

The OCF Bob Earll Award



Ocean
and Coastal
Futures



Coastal
Futures

Delivered by OCF

Outstanding contribution to ocean and coastal management

2026 award focus: Inclusive leadership and community engagement

Award Process and Criteria for Evaluation

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

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.

Bob Earll began the Coastal Futures conference series in 1992, continuing to convene coastal and marine practitioners for three decades. His impact has reached beyond conferences to innovative initiatives which have made a huge contribution to coastal and marine sustainability.

Nominations

Nominations via an [online form](#), will close at **12:00 GMT on 7 November**. Candidates will then be sifted by the OCF team based on the following criteria, to produce a long list of nominees.

Criteria

Nominees will be scored out of 20 for each category, to give each candidate an overall score out of 100:

- Dedication to ocean and coastal management.
- Demonstration of significant impact.
- Bringing people together to achieve a collective goal towards sustainability.
- Leadership and role model through practice and professional development.
- Empowering others from diverse backgrounds.

Award Panel

Candidates who achieve a score of above 70 or the top six scored candidates, will be put forward to the awards panel for full evaluation. The winner will be agreed at a meeting of the award panel (by vote if necessary) and announced at the conference. The award panel will be made up of Bob Earll and the Directors of OCF, alongside a small group of marine and coastal practitioners.

Presentation of the Award

The winner will be invited to attend the conference in London. An engraved trophy will be presented by Bob Earll and/or a sponsor or a Director of OCF. The winner will be given up to five minutes to make a speech and will be invited to participate in the following year's award panel.



conference@coastms.co.uk



www.coastal-futures.net



Ocean and Coastal Futures



@oceanandcoastalfutures