



Coastal Futures 2026

From ambition to action

London & online

28 & 29 January

Outline Programme

Call for Presentation & Posters

[Tickets on sale here](#)



Coastal Futures 2026: From ambition to action

The ocean underpins our climate, our economy, and our well-being. Yet rising demand for space and resources makes the future of our seas more contested than ever. Coastal Futures 2026 will bring together leaders and practitioners from across sectors to move beyond ambition and into action, navigating our shared future by exploring the policies, partnerships, and innovations needed to deliver a thriving ocean for all.

Outline themes:

- **Shared stewardship:** Exploring the collaborative efforts needed to manage our ocean and coasts. This theme will highlight how different sectors — government, industry, NGOs, academics, and coastal communities — can work in partnership on sustainable resource management through place-based approaches, moving away from fragmented efforts.
- **Balancing blue growth:** How can society balance economic development, such as offshore renewable energy, shipping and aquaculture, with the need to protect marine ecosystems and minimise pollution? This theme explores the challenges and opportunities of the growing blue economy.
- **Coastal resilience & community well-being:** Centring on the connection between the health of our rivers and seas and the well-being of coastal communities. The theme will address how society can adapt to climate change while ensuring sustainable livelihoods. We want to highlight the work of those building bridges and creating opportunities for underrepresented communities.



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Outline themes (cont.):

- **Innovating for a healthy ocean:** Highlighting the role of science, technology, and finance in creating a sustainable ocean future, this theme will explore how new solutions and innovative financial tools can support policy development, marine conservation, improve ocean management, and drive the restoration of degraded habitats.
- **Planning our ocean space:** Delving into the complexities of planning and sharing space both inshore and offshore, we will examine how to effectively allocate space for various uses — from offshore wind, fishing, cables, shipping lanes and protected areas to aggregate extraction sites. This theme will highlight the planning tools and approaches needed to reduce conflict and promote a more sustainable and equitable use of the ocean.
- **Action & accountability:** Focusing on turning ambition into reality, this theme will address the policy frameworks, legal instruments, and accountability mechanisms - both public and private sector - needed to ensure that commitments to ocean sustainability are met, and that progress is monitored and reported on.

Coastal Futures 2026 sets out to answer these questions and cover the major themes in the estuarine, coastal and marine sectors. Across two days, the conference aims to challenge thinking and move debate forward in an informative and collaborative way.



Call for Presentations & Posters

We are inviting abstract submissions for this year's conference, a place where practitioners in our field come together to challenge conventions, spark new ideas, and shape the future. This is your chance to contribute to a dynamic exchange of knowledge, gain valuable feedback from peers, and leave a lasting mark.

You can find further information and submit your abstract **[via this link](#)**.

The deadline for abstracts is **Friday, 17 October, 18:00 GMT.**



Coastal
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Delivered by OCF

Coastal Futures 2026

Ocean and Coastal Futures (OCF) is excited to welcome delegates in-person and from across the world online via our hybrid 2026 conference.

OCF is on a mission to improve coastal and ocean management - we do this through convening, connecting and spreading knowledge. The long-running Coastal Futures conference series has been a staple event for the UK ocean, coastal and water sectors for over three decades and is the largest ocean event of its kind in the UK. In 2025 we were joined by Minister Emma Hardy, who delivered the opening address.

As well as Coastal Futures, we run a series of high-impact events, including 'Blue Finance' and an ongoing collaboration with the Environment Agency on ReMeMaRe, a keystone marine restoration event. We are also working with partners to build a regional conference series across England on the state of the marine environment.

We host webinars, such as our Ocean Justice and Marine Restoration series (in partnership with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation) and we are the home of OCF news, jobs and events, providing targeted high-quality information to our informed and specialist subscriber base.



conference@coastms.co.uk



www.coastal-futures.net



Ocean and Coastal Futures



@oceanandcoastalfutures



Delegate Rates

[Tickets on sale here](#)

In-Person Livestream

2 days	Full	£299	£99
	Retired	£235	£80
	Small Charitable Organisation & CIC*	£199	£75
	Concession**	£150	£60
	Student***	£135	£55

1 day	Full	£230
	Retired	£175
	Small Charitable Organisation & CIC*	£155
	Concession**	£115
	Student***	£110

• All prices exclude VAT

- Rates include refreshments, food and conference reception
- *Those working in small charitable organisations / CICs with gross annual income of less than £1 million
- ** Concession rates only apply to these categories: unemployed; benefit recipients; registered disabled
- ***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



Coastal
Futures

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The OCF Bob Earll Award 2026:

Outstanding contribution to ocean and coastal management

This year's award is focussed on **inclusive leadership and community engagement**: recognising an individual(s) whose leadership has demonstrably fostered greater inclusion and community engagement. The Award celebrates those who are building bridges between diverse groups, breaking down barriers, and creating opportunities for underrepresented communities to participate in and benefit from ocean stewardship.

OCF are pleased to invite nominations for the Bob Earll Award 2026, to be presented at the Coastal Futures conference on 28th January.

Nominations [via an online form](#), will close at **12:00 GMT on 7 November 2025**.



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Bursary awards

Our Bursary aimed at helping underrepresented groups gain access to the conference is now open for applications.

As part of our commitment to encouraging and supporting diversity, equity and inclusion, we are launching our third Coastal Futures Bursary to amplify the voices of young people in UK marine decision-making.

This opportunity is open for young people aged 18 to 25 years old, groups who are currently underrepresented in the marine & coastal sector and face financial barriers to attending.

Applications will close at **12.00 GMT on 7 November 2025**. Find out more and [apply here](#).



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