessment Tool \(MOAT\) – Marine litter](#)

[OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023 Friday Ocean Findings Issue 46](#)

## **Supporting Ocean Action at a global level - the UN Decade of Ocean Science and the UK National Decade Committee**

**Dr Matt Frost**, UK National Decade Committee/Head of International Office, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

The Ocean faces multiple pressures from local to global scales requiring responses at an appropriate level. The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) is an ambitious initiative aimed at identifying, generating and using critical ocean knowledge to manage the ocean sustainably.

The Decade is a key tool in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14: Life Below the Water). Researchers from across the UK are involved in and leading numerous UN Decade actions generating knowledge for ocean assessments, informing understanding of the ocean ecosystem and building global networks and capacity to address key ocean challenges. The UK has also established a UK National Decade Committee, Ocean Decade UK, to support the UN Decade on a national and local level, as well as internationally. The UKNDC provides advice and guidance where required to the UK marine community and other stakeholders who want to engage with The Decade in order to stimulate the actions required to achieve the vision of The Decade: “The science we need for the ocean we want”.

**Contact:** [mafr@pml.ac.uk](mailto:mafr@pml.ac.uk)

**Further Information**

[Ocean Decade](#)

[UK National Decade Committee](#)

## **Pollution Challenges and Blue Sky Thinking for Change - What if we cared about the sea?**

**Caroline Carr**, Clean Humber

CLEAN Humber are an environmental group looking to share our love for our Humber Estuary and the natural environment that makes our river so special through educating everyone to its heritage and the legacy to be made for the future as we protect its future as a natural watercourse.

One of the requirements for a Blue Flag beach is to carry out environmental education activities during the Blue Flag season. Our Beach Schools in collaboration with outdoor Learning Schools CIC introduced primary school

pupils to environmental education and creative ways to gain knowledge about the biodiversity and natural environment of our Humber.

This presentation will look at how we engage communities with the coast and how perceptions about nature and the environment and what beauty looks like can change. All is not what it seems...

Oysters you can't eat, sand you can't play in, can we eat the samphire??? Why not? and thick, thick mud – the pros and cons of a dynamic everchanging Estuary that is home to industry, people and nature.

The pollution challenges enforce action and results in groundbreaking nature projects to rewild and enhance this coast.

Do we hope for a future where industry works in harmony with the sea?

**Contact:** [cleanhumber@gmail.com](mailto:cleanhumber@gmail.com)



## Session Five: Restoration Prioritisation

*Are we evolving the right solutions to deliver marine restoration and a nature-positive approach to decision-making?*

Speakers will highlight recent efforts to realise restoration ambitions including new mapping, tools & techniques to help prioritise recovery from estuaries to the coast and offshore.

**Chair: Roger Proudfoot, Environment Agency**

### **Marine Restoration Potential (MaRePo)**

**Charlotte Johnson**, Natural England

Our understanding of the concept of Marine Net Gain (MNG) is growing. NE are advising the Government on this new, developing policy area. MNG aims to leave the marine environment in a measurably better state, which requires understanding of what interventions are needed and how many of these interventions are required. Our team are working on key evidence projects to help provide answers.

The MaRePo project, funded by Natural England and The Crown Estate's Offshore Wind Evidence and Change programme (OWEC), is a proof-of-concept study to map the restoration potential of some of the known threatened and declining marine habitats in English waters. These included kelp beds, maerl beds, horse mussel beds, native oyster beds, sea-pen and burrowing mega-fauna habitats and subtidal seagrass beds. The results of this study and planned next steps will be presented and provide indicative areas where restoration initiatives could be pursued.

**Contact:** [Charlotte.Johnson@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Johnson@naturalengland.org.uk)

### **Building resilience of Welsh marine ecosystems through Nature Networks**

**Dr Lily Pauls**, Marine Projects, Natural Resources Wales

Nature Networks (NN) is a £45M, three-year programme funded by Welsh Government (WG) which aims to address the nature emergency in Wales through increasing biodiversity, improving the condition of protected sites and enhancing the resilience and connectivity of our habitats and species. Nature recovery and resilience are key priorities for WG and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) following the nature emergency declaration in 2021; the NN programme presents a significant escalation in effort to reverse the biodiversity decline and bring protected sites into favourable condition across Wales.

Nature Networks includes a grant programme managed by both National Lottery Heritage Fund and NRW that supports collaborative action on nature recovery. Alongside this, NRW is delivering its own programme of work as part of Nature Networks. We have prioritised the NRW programme based on our knowledge around existing pressures and threats to the Marine Protected Areas, as well as the feasibility of delivering meaningful projects within a three-year timeline. Here, I will provide an overview of these projects, which form a critical part of the approach to building the resilience of marine ecosystems in Wales.

**Contact:** [Lily.Pauls@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:Lily.Pauls@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

#### **Further Information**

[Nature Networks Marine Projects](#)

[Nature Networks Fund \(round three\) | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

## **Coastal mapping and new initiatives to prioritise habitat restoration**

**Dr Annika Clements**, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Northern Ireland

In recognition of the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and the need to improve coastal resilience through adaptation, DAERA is co-developing a Blue Carbon Action Plan with key stakeholders and supporting new projects to implement this approach.

A number of key evidence bases are near completion to enable strategic coastal management and marine habitat restoration, including an initial feasibility study exploring the extent of coastal blue carbon habitats (saltmarsh, seagrass, shellfish beds and kelp) (1) along with a pilot marine natural capital project.

DAERA has been acquiring new coastal data including high resolution topographic LiDAR, aerial orthophotography, coastal bedrock geology and historical shoreline analysis. These data are now hosted on a publicly accessible 'Coastal Observatory' web viewer (2). Further work is underway on coastal superficial geology and nearshore seabed mapping, which will fill the 'white ribbon' area between land based and subtidal surveys. A coastal change information tool is also being developed on the mapping portal.

These comprehensive datasets will underpin targeted efforts to improve habitat management and restoration, which together with new funding opportunities will support local communities to trial and develop coastal nature-based solutions to climate change.

**Contact:** [annika.clements@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:annika.clements@daera-ni.gov.uk)

### **Further Information**

Northern Ireland's [Blue Carbon Journey](#)

Northern Ireland [Coastal Observatory](#)

## **Marine extensions to Local Nature Recovery Strategies**

**Tara Hooper**, Natural England

The Environment Act brought in a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), which aim to provide a coherent, national system for spatially planned nature recovery actions. They require working with partners to understand opportunities, set nature recovery priorities, and plan specific actions to secure that recovery. However, the statutory element of LNRS stops at the low water boundary, and so LNRS are only required to consider marine areas in terms of how better land-based managed might lead to improved marine outcomes. Stopping LNRS at low water reflects planning boundaries, but can be seen as a missed opportunity, and Local Authorities around the country are considering including voluntary marine extensions. Such strategic planning for marine recovery has the potential to support emerging policies such as marine net gain, by capturing where, and on what, marine recovery efforts should focus, ensuring local projects contribute to a nationally coherent programme.

This presentation will review the opportunity presented by marine extensions to LNRS, the outcome of pilots that included them, and the results of work led by Natural England (under Defra's Marine Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment programme) on initial engagement with Local Authorities and their partners.

**Contact:** [tara.hooper@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:tara.hooper@naturalengland.org.uk)

## **Achieving Biodiversity Net Gain for Coastal Infrastructure**

**Will Melhuish**, ExoEngineering, The Enterprise Centre, University of East Anglia, Norwich

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation aims to tackle the decline in UK biodiversity, seeking to deliver a measurable 10% biodiversity gain as part of terrestrial and intertidal developments in England. This can be

achieved through habitat creation, enhancement, or the purchase of biodiversity credits. The Biodiversity Metric tool has been developed by Natural England and DEFRA to calculate BNG in a simple way.

Integrating biodiversity gain in coastal environments has unique challenges. Sheer, smooth surfaces dominate some stretches of coastline, replacing the natural complexity of these environments, with severe implications for biodiversity. The requirement for coastal protection necessitates devising best practices for balancing the needs of both humans and nature. Integrated Greening of Grey Infrastructure (IGGI) represents a promising approach to tackle this issue. Through this kind of ecological engineering, we can deliver effective coastal protection with nature-inclusive design.

BNG's simple approach to quantifying biodiversity gain has strong merits. However, questions remain about how effectively the benefits of these types of interventions are captured. We hope to initiate discussion about the potentials and challenges associated with this approach, and how the benefits of BNG can be realised for developments which improve the habitat diversity of our human-impacted coastal environment.

**Contact:** [will.m@exo-env.co.uk](mailto:will.m@exo-env.co.uk)

### **Scaling up estuarine and coastal habitat restoration – from policy to practical action**

**Eve Leegwater**, Environment Agency

Restoring Meadows, Marsh, and Reef (ReMeMaRe), is an ambitious estuarine and coastal habitat restoration initiative, to restore seagrass meadows, saltmarsh and native oyster reefs. As ReMeMaRe comes to the end of its 5-year action plan, we pause briefly to reflect on our journey of restoration and the foundations we've laid to begin a programme of practical restoration.

Yet, the road to success is not without hurdles. We need to navigate regulatory processes to better align with our restoration goals, particularly when the work is driven solely by pro-environmental action. After all, restoration aligns perfectly with government policies like the Environmental Improvement Plan. While recognising the value of marine regulation, we explore various solutions to better enable restoration at different scales of practicality and difficulty under current policy and legislation.

The success of ReMeMaRe hinges on our ability to scale up practical action. We will explore how our programme aims to achieve this, by offering guidance, advice, and support to restoration pioneers. We are also exploring funding avenues that will encourage further investment and aid the creation of local restoration action plans, in collaboration with our partners.

Emerging opportunities for restoration are on the horizon, thanks to initiatives like Net Gain and Landscape Recovery. Additional benefits, such as carbon sequestration by blue carbon habitats, are now within reach and could even be marketed.

Our restoration generation has grown in strength, and together over the next 5 years, we aim to scale up restoration to support a resilient future for our coastal communities and wildlife.

**Contact:** [eve.leegwater@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:eve.leegwater@environment-agency.gov.uk), [www.linkedin.com/in/eve-leegwater-587b18154](https://www.linkedin.com/in/eve-leegwater-587b18154)

# Session Six: Mobilising Equitable Management

## *How do we mobilise engagement in strategic marine resource management and choose between priorities?*

Speakers will offer perspectives on progress in marine spatial prioritisation and how to ensure that blue economy opportunities involve coastal communities, whilst protecting and restoring the quality of our coasts and seas.

**Chair: Prof. Clare Fitzsimmons, Newcastle University**

### **English Marine Plans - the next generation**

**Rachel Brown**, Marine Management Organisation

In 2021 final four English marine plans were adopted, meaning that all of English waters have a marine plan in place. The focus of the marine planning team since 2021 has been ensuring effective implementation, gathering monitoring data, and preparing the three yearly Reports for each adopted plan. In 2020 and 2023 the Secretary of State for the Environment agreed with the MMO's recommendation to amend/replace the East Marine Plan following its second and third three yearly Reports. In 2023 the MMO began the replacement of the East Marine Plan, launching the Statement of Public Participation. The new East Marine Plan will be the first of the next generation of marine plans in England, it will have to deliver greater prescription whilst balancing the various targets and aspirations across government, and integrating new policy directions.

**Contact:** [rachel.brown@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:rachel.brown@marinemanagement.org.uk)

### **Unlocking the potential of regional marine planning; an Orkney Islands perspective**

**Daniel Morris and James Green**, Orkney Island Council

Regional marine planning in Scotland has the potential to deliver genuine local influence in marine planning policy. Through the approach of delegating regional marine plan development to local organisations and stakeholders, it would put stakeholder input and community engagement at the forefront of marine planning, to an extent not seen elsewhere in the UK.

However, whilst the initial vision is certainly still achievable, a series of setbacks and missed opportunities have held the process back. Today, 13 years on from the Marine (Scotland) Act allowing the process to begin, Scotland is yet to see any of its 11 marine regions have a regional marine plan approved beyond a draft.

In this presentation, Orkney Islands Council will offer their perspective on the process, exploring what has worked and what hasn't, sharing the lessons that have been learned along the way and examining how regional marine plans can once again set Scottish marine planning on the path to meaningful, local, community-led regional marine planning frameworks.

**Contact:** [Daniel.Morris@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.Morris@orkney.gov.uk), [james.green@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:james.green@orkney.gov.uk)

### **Priorities for strengthening marine planning in Wales**

**Chloe Wenman**, Marine Conservation Society

A healthy ocean plays a crucial role in addressing many of challenges we face - from climate change, to nature decline, to food and energy security. It has never been more important to get marine spatial planning right and balance these interests. In Wales this need is brought into urgent focus by the unique opportunity to deploy new

renewable energy technologies, particularly floating offshore wind in the Celtic Sea. These developments must play a crucial part in transitioning to a low-carbon economy, but should sit within a marine planning framework which prioritises different uses of the sea, ensuring that people, nature and the economy can all benefit. The Welsh National Marine Plan provides a good starting point but must be strengthened if we are to realise these multiple benefits and use our sea equitably. This presentation will summarise the elements which the Marine Conservation Society believes should be strengthened.

**Contact:** [chloe.wenman@mcsuk.org](mailto:chloe.wenman@mcsuk.org)

## **Trust and legitimacy - a two way street in the pursuit of marine resource co-management**

**Dr Sarah Coulthard**, Newcastle University

This talk considers the significance of citizen trust in government policy making with a focus on the increasing expectation that is placed on fishers and their communities to engage in marine resource management. Trust in fair process, and confidence in decisions made, are important foundations for any civic engagement and constitute a cornerstone of co-management that is based on partnership, compliance and mutual understanding. However, recent research attests a lack of trust among commercial fishers, reflective of public mistrust in both science and politics in general. How then to progress co-management of marine resources that is both cognisant of the fragility of trust and able to deliver collaborative and legitimate outcomes? Recent examples of marine protected area management by Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities in England provide insight into the value of inclusive, regional consultation that balances the needs of marine protection with sustainable livelihoods, and the strengthening of trust that can result. Trust is ultimately a two-way street where requests for engagement from stakeholders are in return met by trust placed in managers to adequately consider fisher contributions, despite high-pressured timelines and targets.

**Contact:** [sarah.coulthard@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.coulthard@ncl.ac.uk)

## **Cumulative effects of offshore wind farms in a marine spatial world.**

**Simone de Winter**, Cefas

As the number of offshore wind farms, and soon other forms of renewable energy increase there is an increasing need to manage the use of marine space. A key area for consideration is the cumulative effects created by multiple activities, including offshore wind farms within a region.

Cumulative effects assessments (CEA) can provide a systematic procedure by identifying and evaluating the significance of effects from multiple sources/activities and for providing an estimate on the overall expected impact to inform management measures. The analysis of the pathways and consequences of these effects on receptors (e.g., fish and marine mammals) is an essential and integral part of the process. OSPAR QSR 2023 highlights an approach for CEA based on the DAPSI(W)R(M) framework which brings in the concept of structuring environmental assessments around a series of key components reflective of both the natural environment and the human environment with our needs, policies and management measures in line with the ecosystem approach.

In this presentation, we will highlight a systematic approach to cumulative assessments can do in a spatial management context, drawing on methods, outputs and understanding from a range of cumulative impact assessment science and what they cannot do (yet).

**Contact:** [simone.dewinter@cefas.gov.uk](mailto:simone.dewinter@cefas.gov.uk)

**Further Information**

- Elliott, M., Burdon, D., Atkins, J. P., Borja, A., Cormier, R., de Jonge, V. N., and Turner, R. K. 2017. "And DPSIR begat DAPSI(W)R(M)!" - A unifying framework for marine environmental management. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 118: 27–40. Pergamon. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0025326X17302692>
- Judd, A., and Lonsdale, J. A. 2021. Applying systems thinking: The Ecosystem Approach and Natural Capital Approach – Convergent or divergent concepts in marine management? *Marine Policy*, 129: 104517. Elsevier Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104517>.
- Judd, A., Backhaus, T., Goodsir, F., 2015. An effective set of principles for practical implementation of marine cumulative effects assessment, *Environmental Science & Policy*, 54: 254-282. Elsevier Ltd. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2015.07.008>

## **Principles for Marine Spatial Prioritisation: Space for Nature and the Blue Economy**

**Jennifer Godwin**, Seabed User and Developer Group

The Government Marine Spatial Prioritisation (MSPri) programme in England is considering the increasing demands on our seas and how to manage them. The SUDG has been working closely with Defra to consider how industry can feed into the programme, and has held a series of workshops in 2023 to begin to explore principles for MSPri, from a stakeholder perspective. The workshops included representatives from across a broad range of marine stakeholders, including each SUDG marine industry<sup>1</sup>, the RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts, Natural England, Historic England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, The Crown Estate, the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, The Chamber of Shipping, and EnerGeo Alliance. In each workshops there was strong agreement that the socio-economic importance of marine industries, including the wider activities they enable and support, and the needs of coastal communities, should be considered in parallel to the importance of nature recovery. This session will explore some of the key outputs of the SUDG cross stakeholder workshops and provide some industry thoughts on principles for prioritisation in the marine space.

**Contact:** [Jennifer.Godwin@sudg.org.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Godwin@sudg.org.uk)

## **Keynote speaker: Katrina Ryan**

### **The real change that communications can bring about in co-management**

**Katrina Ryan**, Mindfully Wired Communications

A decade ago, Mindfully Wired Communications (MWC) was founded to provide support to an international, EU-funded project, designed to establish and learn from co-management of fisheries across 13 case studies in 11 countries. This project, called GAP2, worked with 297 fishers, 67 scientists, 41 policy makers and 19 PhD/MSc students across four years and supported successful co-management structures that in many cases are still in place today.

In 2023, supporting co-management is still central to MWC's work - but how, and why? What role can a communications agency play in supporting socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable activities at the coast? What does this look like in the UK, and as part of the ambitions set out in the Fisheries Act 2020? Communication has a vital role in tackling some of the most complex challenges posed by co-management, but is often overlooked as a central component of project delivery. This talk will cover why carefully considered, insight-driven and strategic communications - both internal and external - are vital to underpinning lasting change and collaborative structures that can make real impact. Looking at the contemporary examples of the Future of Our Inshore Fisheries project (Seafish, Defra, MMO) and the Clean Catch UK consortium (Defra, Cefas, Arribada Initiative) we will explore the role that 'not saying anything' plays in communications, the importance of neutrality and convening, and specific insights and tools developed across ten years of working across hundreds of projects.

**Contact:** [Katrina.ryan@mindfullywired.org](mailto:Katrina.ryan@mindfullywired.org), [www.linkedin.com/in/katrina-ryan-58578b43/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/katrina-ryan-58578b43/)



## **Further Information**

GAP2 Project

Future of Our Inshore Fisheries

Clean Catch

Mindfully Wired webpage

## **Bob Earll Award**

### **Outstanding contribution to ocean and coastal management**

**Natasha Bradshaw**, Ocean and Coastal Futures

This year we initiate the Bob Earll Award at Coastal Futures. The award is for an outstanding contribution to ocean and coastal management. Six nominations were received, from which a panel selected one to give the 1<sup>st</sup> Bob Earll award today. Natasha will introduce the award scheme, Bob Earll will present this years award, and the winner will be invited to give a short speech at the end of this year's conference.

Bob Earll's career has spanned marine biological science, marine ecology, marine conservation, environmental science, management and policy in the marine and water sectors. He has taken a leading role in science, management, consultancy and policy development on topics including bivalve eco-physiology, citizen science and marine natural history, sublittoral surveys of many sites around the UK, fish farming, basking shark ecology, marine protected areas, North Sea marine management, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, sewage pollution, plastic pollution and marine litter. He has taken a leading role in enabling a host of conferences on a vast range of marine and coastal topics that have changed the policy landscape including aggregate management, the Marine & Coastal Access Bill, Marine Spatial Planning. Similarly with the water sectors specialising in catchment management, including the start of the Catchment based Approach (CaBa) and flooding issues.

Bringing people together, through conferences and events has been a key part of his career and he has helped to develop a host of organisations and projects. He has run over 300 events and conferences, many highly interactive. Organisations including the Marine Conservation Society running the main marine conservation conference in the UK from 1979 to 1991, The Shark Trust, Coastal Futures, The Marine Forum (1991-2000), the National Aquatic Litter Group (1993-2002), the Seabed User and Developer Group (SUDG). Most recently, the 3Cs coastal project which arose from work on the Coastal Based Approach (CoBA), South West Marine Ecosystems and the EAST marine ecosystems.

He is a marine biologist and enthusiastic diver, with over 1000+ dives and has pioneered citizen science - *diving with a purpose* - for sports divers. He edited two weekly newsletters CMS Marine News and CMS Water News for over a decade. He is the author of numerous articles and two books.

Ocean and Coastal Futures intend to evolve and grow the award scheme over the coming years, so look out for the call for nominations for 2025 via CMS News.

**Contact:** [natasha@coastms.co.uk](mailto:natasha@coastms.co.uk)

## **Further Information**

Bob Earll Award criteria: <https://coastal-futures.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Bob-Earll-Award-criteria-CF24.pdf>

## Background to Coastal Futures Conferences

Coastal Futures has run for over three decades, convening a community of coastal and marine practitioners from different sectors since the series was begun in 1994. The conference provides the most comprehensive annual review of current practice and pointer to future trends for our coast and ocean.

Further background is available online at [www.coastal-futures.net](http://www.coastal-futures.net)

### **Ocean and Coastal Futures Ltd.**

*Ocean and Coastal Futures Ltd.* (OCF) convene the Coastal Futures conference and run the weekly *CMS News & Advertising* service which brings the most relevant and topical news to our members every week, alongside job adverts for water and marine professionals. OCF aims to continue to grow our services for the coastal and marine community of professionals through more news, events and training.



# CMS Advertising: Jobs, News, Services & Events

## The leading network for coastal, marine and water practitioners



# Advertising your vacancies, events & services

CMS continues to provide an engaging and cost-effective opportunity to advertise job vacancies, services, training courses, conferences and publications to a targeted sector-specific audience. We have been providing a trusted service to clients and practitioners for over twenty-five years.

Adverts are circulated to our 7,600+ contacts from across the coastal, marine and water sectors. Our subscribers range from new graduates to experienced experts, who have a strong interest and experience in environmental, social and industry issues. From June 2022 to May 2023, we circulated 357 adverts and we consistently receive very positive feedback from our clients:

*"Once again, using CMS Jobs provided us with a great selection of suitable candidates and we were able to fill our vacancy easily. Seeing the stats afterwards showed the effectiveness of this advertising platform for this particular role. Thank you for your fast, efficient and effective service."* Cornwall Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

*"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."* National Trust





# How your advert is promoted

## There are three primary elements to our service:

- The main service is provided by direct mailing your advert to our contacts who have signed up to receive targeted emails.
- Your advert is uploaded to the CMS website.
- The details are promoted again in the weekly CMS Newsletters which are emailed to subscribers every Tuesday and Thursday. Your advert remains in the Newsletters until the application period closes.
- These mailings reach 7,600+ sector-relevant contacts direct to their inbox.

## Social Media

We also push your advert through our social media channels using our house-style images.

## 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.

## Bespoke services

We tailor our service to fit your needs and can provide an additional enhanced bespoke advertising campaign for events and recruitment on request.

## Contact

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



## Feedback from our clients

*"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."* Uplift

*"Using CMS advertising service was a great success for me. Their mailshot reached exactly who I wanted to tell about my event. All tickets were booked within 24 hours. I couldn't believe it! The process is quick and simple, the service is excellent. Will use again and would recommend to anyone who is looking to engage with the marine and water sector."* Worklife Mindfulness

*"We've been advertising courses with CMS for over 10 years and have developed a great relationship with the team over that time. They are always quick to respond & are flexible in their approach. We always get participants on our courses that have signed up because they received a mailout from CMS. I think that is a clear indicator of success."* The Barefoot Thinking Company

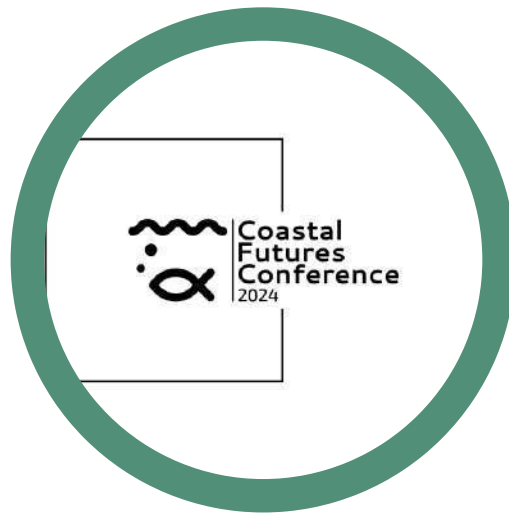
*"Great service. Received some very good applications. Communication with CMS was excellent and they are always very helpful."* Brown & May Marine Ltd

*"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."* HiDef Aerial Surveying Ltd

*"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."* Dialogue Matters

The CMS service and Coastal Futures conference are run and owned by Ocean & Coastal Futures (OCF) Ltd.





# With thanks to all our sponsors



## #CoastalFutures24



24th & 25th January, 2024 | The Royal Institution, London & online