



Coastal Futures 2026

From ambition to action

Royal Geographical Society, London & online
28 & 29 January

Outline Programme

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Delivered by



**Ocean
and Coastal
Futures**



**Coastal
Futures**

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OCF & Coastal Futures 2026

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

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.

The 2025 conference was the biggest ever, with over 780 delegates from 285 organisations, with 585 in-person and over 200 online attendees. We were honoured to be joined by Minister Emma Hardy, who delivered the opening address.

Ocean and Coastal Futures (OCF) exists to convene, connect and share. We are on a mission to improve sustainable ocean management by empowering practitioners with the knowledge and connections they need.

As well as Coastal Futures, we run a series of high-impact events, including 'Blue Finance' and the UK's keystone marine restoration event, an ongoing collaboration with the Environment Agency. We host webinars, such as our Ocean Justice and Marine Restoration series and we are working with partners to build a regional conference series across England on the state of the marine environment. We are the home of OCF news, jobs and events, providing targeted high-quality information to our informed and specialist subscriber base - the largest specialist group of ocean & coastal practitioners.



conference@coastms.co.uk



www.coastal-futures.net



Ocean and Coastal Futures



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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.





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Delegate Rates

		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 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



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