



AGM 2023

Challenger Society for Marine Science
October 2023



Council Members from Sept 2022

Officers of Council

- Mike Meredith President
- Ros Rickaby FRS President past
- Ed Mawji Treasurer
- Kate Hendry Secretary

Co-opted members

- Angela Colling Ocean Challenge editor
- Stephen Dye Chair OC editorial board
- Kerry Howell SCOR/Deep Sea SIG
- Nick Owens 2024 conference chair
- Gillian Damerell EDI
- Ben Fisher EDI

Council members

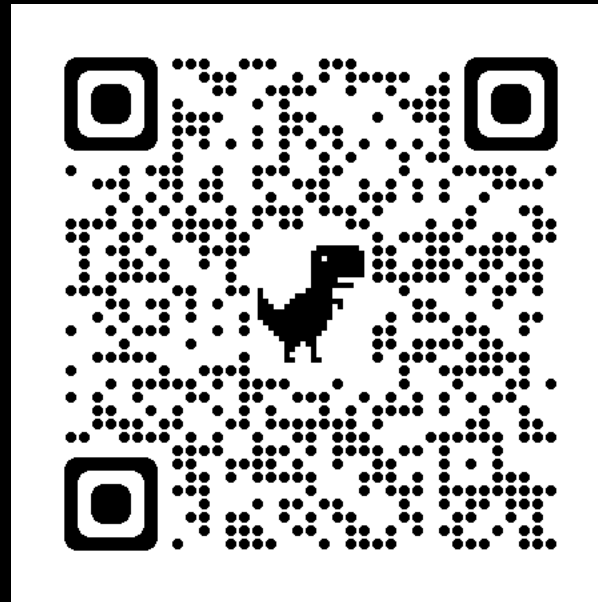
- John Allen Challenger Wave editor
- Cecilia Liszka SIGs
- John Bacon Webpage
- Siddhi Joshi ECR
- Chelsey Baker Membership
- Anna McGregor Media and communications
- Terry Sloane Industry liaison
- Al Tagliabue SCOR
- Mark Inall Chair of NOC-A
- Judith Wolf Outreach and Education
- Sophie Wilmes Travel awards and Stepping Stones bursaries

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from the AGM in September 2022
2. Matters arising from minutes of the 2022 AGM
3. President's Report
4. Portfolio reports
5. Treasurer's report and accounts
6. Appointment of auditors for Independent Financial Review
7. Election of new Council Members
8. AOB

Approval of minutes of previous the AGM, September 15, 2022

http://www.challenger-society.org.uk/Annual_General



Proposer: Ed Mawji

Seconder:

Alessandro Tagliabue

2. Matters Arising

None to report

3. President's Report - AGM 2023

Prof Mike Meredith



President's Report

- Challenger Conference at Natural History Museum and RGS
 - ~500 delegates
 - Presentation of Medals, Fellowships, Awards etc



Trailer – next meeting being hosted by Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Oban in September 2024:-





President's Report

- Co-convoked Upscaling of Autonomy Working Group (UAWG), jointly with NOCA and MFAB
 - Report now being finalized and will be published imminently
 - Findings will feed into new Future Marine Research Infrastructure (FMRI) initiative, the Board of which Challenger President will sit on
- Represented Challenger at Westminster events convoked by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the Ocean
- Chaired regular Council meetings, in which ongoing Society business is conducted and discussed
- Convoked a Challenger Strategy Working Group
 - Looking at ways to increase income and membership
 - Seeking to optimise links with other Societies (IMarEST, SUT, SMI, etc)
 - Discussions with comparable Societies from other disciplines (RMetS, IoP etc)
 - Looking at ways to strengthen impact and connections with policymakers
 - Written strategy in pipeline; will structure aims and objectives of the Society for next several years.

4. Portfolio reports

4. Portfolio reports

UK SCOR

SCOR

- UK continues to play a key role in SCOR
- 78 participants from 31 countries attended 2021 AGM
- Two new SCOR working groups approved
 - SCOR WG 166, Developing resources for the study of Methylated Sulfur compound cycling PROCesses in the ocean (DMSPRO)
 - SCOR WG 167, Reducing Uncertainty in Soluble aerosol Trace Element Deposition (RUSTED)
- Capacity development continued, with three visiting scholars sponsored
- Ongoing links with SCAR via co sponsorship of the Southern Ocean Observing System



- Challenger Society covers 51% of SCOR subscriptions and a new working group forms the UK SCOR committee
 - UK SCOR committee meets annually to review working group proposals and discuss strategy
 - Partnership with the Royal Society continues to work well
- UK SCOR review of Working Group applications completed, new groups decided at 2023 SCOR AGM in Oct

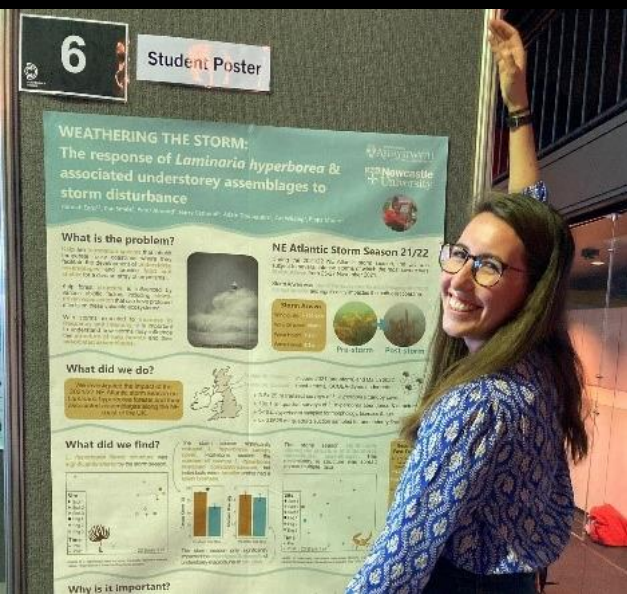
4. Portfolio reports

Awards



Travel Awards

- Covid-19 impacts still affecting applications at beginning of 2022
- January: 3 applications – 3 funded
- April: 6 applications – 4 funded
- July: 6 applications – 6 funded
- October: 9 applications – 6 funded
- Total spend: approx. £8000
- Funded activities examples:
 - World Seagrass Conference
 - ICES Annual Science Conference
 - EGU
 - World Seagrass Conference & International Seagrass Biology Workshop
 - International Coral Reef Conference 2022
 - Various Cruise participations





Stepping Stones Bursaries

- Research activities still affected by Covid-19 early 2022
- In order to make the bursary more attractive, the scope of the bursary was re-written and the eligibility criteria extended from 3 months before contract end to 6 months in 2021
- Total spend in 2022: £2700
- 3 bursaries awarded:

Alasdair Lough: Euromarine workshop on “Reconciling the Impact of Trace Metal Limitation on Microbial Metabolism and Productivity”

Kathryn Ellen Whittey: Fish Hive project (artificial reef structures) in Tobago

Elin Thomas: Develop and optimise a screening tool for the invasive Atlantic slipper limpet (*Crepidula fornicata*)

4. Portfolio reports

SIGs

Challenger SIG update


Cecilia Liszka

Challenger Society for Marine Science

Home News Events Special Interest Groups Membership Publications The Society Awards

Education and Outreach SCOR Blog ECR Network

Deep-Sea Ecosystems
History of Marine Science
- History of Marine Science "new"
Ocean Wind Waves
Coastal and Shelf Seas
Sea Level
Sea Ice
Advances in Marine Biogeochemistry
Ocean Modelling
Marine Science and Policy
Marine Data Science

 **ADVANCES in MARINE BIOGEOCHEMISTRY**

AMBIO provides a technical forum for students, educators, researchers and governmental and industrial partners with shared interests in marine biogeochemistry. Our mission is to:

- Communicate and facilitate the proposal of strategic research, infrastructure development and collaboration;
- Connect Early Career Researchers (ECRs) with the UK-marine biogeochemical network;
- Enable access to mentoring across institutions for early- and mid-career marine biogeochemists;
- Disseminate recent advances in marine biogeochemistry through the biennial AMBIO science meetings;
- Promote ECRs and celebrate important contributors to marine biogeochemistry through awards, recognition and

Latest News
Challenger Conversations – Ocean exploration past, present and future
The free conversational webinar series starts with the legacy of the HMS Challenger expedition on its 150th anniversary and develops a diverse global community of citizen scientists who understand the influence of the ocean on our lives and our

- Review & update of active SIGs & key contacts
 - 6 currently active:
 - AMBIO, Deep-Sea Ecosystems, History of Marine Science, Ocean Modelling, Ocean Wind & Waves, Sea Ice
 - 4 inactive – new leads sought from community but not forthcoming, therefore propose to close:
 - Coastal & Shelf Seas, Marine Data Science, Marine Science & Policy, Sea Level
- SIGs meetings held in 2022 (hosted at Challenger 150):
 - Deep-Sea Ecosystems
 - Ocean Modelling
 - Wind and Waves – wrote article for Ocean Challenge
 - AMBIO – wrote article for Ocean Challenge

4. Portfolio reports

Ocean Challenge



OCEAN

Challenge

Editor: Angela Colling

Editorial Board Chair: Stephen Dye

- As the Society was celebrating the 150th anniversary of the start of the *Challenger* Expedition, Vol.26 showed HMS *Challenger* on the cover and included articles relating to the Expedition. *Challenger* did not return to England until 1876, so *Challenger*-related articles are to be found in following issues as well.
- **Schedule:** Problems with a press at the printers meant that Vol. 25(2) (already published online) was published in January 2022. Vol.26(1) was published in August. (A shortage of copy, resulting indirectly from Covid-19, meant that Vol.26(2) did not go out until 2023.)
- **Editorial Board:** Members were Laura Grange, Emma Cavan and Kelvin Boot, along with Bee Berx and Katrien Van Landeghem who generously remained on the Board for an extra year. Please contact Angela or Stephen if you might like to join the Editorial Board.
- We had productive 'Teams' meetings in May and November, with lots of good ideas for future articles.
- A new feature introduced in 2022 is about books that have inspired us in our marine science careers – do please contribute!

4. Portfolio reports

Early Career Researchers

Activities in 2022

Early Career Researcher Seminar Series 2022 Launched!

- January : Oceanographic data analyses with Python
- February: Challenges of doing science at sea
- March: Ship-time Funding Applications
- May: Postdoctoral Funding applications with AMBIO SIG
- June: CLASS Fellowship Opportunities for ECRs
- August: Poster Presentations
- September: ECR Mixer at Challenger 150 conference-Speed Networking Event
- October: Pandas to Polars Python seminar

Total Engagement: 517 ECRs engaged!!

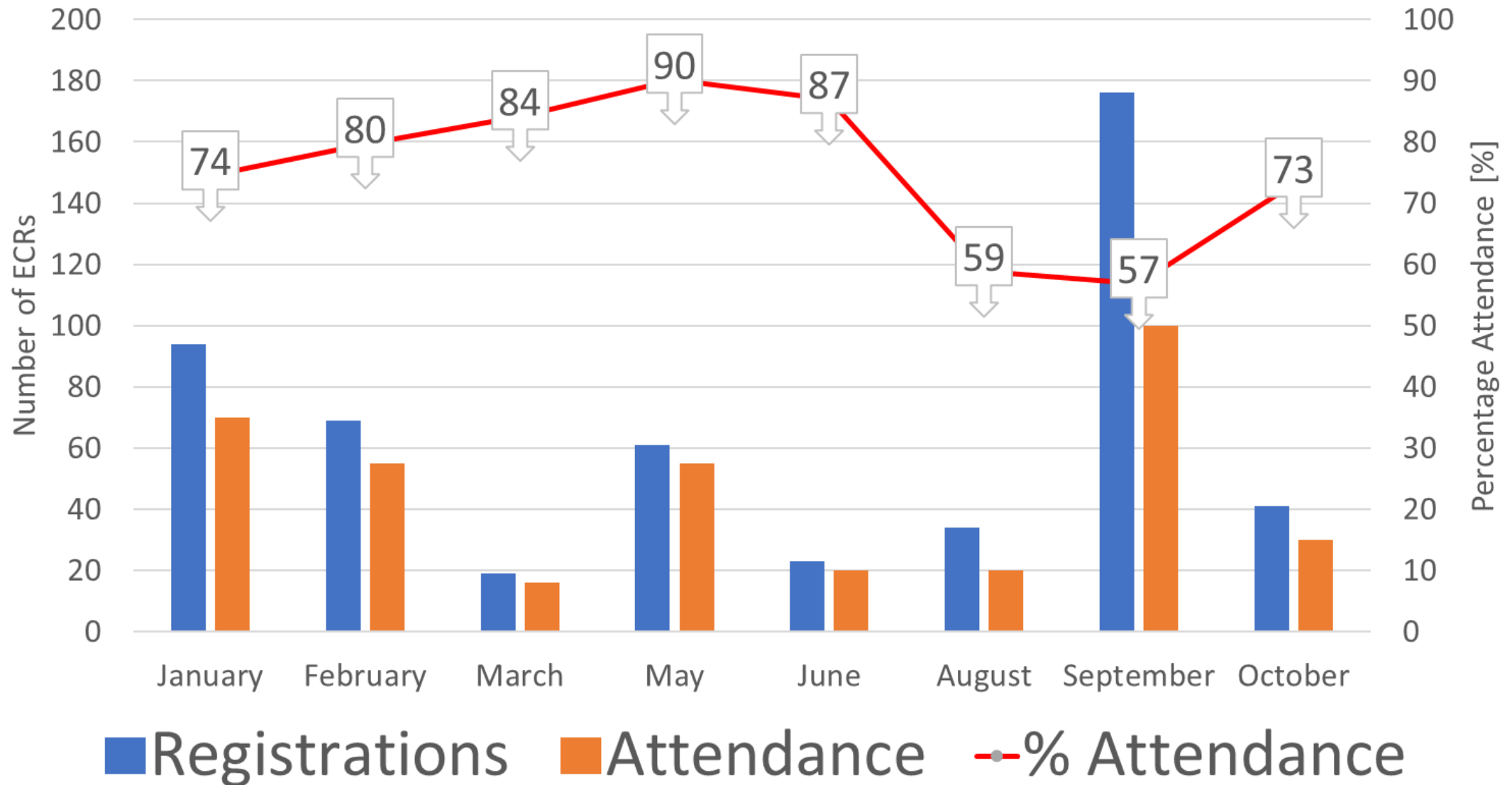
Total Percentage Attendance 70.8%

Early Career Researcher Seminar Series 2022 & ECR Mixer at Challenger 150 Conference

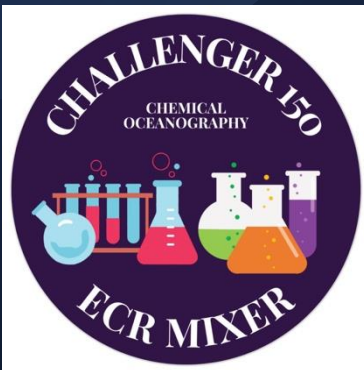
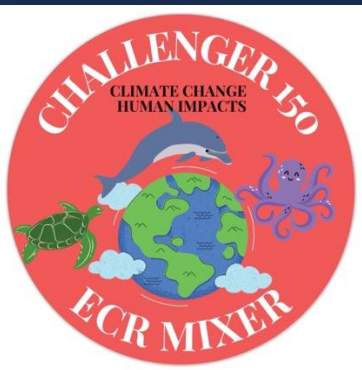
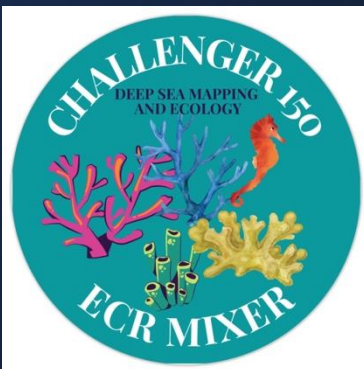


Early Career
Researcher Portfolio
Holder:
Dr Siddhi Joshi

Challenger Society for Marine Science Early Career Researcher Events 2022



ECR MIXER @ Challenger 150



Written Feedback to ECR Mixer 2022 - 3 responses!

Survey Comments about ECR Mixer

How do you feel that your engagement with the mentors helped your conference experience?

“The mentors did a very good job”

How helpful was the speed networking to discussing challenges in your career as an ECR?

“It was very helpful to hear that many ECRs face the same challenges and we had a fruitful discussion on how to improve our CV / what we can do to stand out in a job-search process”

What do you think worked well during event?

“Well organised. Positive that we got refreshments”

What could be improved during the ECR Mixer?

“Splitting such a large group onto 2 rooms would have been nice since it became very loud once the discussions were ongoing.”

Any other feedback/comments?

“Please keep this ECR event in the schedule, it is a very good way to connect with people.”

“As an ECR I thought the mixer was good and it was great to have a chance to interact with the speakers/group leaders.”

“However prior to them arriving a number of us were already having conversation. I think it would have been nice to have a little more of that, if the aim is to get ECRs talking so we can collaborate in future providing some space for that would be useful as well as getting careers talks”

“More soft drink options when free alcohol available”

“ECR mixer did not allow for mixing between ECR's, it was more of a tutor meeting style event.”



Evaluation based on Feedback Provided:

- Society must keep listening to challenges faced by ECRs in marine science
- Give ECR training opportunities and a voice to inform their career trajectory
- Keep the “speed dating” style group ECR mixer format with mentors.
- In future, plan a longer event to include two segments: one to enable ECRs to mix and another to have a group mixer format with mentors.
- Order more soft drinks in addition to alcoholic beverage preference expressed, especially if the room is warm.
- Look into additional room availability to accommodate numbers



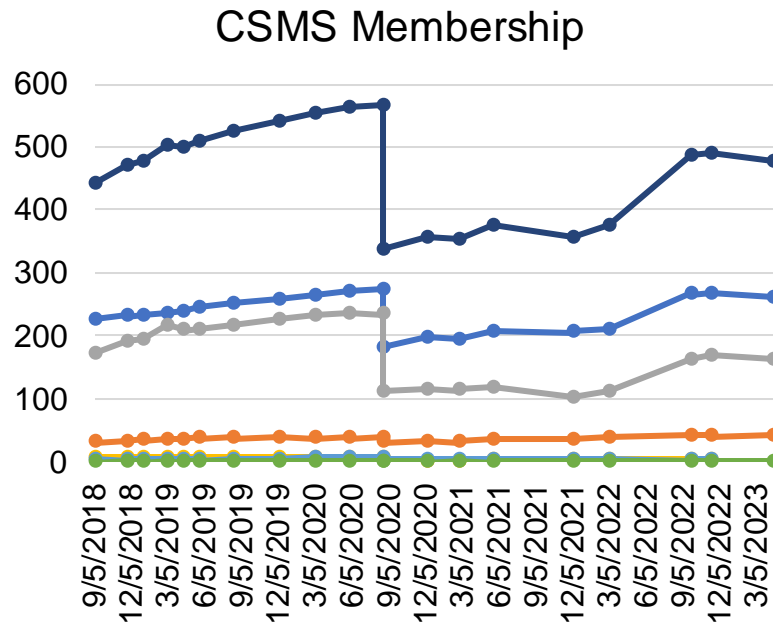
4. Portfolio reports

Membership and data protection

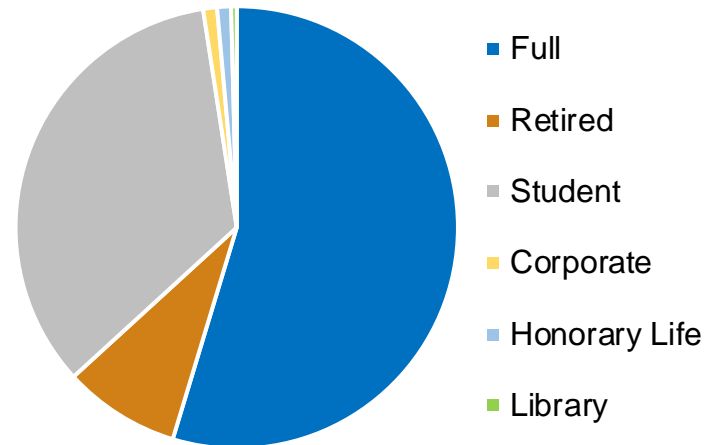
Membership and Data Protection

Chelsey Baker

- Updated membership statistics to reflect fully-paid members (15th November 2022)
- Increase in membership due to Challenger conference registrations (purge of expired members in 2020)



CSMS Membership (15th November 2022)



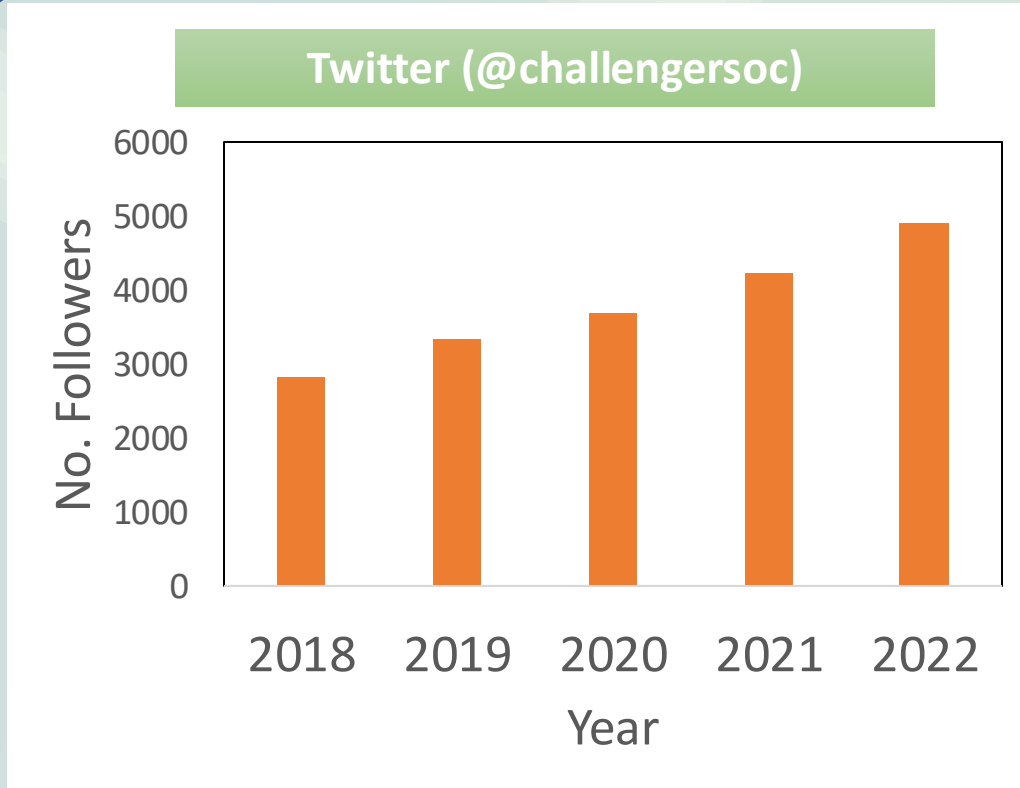
Membership Type	Membership (15.11.2022)	Change in 2021
Full	269 (54.7%)	+62
Retired	42 (8.5%)	+7
Postgraduate student	169 (34.3%)	+66
Corporate	5 (1.0%)	No change
Honorary Life	5 (1.0%)	No change
Library	2 (0.4%)	No change
Total	492	+135

4. Portfolio reports

Comms

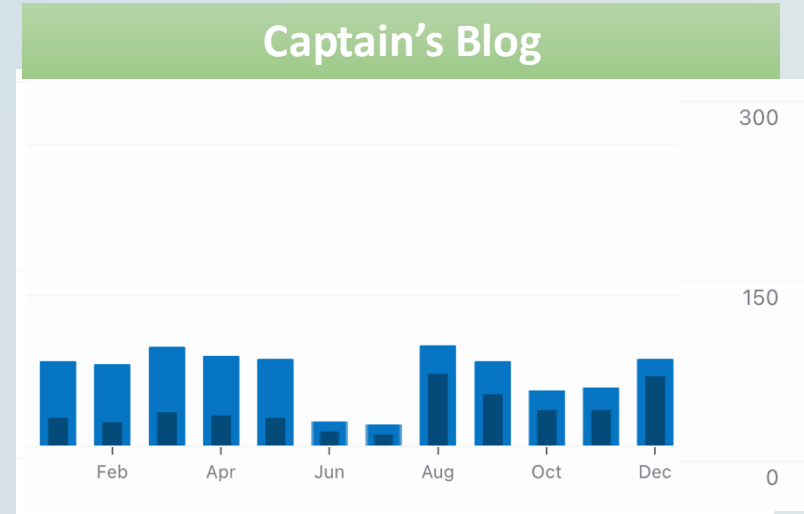
COMMUNICATIONS

Anna McGregor



Followers: 4906

↑632 followers from 2021



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2016												144
2017	279	47	93	59	134	41	32	140	56	304	113	69
2018	282	98	47	132	38	44	43	110	77	69	67	37
2019	89	160	205	76	123	177	110	115	86	186	144	136
2020	95	100	57	96	235	389	387	67	122	127	133	146
2021	218	71	65	55	88	48	82	26	43	52	73	70
2022	84	81	98	89	86	24	21	100	84	55	58	86
2023	225	38	82	53	106	69	98	77	55	11		

- World Seagrass Conference
- The London Sea Shanty Collective
- Gas Exchange Workshop
- TRACE metal SAMplers & SenSORS workshop

Blog: 866 views, 13 posts published

4. Portfolio reports

Industry liaison

Industry Liaison and Technology

Terry Sloane

- Liaison with industry to provide access to news, research opportunities, commercial opportunities and employment opportunities from within the ocean business community
- Liaison with MSTG (Marine Science & Technology Group) trade association, The Society for Underwater Technology & IMarEST to provide a conduit for government organisations and policy makers from a lobbying, economic and business perspective and with the international oceanographic, hydrographic and meteorological instrument manufacturers and suppliers ***www.maritimeindustries.org*** ***www.imarest.org*** ***www.SUT.org***
- To strengthen the relationship between the organisations to provide a coherent business and science contact point to government and the media as well as early career members .
- To provide the council and membership with information on developing technologies, “horizon scanning” sponsorship opportunities, industry support for research bids and technology search capabilities and to respond to requests for technical information
- To provide industry with a view of the future requirements of the marine science community and to brief instrument manufacturers
- To facilitate introductions between membership with respect to joint venture and licensing opportunities
- To facilitate space at UK based exhibitions and reciprocal marketing activities
- **To raise sponsorship in support of our conferences and events – including the next meeting in Oban**

4. Portfolio reports

EDIA Working Group

EDIA Working Group Activities 2022



Hosted a plenary EDIA session at the Challenger 150th anniversary meeting



Created an accessibility and inclusivity guide for Challenger Society meetings



Initiated diversity monitoring of Challenger Society



Improved CSMS' Council member nomination



Digital twinning project developed



FindAScienceBerth project developed



Increased opportunities for Early Career Researchers



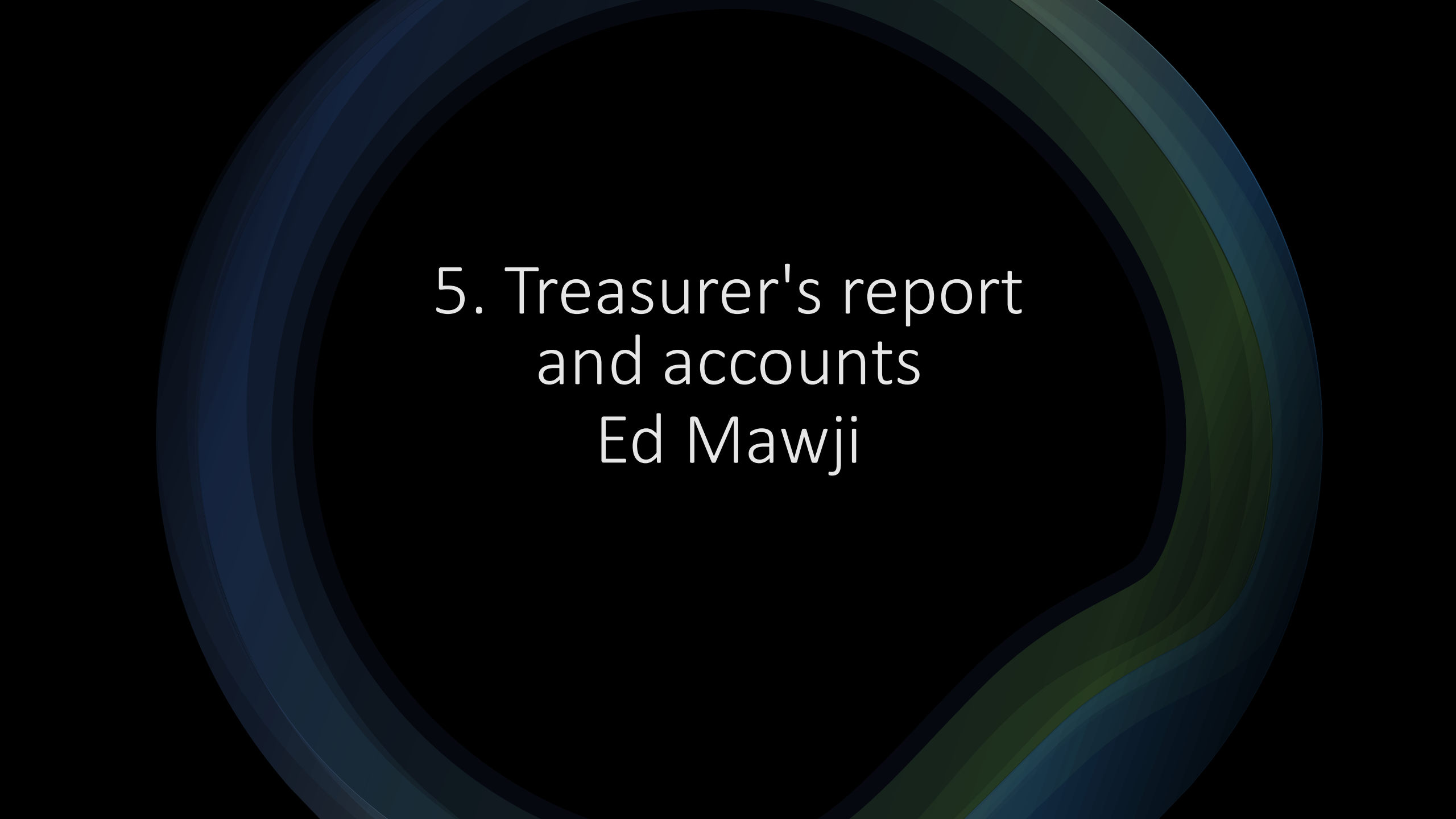
Made the Society's processes and structures more transparent



Created a nominations committee for fellowships and awards



Initiated dual submission of scientific and EDIA abstracts at CSMS conferences



5. Treasurer's report
and accounts
Ed Mawji

2022 Accounts *YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022*

As of 2019 the CSMS hosts the finances of the UKPN all numbers presented do not include the UKPN restricted funds.

- The Society's total income for 2022 was £28,171 an increase on 2021 (£20,865).
- Total expenditure during 2022 was £35,162 a large increase from 2021 (£ 22,906).

UKPN funds removed from table for 2019 to 2022

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Administration and website	1450	1975	4641	659	2849	792	1207	1633	2734	1466
Publicity	327	0	300	0	324	384	87	0	0	164
Ocean Challenge	3029	3569	3644	2165	3811	6298	5679	3500	3077	5469
Awards and prizes	4250	9041	4540	11784	7996	11957	9166	2500	6000	11455
Accountants	2400	1323	1164	960	1375	1563	1308	1308	1105	1164
Council and SCOR travel	2714	2732	1148	2333	2195	4243	2448	342	523	538
SIGs	2053	2291	1716	1152	400	497	680	1000	0	500
Local networking	9872	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1598
Subscriptions	6578	7896	8681	9290	11095	10726	11231	12806	9462	10798
Equipment dep	245	184	138	103	78		0		0	
Sundry	33	0	0	0	1850	2466	43	32	0	1891
<u>Total Exp</u>	36383	33659	29493	31909	31973	38926	31849	23121	22901	35043
Subscriptions + gift aid	10656	7626	7661	11501	13829	18226	11833	12113	12891	16866
Grants	4000	5650	3000	9000	10534	7000	5000	7000	5000	9450
Sponsorship CW	500	1350	1185	0	0	0	0	0	1189	0
Profits conference	18973	0	20961	0	15841	0	6503.4	0	0	0
Interest from investments	1821	1578	1137	1533	1651	1725	1759	1767	1785	1855
<u>Total Inc</u>	37189	16435	33944	22034	41855	26951	25095.4	20880	20865	28171
Operating profit	806	-17224	4451	-9875	9882	-11975	-6753.6	-2241	-2036	-6872
Investment holding	39280	41130	41640	45627	49734	48363	57,020	60683	69329	61355
Total Funds carried	119416	104042	109003	103115	117104	103758	105485	104907	111631	97247

Questions on 2022 accounts ?

Proposer: Alessandro Tagliabue

Seconder: Chelsey Baker

Reserves policy

The Society's reserves policy has been prepared through consultation with the Charities Commission guidance on reserves policies for small charities and has previously been agreed by council.

- 1) **£15k** would be placed in reserve to cover unforeseen emergencies
- 2) **£30k** (3 x £10k) would be placed in reserve to offset any potential future uncertainties in income (effectively the difference between annual subscriptions (£15k) and total income=expenditure ~£25k)
- 3) A contingency fund of **£20k** (equivalent to one year average annual expenditure over past decade) be held in reserve to meet unforeseen needs including unexpected opportunities which might arise for the society to further its objectives.

The reserved policy to be kept under review by council and presented for acceptance by the membership annually at the AGM

Reserves policy


In summary:

Council proposes a £65k reserve to be kept under annual review.

Current funds held, excluding UKPN, (31 December 2022) are £97,247 k this is a decrease from last year (£111,492)

Fixed assets (investment) £61,355

Current assets (Bank Accounts) £ 35,838

The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of dark blue and teal, centered on a black background. A wavy, light green line curves across the lower right portion of the image.

6. Appointment of auditors for Independent Financial Review

Accountants

In the interests of maintaining complete transparency in all of our affairs, the Challenger Society Council elected to continue to engage the services of an external auditor to perform an Independent Financial Review of the Society's accounts each year.

We have retained the services of:

Argents Chartered Accountants
15 Palace Street
NORWICH
Norfolk
NR3 1RT

The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of dark blue and teal, centered on a black background. A wavy, light green line enters from the bottom right and curves upwards towards the center, partially overlapping the circles.

7. New and outgoing council members

Changes to Council

- Thanks to two members who are leaving council
 - Ed Mawji – Treasurer
 - Judith Wolf – Education and Outreach

Election of New Council Members and Officers

One new member to elect to Council:

- **Robyn Tuerena – Education and outreach portfolio**

Robyn is a Lecturer in Nutrient Biogeochemistry at SAMS. She is an enthusiastic science communicator and is passionate about improving diversity in UK marine sciences. She has experience in Outreach through previous projects: as part of a fieldwork programme in the Arctic, she created an outreach website and blog aimed at communicating science and fieldwork to primary and secondary school children. She designed and implemented the webpage and created links with a primary school in London and a secondary school in Stirling. She further worked with this school during COVID to provide them with information and pathways into science.

She has supervised Masters and PhD students at the moment and see the huge benefits they get from ECR training opportunities. She would like the opportunity to help organise courses with the Early Careers Research Officer and others on the council. Now that data, technology and training are becoming more accessible through the internet she feels there is huge potential to use the influence of the Challenger Society to promote accessible education opportunities in marine science from primary age all the way to PhD and beyond.



Proposer: Cecilia Liszka

Seconder: Anna McGregor

Election of New Council Members and Officers

Two new officers/members to elect to Council:

- Maeve Lohan – president and officer of the council

Maeve is a Professor of Marine Chemistry at the University of Southampton, whose research interests focus on trace metals biogeochemistry with particular reference to bioactive metals (iron, zinc, and cobalt). Her research examines chemical, biological, and physical processes which affect trace element distributions and behaviour in both coastal and open ocean regimes. This research combines distribution, chemical speciation studies, trace metal uptake by phytoplankton and analytical chemistry and is approached from two directions: field measurements and laboratory studies. Maeve has been involved in a number of international organisations e.g., GEOTRACES, a staggering number of exciting research grants and programmes, and is a fantastic supervisor and mentor for early career researchers.



Proposer: Alex Poulton

Seconder: Alessandro Tagliabue

Election of New Council Members and Officers

Two new officers/members to elect to Council:

- **Alex Brearley** – treasurer and officer of the council

Alex is a physical oceanography at the British Antarctic Survey. He has a strong track record in managing both the research and finances of several academic programmes, including a NERC Independent Research Fellowship, EU programmes, and a capital programme, which has included the construction of a new autonomous vehicles workshop and the successful delivery within time and budget of several new AUVs and surface vehicles. He has demonstrated teamwork to deliver key academic outputs from a variety of Southern Ocean and Greenland projects and effective mentoring of both PhD and Masters students, including across academic disciplines into biogeochemistry. He engages with both the general public (including designing a highly used outreach video showcasing marine autonomy through a Challenger Fellowship in 2021), but also with policy makers to raise the profile of marine and polar science in the UK (e.g., at the Ice Worlds event in Greenwich in 2021). He has co-hosted an EDI internship at BAS this summer/autumn to provide the opportunity for a student from a non-traditional background to gain experience in physical/biogeochemical oceanographic data analysis. He has strong existing links with groups at other UK HEIs and research laboratories, and UK national representative on the ClivAR/ClIC/SCAR Southern Ocean Region Panel.



Proposer: Terry Sloane

Secunder: Cecilia Liszka

Proposed future changes to Council

- New position: Vice President

8. AOB

Brief discussion on Articles of Association, which will be updated as required if action taken following recommendations by Challenger Society Strategy Working Group