



**Coastal
Futures
2025**

Delivered by OCF

Coastal Futures Conference 2025 The Path to 2030

[Tickets on sale here](#)

29 & 30 January 2025 | The Royal Geographical Society, London & online

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Coastal Futures 2025: The path to 2030

2030: The date is etched across international goals, government policies, and legal targets. The UK has a new government, and this parliamentary term will take the country to the brink of 2030.

Politicians, NGOs, industry, and government agencies, all have 2030 fixed firmly in their sights as the year when the world should have achieved many of the most important aims and ambitions of our time.

What are these targets, why do they matter and whose responsibility are they?

- We are now halfway through the 'UN Decade of Ocean Science' and 'UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration'.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations members in 2015, created 17 world Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.
- OSPAR's 16 contracting parties have signed up to the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030. It sets out the objectives to tackle the challenges facing the ocean: biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.
- The UK government wants clean power by 2030 and has a target to reach 50GW of offshore wind capacity by this date, a step towards achieving net-zero.
- The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework commits 196 countries to halting and reversing nature loss by 2030. The agreement's 23 targets include a global target to conserve at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030 ("30x30").
- Under the Paris climate agreement, the UK needs to reduce its emissions by 68% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels.
- The EU has adopted a new 'Nature Restoration Law'. Member States will put in place restoration measures in at least 20% of the EU's sea areas by 2030.

There are just five years until 2030. Is the UK and the world on track to reach these ambitions? How can we achieve the transition to a low-carbon, nature-positive and sustainable world in a fair and just way?

Coastal Futures 2025 sets out to answer these questions and cover the major themes in the estuarine, coastal and marine sectors. Across six sessions over two days, the conference aims to challenge thinking and move debate forward in an informative and collaborative way.

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Programme

#CoastalFutures25

Programme details and timings may be subject to change

Day 1 - Wednesday 29th January 2025: Session 1

10:00 **Welcome** A welcome from the Ocean and Coastal Futures team

10:20 **Opening Address** **Emma Hardy MP, Minister for Water and Flooding**

10:30 **Keynote** **Michelle Willis**, Acting CEO, Marine Management Organisation:
Our transformation challenges to hit for 2030

LAND-SEA INTERACTIONS

How do we improve the quality of place-based decision-making?

Speakers will consider how to embed systems thinking and a holistic approach in local governance, to achieve stronger and more integrated outcomes.

Chair: **Aisling Lannin**, Head of Evidence, Marine Management Organisation

- 10:45
- **Rhona Fairgrieve**, AtkinsRéalis: IC(Z)M – What's the Story: Back to the Future?
 - **Diana Pound**, Dialogue Matters: The pathway to transformative change
 - **Jo Bayes**, Environment Agency: Applying a Natural Capital Approach from Source to Sea
 - **Brendan Bromwich**, Mott MacDonald: Systems thinking in practice - Use of participatory system mapping in stakeholder engagement to better understand land-sea interactions
 - **Sidonie Kenward**, Marine Management Organisation: Exploring the challenges, opportunities and barriers to local decision-making in the context of marine planning

Panel Debate with

- **Ness Smith**, Howell Marine Consulting
- **Amy Pryor**, Coastal Partnerships Network

12:20 Refreshments

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Day 1 - Wednesday 29th January 2025: Session 2

SUSTAINABLE SEAS

Can we meet the 2030 targets whilst growing a sustainable blue economy?

Speakers will illustrate complex interactions within the marine space and provide examples of collaborative and innovative solutions to achieve a sustainable blue economy, amid the nature and climate crises.

Chair: **Rachel Solomon Williams**, Executive Director, Aldersgate Group

- 13:30
- **Jamie Moore**, The Crown Estate: Marine Delivery Routemap: Integrating nature, clean power, and industry for a thriving marine economy and communities
 - **Lucy Greenhill**, Howell Marine Consulting: What is a Sustainable Blue Economy and how do we make progress towards it?
 - **Siobhan Browne**, Marine Management Organisation: Can we really build a windfarm in two years?

Panel Debate with

- **Samuel Wrobel**, Senior Marine Policy Officer, RSPB
- **Jennifer Godwin**, CEO, Seabed User and Developer Group
- **Chris Ranford**, CEO, Cornish Fish Producers Organisation
- **Tom Ash**, Senior Policy Officer, Wildlife and Countryside Link

15:00 Refreshments

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Day 1 - Wednesday 29th January 2025: Session 3

ACROSS THE WATER

What insights can we gain from international best practice to help us reach 2030 targets? Speakers will bring their experience from across the world to tackle this year's key questions on land-sea interactions, sustainable seas, ocean stewardship, future fishing and restoring nature.

Chair: **Louise Heaps**, Head of Sustainable Blue Economy, WWF

- 16:00
- **Samantha Blampied**, Government of Jersey: Marine Spatial Planning on an island scale
 - **Helen Elphick**, RWE Offshore Wind: Ecological mitigation and restoration in the European offshore wind sector: Synergies and opportunities for the UK
 - **Wietse van der Werf**, Founder, CEO, Sea Ranger Service: How social impact can accelerate coastal restoration capacity
 - **Sarah Davie**, MRAG: Applying learnings in development of Fisheries Management Plans
 - **John Hornig**, Stantec: Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge - Coastal Protection, Habitat Creation, Carbon Sequestration – lessons learned from the United States

Panel debate with

- **Professor Mike Elliott**, IECS Ltd and the University of Hull

17:25 Keynote **Nick Hounsfield**, Founder, The Wave: Building Blutopia

17:45 Bob Earll Award Early career impact on ocean and coastal management

18:00 Wine Reception

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Day 2 - Thursday 30th January 2025: Session 4

09:00	Keynote	Melanie Austen , Professor of Ocean and Society, University of Plymouth: Systems thinking: seeing and making the connections for sustainable use of our ocean
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OCEAN STEWARDSHIP

Are we doing enough to understand and promote the value of our seas?

Speakers will demonstrate innovative approaches to support coastal communities, understand their diverse values and empower transformative change from the local level.

Chair: **Sian Rees**, University of Plymouth

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 09:20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giles Bristow, CEO, Surfers Against Sewage: From the beach front to the front benches: engaging, empowering, and mobilising communities to protect the Ocean• Jack Brett, Office of Environmental Protection: Holding Government to account in freshwater and marine environments• Jenni Balmer, Environment Agency: Nature recovery for all - from catchment to coast• Emma McKinley, Cardiff University: Ocean Literacy Strategies for Engaging Communities in England and Wales• Ffion Mitchell-Langford, Marine Conservation Society: Hiraeth Yn Y Môr - Equitably connecting underserved coastal communities to our ocean• Antony Firth, Historic England: Coastal Pasts for Coastal Futures: investing in our maritime inheritance |
|-------|---|

Panel Debate with

- **Tim Adey**, Office of Environmental Protection
- **Indy Kiemel Greene**, RSPB Youth Council

11:00	Refreshments
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Day 2 - Thursday 30th January 2025: Session 5

FUTURE FISHING

How will future fishing be balanced with restoration efforts & space for renewable energy?

Speakers will illustrate the impacts of energy, climate, and nature recovery targets on fisheries and how the transition to new fisheries management measures will help or hinder a sustainable future.

Chair: **Daniel Owen**, Fenners Chambers

12:15

- **Mike Cohen**, CEO, National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations: Fail to plan / plan to fail: the need for a strategic approach to managing fisheries and the marine space
- **Joe Richards**, Blue Marine Foundation: An assessment framework for a just transition for mobile gear fisheries
- **Alistair Bally Philp**, Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation: The case for spatial management in Scotland's inshore fisheries'
- **Rob Clark**, CEO, Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities: Recognising and harnessing the national benefit of sustainable fisheries across the UK: You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone'
- **Claire L. Szostek**, Plymouth Marine Lab: Co-existence of fisheries and offshore wind farms: opportunities, challenges, and perspectives

Panel Debate with

- **Ashley Mullenger**, Independent Small Scale Fisherman

14:00 Refreshments

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Day 2 - Thursday 30th January 2025: Session 6

RESTORING NATURE

Can we achieve well-managed and restored marine and coastal seascapes by 2030? Speakers will highlight nature positive progress and consider if true headway is being made on reversing the loss of nature and restoring the natural world to health.

Chair: **Professor Dickon Howell**, Howell Marine Consulting

- **Jasmine Isa Qureshi**, Ecologist and Writer: Queering as a Regenerative Pathway in Nature
- **Laura Seddon**, Marine Management Organisation: Reflections on why we are not achieving our environmental goals
- **Ruth Williams**, The Wildlife Trusts: UK Blue Carbon Mapping Project
- **Robert Walsh**, Northern Ireland Marine Task Force: Towards Northern Ireland's Ocean Recovery – From Policy to Practical Marine Conservation
- **Sarah Fowler**, Chief Executive, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust: Unlocking saltmarsh superpowers

15:00

Panel Debate with

- **Jo Ratcliffe**, Environment Agency
- **Samir Whitaker**, Orsted

16:30 Conference Close

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Photo Exhibition

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Pride in our seas II – The English coast: in the Drayson Room

Sarah Coulthard (Newcastle University), Phoebe Lewis and Ainsley Hatt
sarah.coulthard@ncl.ac.uk

This national photography exhibition invites you to reflect on our commercial fishing industry, the many contributions our fishing families make to society and the quality of life that fishermen* are able to achieve, or are sometimes being denied, as they navigate the many challenges now facing the sector. Featuring fishermen and others who work in the pursuit of sustainable fisheries, from Berwick upon Tweed to Plymouth, this exhibition captures the faces of fishing through visual case studies. Originally launched in early 2024 by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) in partnership with renowned photographer Ian Georgeson, this powerful showcase now expands its reach to the English coast, thanks to funding from Newcastle University.



* We use the term 'fishermen' in recognition that the women who commercially fish and participated in this work preferred the term fishermen over a gender-neutral term such as fishers.

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Posters

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Posters can be viewed in the Sunley Room during the breaks and evening reception

- **John Aitchison**, Chair of Friends of the Sound of Jura, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation which is a member of the Coastal Communities Network Scotland: Scottish Salmon Farming in Crisis – A Coastal Community Perspective
- **Amelia Araujo**, AtkinsRéalis: A Methodology to Predict the Impact of a Marine Structure on Longshore Dynamics and Shoreline Evolution
- **Flossy Barraud**, The Manta Trust and University of Plymouth: Promoting gender equity for wider ocean stewardship
- **Dr Lissa Batey**, NatureBureau Ltd: Conservation, Fisheries, Trade and Management Status of CITES-Listed Sharks
- **Kizzy Beaumont**, University of Plymouth: Mechanisms for Transformative Ocean Governance
- **Prof Nicola J. Beaumont**, Plymouth Marine Laboratory: Sea the Value: Marine Biodiversity Benefits for a Sustainable Society
- **Dr Daryl Burdon**, Daryl Burdon Ltd Marine Research, Teaching and Consultancy: Supporting coastal communities 'Sea the Value' of marine restoration initiatives using Participatory Mapping approaches
- **Abigail Crosby**, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Marine and Coastal Partnership: Building Ocean Stewardship Through Collaboration: The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Marine and Coastal Partnership
- **Dan Cutler**, Marine Management Organisation: Managing Fishing in England's Offshore Marine Protected Areas
- **Michela De Dominicis**, National Oceanography Centre: Assessing The Effects of Offshore Windfarms & Climate Change in the North Sea

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- **Marie Hanin**, Cefas: A Coastal Health framework to support sustainable coastal ecosystems and resilient coastal communities
- **William Ross Hunter**, Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute Northern Ireland, Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch: Mapping seabed carbon storage and fishing pressure to support Northern Ireland's Blue Carbon Action Plan
- **Kate Jury**, National Trails UK: Coastal Wildbelt: Seizing a once in a generation opportunity for people and nature along our dynamic coast
- **Prof. Briony McDonagh**, University of Hull: Coast-R Network+ and the Resilience Coastal Communities and Seas Programme
- **Aisling McGarrigle**, Blue Marine Foundation: Unlocking Investment - A Roadmap for High-Integrity Marine Natural Capital Markets in the UK
- **Marta Meschini**, University of Liverpool: Co-Creation for strengthening locally led coastal management: advancing equitable solutions to coastal risks
- **Martha Pybus**, Finance Earth: Supporting gear and tech to improve the sustainability of UK fisheries through the Fisheries Improvement Fund
- **Toni Scarr**, PhD student, Birkbeck University and Head of Ecology and Geomorphology, Environment Agency: Is Estuarine Environmental Management Fit for Purpose? A Case Study of the English System
- **Gemma Smith**, University of Hull: The Interconnectedness of Marine Management Challenges and the Effectiveness of Social-Ecological System Management Practices
- **Michael Barry Thompson**, Mott MacDonald Limited: Applying marine spatial planning to the Red Sea Southern Islands
- **Evangeline Wilby**, Marine Management Organisation: Climate and nature: sustainable offshore wind deployment for 2030 targets

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Delegate Rates

[Tickets on sale here](#)

		In-Person	Livestream (two days)
2-day rate	Full	£295 +VAT	£95 +VAT
	Retired	£215 +VAT	£75 +VAT
	Concession*	£145 +VAT	£60 +VAT
	Student**	£125 +VAT	£50 +VAT
1-day rate	Full	£210 +VAT	
	Retired	£145 +VAT	
	Concession*	£115 +VAT	
	Student**	£100 +VAT	

- Rates include refreshments, food and conference reception
- Concession rates only apply to these categories: the unemployed; benefit recipients; registered disabled; those working in small charitable organisations with gross annual income of less than £1 million
- Student tickets only for those in full-time education; limited numbers available
- 10% group discount rates are available for full rate, in-person tickets of five or more delegates when booked simultaneously - contact diana.hunt@coastms.co.uk for more information

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