

# Challenger Wave



Monthly newsletter of the Challenger Society for Marine Science (CSMS)

## NEWS

### Jack Darbyshire Memorial Lecture: 8th September 7pm, Bangor University

The first Jack Darbyshire Memorial lecture is to be held in Bangor during the forthcoming Challenger conference (although as it is not part of the conference it is free for all to attend). "Predicting the future of inland waters" will be given by Professor Iestyn Woolway, School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University

Jack Darbyshire was the first Professor of Physical Oceanography at Bangor, founding the department of Physical Oceanography in 1963. Originally from the slate mining communities of Blaenau Ffestiniog, Jack graduated from Bangor (then the University College of North Wales) with a first class honours degree in physics in 1940. He subsequently moved to London, and the Admiralty Research Laboratory, where he became a key member of Group-W, tasked with predicting ocean waves in support of WW2 amphibious landings. His arrival back in Bangor in 1963 proved pivotal in the development of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University, and of oceanography globally. To this day the University maintains a strong track record of world leading oceanographic research, with many Bangor graduates occupying leading positions in both academia and commercial oceanography globally.



We are delighted to have a leading climate scientist to give the first Jack Darbyshire Memorial Lecture, Iestyn Woolway. Iestyn specialises on climate change impact



assessments, with much of his time dedicated to the study of global environmental change. His work provides insights into how climate change will impact the environment providing roadmaps to resource managers tasked with accounting for ecosystem climate vulnerability in conservation and management decision-making. Like Jack, Iestyn also hails from the Ffestiniog Slate mining communities, studying at Bangor University as an undergraduate. Although still in the early stages of his career Iestyn has been widely recognised for the outstanding global impact of his work through the award of numerous honours including the 2025 ASLO Yentsch-Schindler Award, the 2024 Philip Leverhulme Prize, the Royal Geographical Society Gill Memorial Award, and the 2023 Dillwyn Medal of the Learned Society of Wales.

### New scientific advisor brings global mussel farming expertise to Shell-volution project lead by UHI

Shell-volution has appointed internationally recognised mussel aquaculture researcher Dr Brad Skelton, Research Fellow at the University of Auckland, as Independent Scientific Advisor for a one-year pilot, bringing internationally recognised expertise from one of the world's leading mussel farming nations. Dr Skelton will provide independent scientific advice, constructive challenge and an international perspective to help ensure Shell-volution's research, innovation and knowledge exchange activities deliver practical benefits for Shetland's mussel sector and support the long-term growth of Scotland's shellfish industry.



Shell-volution is a £4.4 million Islands Growth Deal project funded by the UK Government and Scottish Government to transform Scotland's mussel farming sector. Led by UHI (University of

the Highlands and Islands) in partnership with the mussel industry, the project is delivering research and practical innovation to improve the reliability of wild mussel spat recruitment, enhance farming practices and support the future sustainability and productivity of the sector. As Independent Scientific Advisor, Dr Skelton will advise on the project's research pipeline, review the feasibility and quality of proposed work, support technical scrutiny of project outputs and help the team draw on successful approaches from established mussel farming industries overseas, particularly New Zealand.

Dr Skelton has extensive experience in applied aquaculture research and knowledge exchange, working closely with New Zealand's internationally recognised mussel farming sector. He has already met online with the Shell-volution team and Shetland mussel farmers and is expected to visit Shetland in September 2026. Gregg Arthur, Project Director, said: "We are delighted to welcome Dr Skelton to the project. His international experience of applied aquaculture research and close collaboration with New Zealand's mussel farming industry will bring valuable independent insight as we develop practical solutions for Scotland's shellfish sector. His expertise will help ensure our research delivers real benefits for producers and supports the long-term growth of the industry."

### European Ocean Carbon Summit

The European Ocean Carbon Summit is a campaign driven by a coalition of Horizon Europe projects focussed on investigating ocean carbon to jointly create a report describing the aims and achievements of this EU investment portfolio with recommendations for future funding actions. The report will be presented at an interactive event in Brussels on 26th of May, 2027, open to all. The European Commission has invested heavily in ocean carbon cycle science over recent years across various threads, including: research, technology, governance and infrastructure. In parallel, several organisations are delivering programmes of work that complement and leverage the results of these projects.

Given the scale of the investment, the acceleration in ocean activity and the severity of the climate crisis, it is timely for the ocean science community to come together and jointly take stock of what this investment is telling us now and where we should go next. The

European Ocean Carbon Summit is bringing together multiple Horizon Europe projects representing 50+ million euro of investment to:

- assess results from projects at various stages of maturity
- define key messages for policy
- suggest pathways toward action
- identify gaps and recommend next steps.

A report will summarise the results and provide consensus around priorities for future investment and will be presented during the 26th May 2027 event, headlining a programme featuring project presentations along with discussions to connect the key messages to stakeholders, end users and policy makers. We will also acknowledge and celebrate the important achievements of the participating projects and wider community. To see who is currently involved, find more information and sign-up for ongoing updates, please visit the registration page: <https://ocean-icu.eu/ocean-carbon-summit/>

### ETHOS Workshop

In July, the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), together with the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) hosted an inaugural workshop for the ETHOS initiative. ETHOS, which stands for ETHnic diversity in Ocean Science, aims to create a community of practice dedicated to advancing the representation and inclusion of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds across the UK marine science sector. The workshop, held on the 7th and 8th of July at NOC, marked the start of this exciting new collaborative initiative by bringing together colleagues from the public sector, research institutes, charities and universities across a range of professional roles spanning science, communications, HR and culture, as well as equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) experts. Representatives from the Challenger Society EDIA working group were also co-organisers of the workshop.

The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for participants to share experiences, discuss barriers to representation and inclusion, and explore practical approaches to creating meaningful change. Through a series of facilitated discussions and collaborative activities, attendees considered both individual and organisational actions that can help build a more diverse and inclusive marine science community. There was a strong desire for action to emerge from the

workshop and a real commitment to drive the initiative forward, translating our shared ambitions into practical actions. A key outcome of the workshop will be the creation of a roadmap to advance representation and inclusion of individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds applicable to the UK marine science community.



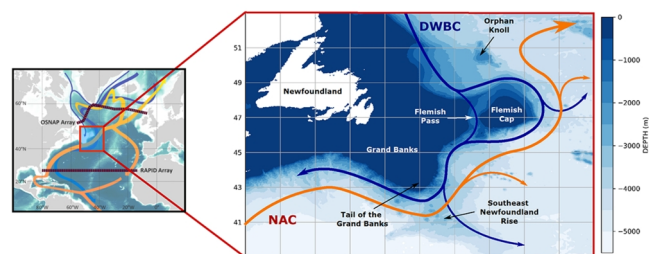
*Panel session at the ETHOS workshop discussing career pathways and lived experiences in the workplace.*

Increasing diversity is not only about ensuring fairness and equal opportunity. Research consistently shows that diverse teams bring broader perspectives, greater creativity and stronger problem solving capabilities. For marine science, where addressing complex global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and ocean sustainability requires innovation and collaboration, creating an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive is essential. The workshop represents an important first step in establishing a network of practitioners and advocates committed to fostering change across the sector. As ETHOS develops, the initiative aims to provide a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing and collective action. If you are interested in hearing more about ETHOS please contact us at [culture@noc.ac.uk](mailto:culture@noc.ac.uk) and/or [chelsey.baker@noc.ac.uk](mailto:chelsey.baker@noc.ac.uk). We welcome engagement from organisations and individuals across the marine science sector who are committed to advancing inclusion and representation. :- **Chelsey Baker, Amy Oliver and Alice Marzocchi as representatives of ETHOS**

### The Flemish Cap: where the deep ocean loses its way

Five hundred kilometres east of Newfoundland, an underwater plateau rises up from the abyssal

plain of the North Atlantic. This is the Flemish Cap, a place central to North Atlantic ocean circulation, and for centuries, it has attracted fishing vessels from across the world due to its bountiful waters. But its importance to the global ocean is only just becoming apparent. The Flemish Cap is a place where some of the most important waters in the ocean change course, disperse and transform before continuing to journey south. That water is North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW). It forms at high latitudes in the Labrador, Irminger, and Nordic Seas, where surface water cools, becomes denser and sinks, travelling southward through the deep ocean, carrying carbon, oxygen, and nutrients as it goes. This southward flow is the deep return branch of the **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)**.



*The Flemish Cap and Grand Banks sit at the junction between the northward-flowing North Atlantic Current (orange) and the southward Deep Western Boundary Current (dark blue). The inset shows where Transition Zone observations fit within the wider AMOC observing framework, including the RAPID and OSNAP arrays.*

For years, the southward flow of NADW was imagined as a continuous current hugging the western margin of the Atlantic as it headed south, known as the Deep Western Boundary Current (DWBC). But that picture turned out to be incomplete. When oceanographers began tracking individual water parcels using acoustically tracked RAFOS floats drifting at depth and anthropogenic tracers dispersing into the deep sea, a different reality emerged. Much of the NADW that enters the DWBC at high latitudes never makes it cleanly to the south. A significant fraction “leaks” away from the DWBC, scattering into the interior of the ocean through eddies, recirculating gyres and dispersive interior pathways. The deep return branch of the AMOC is less a contained river and more like a hosepipe full of holes.

The evidence points consistently to one part of the ocean where most of this leakage occurs: the



zone between the subpolar and subtropical North Atlantic, shaped by the topography of the Flemish Cap and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Here, the continental slope steepens and bends sharply before levelling out, transitioning to complex bathymetry that pushes parts of the DWBC offshore. The North Atlantic Current, carrying warm saline surface water northward, meets and interacts with the cold, deep DWBC flowing south via its meanders and intense eddies that contribute to mixing water masses vigorously. Deep water that enters the region with one set of properties emerges, downstream, measurably altered. As such, the Flemish Cap and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland are collectively called the subtropical-subpolar Transition Zone of the North Atlantic.

This transformation matters because the behaviour of the AMOC depends on two things: how much water sinks at high latitudes, and how reliably that signal travels southward. If NADW is diverted or mixed before it reaches subtropical latitudes, the deep ocean's ability to transmit change from the subpolar Atlantic to the wider global ocean is reduced. As the Greenland Ice Sheet continues to melt, causing freshwater to enter the subpolar seas at increasing rates, the AMOC faces growing pressure. Whether those changes propagate globally, or are partly absorbed and damped within the Transition Zone, is a question with real consequences for how we project future climate. EPOC, in collaboration with the French CROSSROAD project, now provides novel observations and numerical tools to start answering that question.

### Wednesday history talks

The Oceanography History SIG intends to resume its series of Challenger Society History of Oceanography talks at 5pm on the third Wednesday of each month, starting in October. More news about the speakers and topics later. We have offers of three talks which takes us up to the end of the year. The purpose of this mail is to ask for speakers in the new year. You have plenty of time to put one together. Please get in touch with [plw@noc.ac.uk](mailto:plw@noc.ac.uk) directly. :- **Phil Woodworth**

### New Academic Engagement Toolkit published

The Government Office for Science has published the [Academic Engagement Toolkit](#).

Designed to support effective engagement between the UK government and academia, the toolkit brings together practical guidance, tools and resources on:

- Identifying and working with experts
- Choosing appropriate engagement routes
- Supporting inclusive engagement to build mutually beneficial relationships

The toolkit has been developed to help civil servants engage more confidently and effectively with academics. It also helps academics better understand how engagement with government works and how their expertise can be used most effectively to government decisions. For more information and to access the toolkit, visit [this link](#). To explore opportunities for academics to get involved: [Routes for academic engagement with Government - GOV.UK](#). Please share with your networks on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

### Call for applications and nominations, SDG Rising Star 2026

Apply for, or nominate a colleague for the GEET SDG Rising Star 2026 initiative: <https://www.intechopen.com/journals/7/geet-sdg-rising-star>. While traditional metrics of excellence focus primarily on citations, SDG Rising Star 2026 prioritises the practical potential of research to address our most urgent global issues. This year's program reflects our commitment to finding and promoting researchers developing actionable solutions that align with and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whether your work focuses on climate action, renewable energy, or social equity.

Who can apply? PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows, and early-career faculty (within five years of completing their terminal degree). Why apply?

- Zero Publishing Fees: APC-free (no cost) publication for all accepted papers that successfully pass the peer review
- Direct Access & Mentorship: Receive guidance from our international team of ambassadors, including Tatiana Morosuk (Technische Universität Berlin), Marija Banožić (University of Mostar), and myself
- Broader Reach & Visibility: Through this initiative, your research receives dedicated focus and promotion to highlight its practical contribution to the UN SDGs

- Validated Recognition: Earn official digital certificates and badges recognising your contribution to sustainable development
- Networking: Connect with other early-career researchers working on sustainability and practical solutions

Exclusive benefits for the SDG Rising Star 2026 winner:

- Official title of the SDG Rising Star 2026 for your CV and academic profile
- Promotion via a dedicated "SDG Rising Star 2026" badge on your article to signal its importance to the wider scientific community
- Free voucher for one free publication in a future issue of the journal
- Interview on our platform detailing your findings and their practical applications
- Opportunity to publish an invited Commentary piece alongside your article to discuss the broader implications of your work
- Personal reward: an academic book of choice from IntechOpen's portfolio

To apply, complete the [SDG Rising Star 2026 application form](https://www.intechopen.com/journals/7/gee-t-sdg-rising-star) available on the official initiative page: <https://www.intechopen.com/journals/7/gee-t-sdg-rising-star>. The journal team will then contact you with clear instructions on how to submit your paper. Please note, your application will only be finalised once your paper is submitted; submission deadline: 15th September 2026

Is your research ready for the real world? I encourage you to submit your application and share this opportunity within your network to ensure high-impact work reaches the people and places that need it most. Should you have any questions or need further details, feel free to reach out to the dedicated journals team at [journals@intechopen.com](mailto:journals@intechopen.com).

### People and the Sea Opportunity

Do you want to expand your research to the tropics while contributing to projects that directly benefit local Filipino communities? In that case People and the Sea (a community based marine conservation NGO in the Philippines) would be happy to hear from you. People and the Sea welcomes researchers at any stage of their career, particularly those studying local fisheries, coral reefs, seagrass, or community engagement. They have a dive team, a decade-

long collaboration with local fishing communities, years of reef monitoring/fisheries data, and are always happy to discuss new research ideas and potential collaborations. If you're interested, please contact Magnus Janson (Lead Science Officer) at [magnus@peopleandthesea.org](mailto:magnus@peopleandthesea.org). You can also learn more about their work at [peopleandthesea.org](http://peopleandthesea.org).

### Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section on St Helena has exciting opportunities to collaborate with universities

Over the years, the Section has built an extensive collection of datasets spanning fisheries, social science, oceanography, Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS), and underwater visual census surveys. While these datasets have already contributed to our understanding of St Helena's marine environment, there is significant potential for further analysis and further research.

If you're a university lecturer or academic who supervises undergraduate or postgraduate dissertation projects, I'd love to hear from you. These datasets offer a fantastic opportunity for students to undertake research while contributing to the understanding and conservation of St Helena's unique marine ecosystem. Please get in touch with [Adam Riggs](#) if you would like to explore a potential opportunity.

### 'Marine Data Management, Governance, and the MEDIN toolset' online workshop

The Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) and OceanWise are delighted to invite you to attend our popular free online training workshop: 'Marine Data Management, Governance and the MEDIN toolset' delivered on the OceanTeacher Global Academy. Three new dates for upcoming workshops have been set which are open for enrolment now:

- **7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026** at <https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/view.php?id=1313> using enrolment key: MEDIN@@Sept2026
- **19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026** at <https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/view.php?id=1314> using enrolment key: MEDIN@@Oct2026
- **22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2027** at <https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/view.php?id=1315> using enrolment key: MEDIN@@Feb2027

This training course is suitable for anyone responsible for collecting or managing marine environmental data, including researchers, technicians, undergraduates and post-graduates. Prior knowledge or practical experience of data management is not required. The course features interactive presentations, training, discussion sessions, quizzes, and assignments to help attendees:

**Learn** about data management principles, including the data lifecycle and quality, the role of vocabularies (or data dictionaries) and the importance of creating, maintaining, and publishing metadata.

**Explore** the resources and tools provided by MEDIN and receive practical instruction in the use of the MEDIN data guidelines, metadata standard and controlled vocabularies.

**Discover** how to access existing datasets available through the MEDIN portal and network of Data Archive Centres (DACs).

**Understand** the importance of data archiving, sharing, publishing, and re-use.

The training is split into manageable pieces and spread over 5 days with live lessons in the morning and independent learning in the afternoons, which can be completed flexibly around your other work commitments. Please see the [MEDIN website](#) for more information on the workshops, or contact [Alice Rysiecki](#) if you have any questions.

### **Call for papers, Ocean & Society; Co-location and co-existence in marine governance.**

A new Special Issue of Ocean & Society invites interdisciplinary contributions examining co-location and co-existence as emerging approaches to managing competing demands for marine space. The call welcomes conceptual, empirical and comparative research that explores the legal, political, social and institutional dimensions of shared marine use. Among other themes, contributions can focus on co-location in relation to Marine Spatial Planning, offshore renewable energy, fisheries, aquaculture, ecosystem restoration, governance innovation, citizen science and cross-sector collaboration. Papers addressing justice, participation and adaptive governance, as well as comparative

and Global South perspectives, are particularly encouraged to advance understanding of more inclusive and sustainable marine governance. Timeline:

- Deadline for abstracts: 30th November 2026
- Deadline for articles: 30th April 2027
- Publication: October/December 2027

More information: View full promotion of the Special Issue [here](#) or contact [b.mcateer@qub.ac.uk](mailto:b.mcateer@qub.ac.uk)

### **Join the Ocean Decade: submit your ocean initiative to our call for Decade Actions No. 11/2026**

The current Call for Decade Actions focuses on addressing priority needs from the [Barcelona Statement](#) and galvanising new contributions and projects to support and strengthen existing Decade Actions and coordination structures. Help us continue to deliver the science we need for the ocean we want. Applications for Decade Projects and Decade Contributions close on 31 August 2026, so [Apply now](#).

### **NERC Peer Review College**

Expert review plays a vital role in ensuring that the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) supports the highest quality research across their portfolio. It provides a fundamental contribution to their application assessment process; the expert knowledge provided through this process allows their panels to make appropriate, considered funding decisions. The NERC Peer Review College would strongly encourage applications to help strengthen the following areas: Biological and physical oceanographers, Digital Environment & Environmental Informatics, Genetics/Genomics, Marine ecology, and ocean ecologists. [Find out more](#) about the self-nomination process.

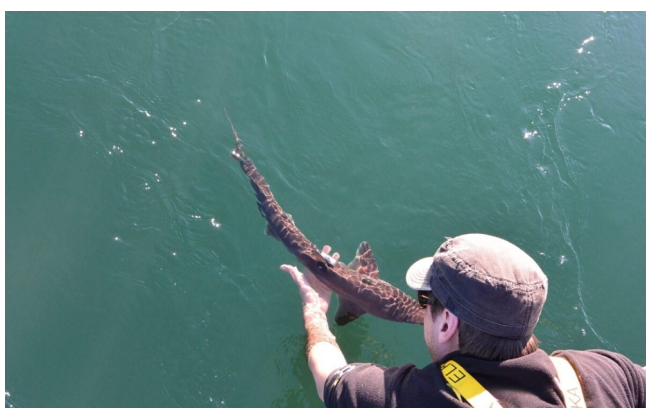
## **VIEWS**

### **Shark Awareness**

The third week of July played host to "Shark Awareness Day". Sharks play a vital role in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, yet more than a third of shark and ray species are threatened with extinction. Last year, MASTS



secured funding for a groundbreaking project studying sharks and skates in Scottish waters, the SharkScape project. Led by Prof James Thorburn (ENU) with researchers from the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish Association of Marine Science, the University of the Highlands and Islands, the Orkney Skate Trust, the University of Aberdeen, Marine Directorate Science, and NatureScot, the SharkScape project will bring together existing data on sharks and skates, identify knowledge gaps, and use advanced and innovative methods, such as tagging technology, environmental DNA, and underwater video, to map distribution, migratory patterns, population dynamics, and interactions of these species with their environment.



We are delighted that Prof Thorburn will be hosting a special session at the MASTS ASM in November on "Emerging Research and Conservation of Sharks, Skates and Rays" We hope you can join us for this.

### **TRANSECTS call for local voices on coastal community experiences of marine energy**

The TRANSECTS project is exploring how offshore energy industries, such as offshore wind and oil & gas, are shaping everyday life in coastal communities in Aberdeen, Orkney, and the Humber region. As part of the Transitions in Energy for Coastal Communities over Space and Time (TRANSECTS) project, an interactive online mapping survey invites people who live or work locally to pinpoint meaningful locations and share their experiences.

The TRANSECTS team are particularly interested in collecting community experiences of social and cultural changes associated with marine energy: from shifts in local infrastructure and access to coastal spaces, to environmental and visual transformations, and how these

developments influence the identity and character of places. The survey is open to people who live, work, or spend time in coastal areas of Aberdeen, Orkney, or the Humber region. You can access the survey via this link: <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/transects>.



The TRANSECTS team would appreciate any support in sharing the survey, especially within networks and contacts in Aberdeen, Orkney, and the Humber region. Please consider circulating it through newsletters, email lists, social media, or community noticeboards. Promotional materials, including social media cards and posters are available upon request and there is an existing [LinkedIn post](#) for sharing. For more information, please contact Sofie Jaeger, Postdoctoral Research Associate with the TRANSECTS team at [s.jaeger@hw.ac.uk](mailto:s.jaeger@hw.ac.uk).

### **Sonardyne helps BAS navigate on GIANT climate mission**

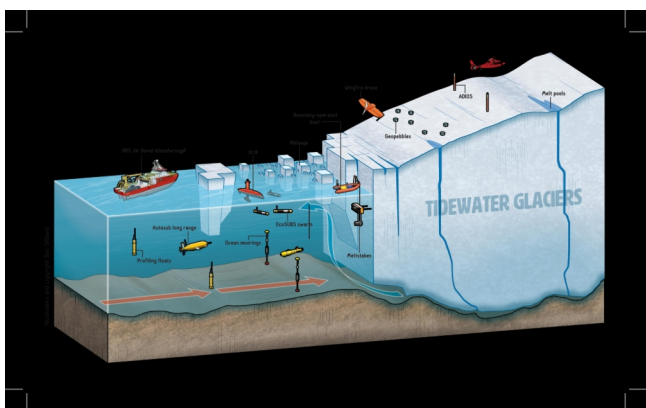
An ambitious climate science mission using marine robots, in formation and closer to glaciers than they've been before, sets sail this summer with support from Sonardyne underwater positioning technology. The GIANT project, led by [British Antarctic Survey](#) (BAS), is investigating how the warming ocean is making Greenland's tidewater glaciers melt, and what this means for our global climate. To do this, the UK's polar research ship RRS *Sir David Attenborough* will send a fleet of autonomous vehicles, aerial, surface and subsea, as a connected observing system, into one of the world's most extreme environments to get the most comprehensive data possible.

Sonardyne's [Ranger 2 Ultra-Short BaseLine](#) (USBL) positioning system onboard the RRS *Sir David Attenborough* and a [Mini-Ranger 2](#) USBL system on the daughter craft *Erebus* will be used to track and control formation operation of the

mission's underwater vehicles as they map the glacier's underwater face. The underwater vehicles being used include the UK National Oceanography Centre's AutoSub Long Range (ALR, AKA Boaty McBoatface), a [Teledyne Gavia](#) and [ecoSUB Robotics](#) autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs). The GIANT project involves 15 collaborating institutions, five technology partners and is backed by the UK's [Advanced Research and Invention Agency](#) (ARIA) as part of the Forecasting Tipping Points programme.



AUVs on the aft deck of the RRS Sir David Attenborough ahead of its GIANT mission. Pictured are Autosub Long Range, a Teledyne Gavia and an ecoSUB Robotics AUV. Photo from Sonardyne.



Exploring the dynamic environment of tidewater glaciers using a diverse array of scientific instruments, from research vessels and underwater drones to surface sensors and aerial vehicles. Image by Ben Gilliland.

Dr Pierre Dutrieux is an oceanographer at BAS and is leading the ocean robotics research on RRS Sir David Attenborough: "This is an exciting and ambitious mission using fleets of autonomous vehicles to help us gather data in otherwise extremely hard to access environments. The data they collect will help to

transform how we forecast ice loss in Greenland's fjords and improve early warning systems for tipping points that could reshape our planet's climate."

Michelle Barnett, Business Development Manager, Ocean Science, at Sonardyne: "Our acoustic and inertial systems provide the positioning layer that helps underwater robots know where they are, stay coordinated and return reliable scientific data. In simple terms, GIANT is not just about sending robots closer to the ice, which is ambitious in itself. It is about turning multiple vehicles into a connected observing system capable of gathering measurements scientists have never captured before. By helping those robots operate safely and accurately in one of the harshest environments on Earth, Sonardyne is enabling research that could improve climate models and deepen understanding of a critical global challenge."

## SALTS

**GEORGE completed its 2nd major demonstration cruise**

July marked an important milestone for the [GEORGE project](#) with its second large demonstration mission. The ship based part of the mission took place in the northwestern Mediterranean between 6th and 14th July 2026 on CNR-owned research vessel Gaia Blu.



Photo by Christian Clauwers & EMSO ERIC.

The mission tested and validated GEORGE technologies for autonomous, multiplatform ocean carbon observations. On board Gaia Blu, the General Oceanics (GO) system measured surface-ocean pCO<sub>2</sub>, while the FerryBox collected additional measurements, including pH and oxygen. Together, these ship-based



observations provide reference data for comparison with measurements from autonomous platforms, including the Sailbuoy autonomous surface ocean vehicle, two types of Argo floats and SeaExplorer gliders.

One of the key moments of the mission was a meeting between Gaia Blu and the Sailbuoy along the route between Marseille and Menorca. "Coordinating these platforms with the vessel at sea, aligning trajectories and achieving



rendezvous within useful windows, was the mission's main operational challenge. The ship and Sailbuoy rendezvous enabled a direct comparison between the autonomous platform and the reference measurements acquired aboard Gaia Blu. The inter-

comparison datasets will now support the calibration and validation of GEORGE's pH and pCO<sub>2</sub> sensors", says Laurent Coppola, Chief Scientist of the GEORGE mission.

### **More than 100,000 seagrass seeds collected to restore one of the UK's rarest marine habitats**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has collected more than 100,000 seagrass seeds from underwater meadows in the Solent, providing the next generation of seed for its ongoing efforts to restore one of the UK's rarest marine habitats. The seeds were gathered from seagrass meadows during a series of low-tide collection sessions at Calshot in Hampshire and Seaview on the Isle of Wight, where volunteers waded and snorkelled through shallow waters to carefully collect mature seed from flowering shoots bearing flowering heads called spathes.

The collection forms the next stage of the Trust's long-term seagrass restoration programme, which has been working to bring this lost habitat back to the Solent since 2021. Seagrass meadows in the Solent were once widespread but have declined dramatically over the past century due to disease, pollution, dredging and coastal development. Up to 90% of the UK's seagrass has been lost, making restoration work in the Solent of national importance. Seagrass is vitally important: it supports marine wildlife, improves water quality, stores carbon, and helps protect coastlines from erosion. Dr Tim Ferrero,

Senior Specialist at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, said "Seagrass seed collection is a little like an underwater harvest. Seagrasses are the only fully marine flowering plants and, like plants on land, they flower, pollinate and set seed, but all underwater. We collect only the mature seed-bearing spathes and then use those seeds to help restore seagrass meadows in the Solent. This year's collection has been a fantastic success and simply wouldn't have been possible without our volunteers. Whether they're out in the water collecting seed before dawn or helping us process it later in the year, they are at the heart of this work"

"When we look out across the Solent today, we're looking at a marine environment that is missing one of its most important habitats. About 100 years ago, we lost around 90 per cent of our seagrass meadows, and since then recovery has been held back by pollution and other human pressures. Every seed we collect is another opportunity to bring seagrass back and support wildlife, cleaner water and healthier seas. Healthy seagrass meadows support an incredible variety of marine life. During this year's collections we've seen lots of marine life sheltering among the seagrass including cuttlefish eggs and baby cuttlefish to hermit crabs, highlighting just how important these underwater habitats are."

The restoration work is necessary because natural recovery alone is not enough to restore the vast areas of seagrass lost during the last century. Tim adds: "Although seagrass still produces huge numbers of seeds naturally, factors such as historic habitat loss and seed predation mean that recovery can be very slow. By collecting, storing and planting seed, we're giving these meadows a helping hand and helping restore a habitat that has been largely lost from our seas."

The collected shoots have now been transported to the Institute of Marine Sciences at University of Portsmouth, where the next stage of the restoration process begins. The spathes are placed into specially designed seawater tanks where they undergo a process known as 'rotting out'. As the spathes naturally break down over an eight to 12-week period, mature seeds are released and collected using a bespoke system with coarse and fine meshes. The system allows seeds to fall through while retaining the plant

material, helping to separate, clean and concentrate the seed ready for storage. The seeds are then stored in carefully controlled conditions until spring next year. Kept at between two and four degrees Celsius in highly saline water, the seeds remain dormant until they are ready to be planted at restoration sites across the Solent. Trust staff and volunteers monitor the seed throughout the winter, regularly changing the water and checking conditions to ensure the seed remains healthy until planting begins.



Collecting seagrass at Seaview on the Isle of Wight. Credit Kira Fuller.

Next spring, the seeds will be planted using an innovative technique known as Dispenser Injection Seeding, which places a carefully measured mix of seed, sand and mud into the seabed at the optimum depth for germination. Early signs of success are already emerging from previous restoration efforts, with young seagrass plants establishing at sites across the Solent, including at Seaview and in the River Hamble, where seagrass had not been recorded for almost a century. The restoration effort relies heavily on volunteer support. More than 300 Volunteer Seagrass Champions are now signed up to help with all stages of the process, from collecting seed on the shoreline and in the water, to processing, sorting and planting it at restoration sites across the Solent.

The collection supports both the Solent Seascape Project and the Solent Seagrass Restoration Project. Through these initiatives, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is working with partners to restore seagrass meadows and other important coastal habitats across the region. The [Solent Seascape Project](#) brings together ten organisations working to

restore seagrass, saltmarsh, native oyster reefs and seabird nesting habitat across the Solent and is funded by the [Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme](#) and East Head Impact. The [Solent Seagrass Restoration Project](#) is delivered by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in partnership with Boskalis Westminster, the University of Portsmouth and the FatFace Foundation, with support from Wightlink, EGS, CooperVision, EcoDrift and Isle of Wight Distillery.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust thank all volunteers, project partners, supporters and landowners, including the Candland Estate, whose support made this year's collection possible. Restoring seagrass is part of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's wider vision of creating a region where nature is recovering on land and at sea. Through its new strategy, the Trust is working to restore wildlife habitats, reconnect landscapes and seascapes, and inspire more people to take action for nature, helping build a future where both wildlife and people can thrive.

## CALENDAR

### 8th-10th September 2026: Challenger Society for Marine Science Conference Bangor, UK

42 years on from the first modern Challenger conference which was also held in Bangor; then organised by John Simpson, Paul Linden, Steve Thorpe and Roy Chester, and run by amongst others a very junior Ed Hill and Bill Turrell. Since then, the Challenger Society's biennial conference has become the UK's largest gathering of marine scientists. The conference has a broad remit, with interests stretching from the coastline to the deep ocean and spanning the globe, from pole to pole. Registration has now opened via: <https://shop.bangor.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/ysgol-gwyddorau-eigion-school-of-ocean-sciences/challenger-conference>. Please note that the accommodation, places at the Thursday evening dinner and the "Anglesey wildlife boat trip" excursion are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

We are delighted to announce our keynote speakers for the conference:

**Emma McKinley** (Cardiff University): *"The Ocean Research we need for the Ocean we want: The role of ocean literacy beyond the UN Ocean Decade"*. **Emma** is a Senior Research Fellow at Cardiff University. Her research focuses on understanding the complex relationships between society and the sea, taking



account of diverse perceptions, attitudes and values held by different communities and audiences, and considers how this insight can be used to support effective ocean governance. Recent projects include the UKRI funded

[Transformative Action Research for Resilient Coastal Communities \(TRACC\)](#) project, the [Maximising UK Adaptation to Climate Change \(MACC\) Hub](#), as well as contributing to SMRR project, [Integrating Diverse Values into UK Marine Management](#), leading work on ocean literacy. Emma is the Academic Lead of the Severn Estuary Partnership and is the founder of the [Marine Social Science Network](#), a global, interdisciplinary community of marine social science researchers and practitioners. She sits on the UK's National Decade Committee for the UN Ocean Decade, the International Science Advisory Group for MEOPAR and the IOC-UNESCO's Global Group of Expert on Ocean Literacy. She is a member of the Wales Coasts and Seas Partnership and sits on the Steering Group for the Wales Ocean Literacy Coalition.

**Gerard McCarthy** (Maynooth University): *"The Atlantic on the edge: Where is the AMOC going and where has it come from?"*. **Gerard** is a physical oceanographer and climate scientist. His research focuses on the changing Atlantic, in particular, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) and sea level. He has been instrumental in studying the AMOC, the system of ocean currents that significantly affects Europe's climate. His findings have raised awareness of its potential weakening due to climate change, which could lead to significant impacts on Europe and globally. He is an internationally recognised researcher, being appointed co-chair of the JPI Oceans and Climate AMOC in Focus report in 2025.



**Kate Hendry** (British Antarctic Survey): *"Do you want ice with that? Biogeochemical changes in polar coastal oceans"*. **Kate** is a chemical oceanographer and biogeochemist who was bitten early by the polar adventure bug, working in the Arctic and Antarctic since her graduate student days. Her research focuses on nutrient cycling in high-latitude environments, in particular the interfaces between land and sea, be it in the deep ocean or glaciated coasts. Kate's favourite element is silicon, but she also tries to talk about other



things every now and then. She has a long history of supporting the Challenger Society, including co-founding the Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility working group, and, currently, sitting on Council as Honorary Secretary. She is also very enthusiastic about communicating science to everyone who needs to hear about it, from parliamentary briefing notes, podcasts and radio broadcasts through to writing a children's book.

Philip Pearson is giving a talk on Tuesday 8th September at 10:00 about his forthcoming book, *Remembered Lives*, which gives voice to the sailors who have vanished from the history of the long-famed Challenger expedition. What emerges from this study is that Challenger's symbolic position in the history of ocean science owes much to the contribution of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

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We can also accommodate Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings around the conference (on the 7th and 11th September) please contact Tom Rippeth for further information, [t.p.rippeth@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:t.p.rippeth@bangor.ac.uk). If you are interested in sponsoring events at the conference please contact Terry Sloan, [terry@planet-ocean.co.uk](mailto:terry@planet-ocean.co.uk). There may be other news of interest in the latest edition of the Bridge: <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/sos/newsletter>.

Challenger Society members are invited to submit all kinds of images (paintings, drawings, collages ...) as well as photographs, for the 2026 Challenger Society Conference Presidents' Artistic Image Prize competition to be judged at the Conference. We are looking for images relating to marine science or the ocean that are beautiful, impressive, evocative, amusing, quirky



or entertaining. The winning image will earn its creator a prize of £100.

The winner will be decided by the Society's President and the Immediate Past President. You may submit up to three images, and information about how to do this will be sent out shortly. Entries must arrive by 17th August. For each image, please provide a title, and a brief explanation of the context. Images should not have been created for commercial purposes, or have received any previous award. Photographic images should not have been significantly altered digitally (e.g. using Photoshop) or created with AI. They need to be at sufficiently high resolution to look good when printed, not just on screen. This means that the file size should be of the order of 1 Mb or more, not tens of kb. Images may be used in future publications of the Society, with the owner's permission.

### 15th–17th September 2026: ICOS Science Conference 2026

*Lund, Sweden*

GEORGE will be at the [ICOS Science Conference 2026](#), in Lund, Sweden and online. Members of the GEORGE EU consortium are convening a dedicated session, session 5, entitled "Advancing marine CO<sub>2</sub> observations through next-generation sensors, integration and platform innovation". Conveners: Laurent COPPOLA, (Sorbonne University), Socratis Loucaides (NOC), Edouard Leymarie (LOV/CNRS), Ute Schuster (Univ. Exeter), Simo Cusi (EMSO ERIC), Romain Cancouet (EURO-ARGO ERIC), Richard Sanders (NORCE and OTC-ICOS), Janne-Markus Rintala (ICOS ERIC)

Accurate in-situ quantification of oceanic CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes is crucial for the determination of global CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes with high confidence, due to spatial and temporal variability that numerical models cannot always identify. Yet this remains a major challenge for carbon cycle research. Progress now depends on the development and convergence of innovative technologies (sensors, samplers) that can deliver long-term, high-quality measurements across diverse ocean environments.

This session will bring together projects, research infrastructures and institutes working to improve marine CO<sub>2</sub> observing technologies, from novel autonomous sensors to integrated observing platforms such as gliders, floats,

buoys, moorings and surface vehicles. Discussions will address sensor calibration and validation, data interoperability, and the integration of these technologies into operational networks such as European Infrastructures (ICOS, EMSO, Euro-Argo) and international networks (SOCONET). Initiated by the Horizon Europe project GEORGE, which co-develops and demonstrates next-generation sensors and integrated platforms across European Research Infrastructures, this session also welcomes contributions from related initiatives, including those exploring new observational data analysis and quality control methods and tools including Artificial Intelligence. By fostering exchanges across disciplines and communities, the session aims to define a shared technological vision for the future European and global marine carbon observing system. Read more at <https://george-project.eu/2026/01/26/george-at-icos-science-conference-2026/>

### 15th–18th September 2026: ICES Annual Science Conference 2026

*Brest, France*

There are 18 theme sessions and 7 network sessions covering topics like:

- Advancing integrated and ecosystem-based fisheries management
- Climate change impacts on marine systems
- Fisheries science and sustainability
- Human pressures, impacts, and mitigation
- Innovation, technology, and data for marine science

Explore all the sessions [here](#).

### 8th–10th October 2026: Arctic Circle Assembly

*Reykjavik, Iceland*

The call for Session Proposals is now open. Governments, universities, companies, research institutions, organizations, associations, and others are invited to submit Session proposals for the 2026 Arctic Circle Assembly. Open call for the 2026 Frederik Paulsen Arctic Academic Action [award](#). Online [registration](#) now open.

### 28th–30th October 2026: Global eDNA Conference

*Seattle, USA*

Hosted in partnership with the Marine Technology Society's [MTS eDNA Committee](#) and

the [University of Washington's eDNA Collaborative](#), the conference will convene a global community of eDNA enthusiasts from across economic sectors to build connections, learn from one another, and further advance eDNA science. The conference will feature three days of concurrent sessions, focusing on a diverse array of eDNA-related topics (e.g., conservation applications, quantitative analysis, community engagement, policy-relevant communication, technological development, and many others), as well as a set of plenary speakers and plenty of unstructured time to make connections on your own.

### 8th-11th November 2026: MedGU Annual Meeting

*Cairo, Egypt*

Following the remarkable success of the [2024 MedGU Annual Meeting](#) in Barcelona and the [2025 MedGU Annual Meeting](#) in Athens, which attracted **750** and **600** participants, respectively, in person and online from over 65 countries, the National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics (NRIAG) in Egypt will host the [2026 MedGU Annual Meeting](#), followed by a two-day field trip. Abstract deadline 10th September 2026.

MedGU-26 will also feature a rich and carefully designed [Social Program](#), along with a post-conference [Field Trip](#) exploring some of Egypt's most remarkable geological features and outstanding natural heritage sites. Your participation, whether in person or virtually, will help MedGU achieve its goals of promoting scientific cooperation and fostering new and fruitful partnerships among geoscientists from both sides of the Mediterranean and around the globe. Your participation will also support MedGU's mission of contributing to a sustainable future for humanity in the region and for the planet. MedGU-26 looks forward to warmly welcoming you to Cairo.

### 10th-12th November 2026: MASTS 2026 Annual Science Meeting

*Glasgow, Scotland*

Join us for the sixteenth MASTS Annual Science Meeting (ASM), a cross-disciplinary event that brings together members of the marine science community, with the aim of promoting and communicating research excellence and forging new scientific collaborations. The first two days will bring together expert plenary speakers and

contributed talks, panel sessions and e-posters outlining the latest research and management practices that address key topics related to marine science and management in the face of global climate change and a biodiversity crisis. Alongside our general science sessions, the event will include special topic sessions, and plenty of opportunities to network. The third day is devoted to workshops.



Early bird registration will open in early August and will include the option to sign up for workshops. The call for abstracts for eposters and talks is now live! We invite abstracts for either a general science session, or one of our special sessions listed below.:

- General Science
- Technological Innovation in Environmental Monitoring & Assessment
- Multiple Stressors
- Climate Change Adaptation in the Marine Environment: From Knowledge to Action
- Marine Mammals
- Natural Capital Approaches for Marine and Coastal Conservation
- The Future of Estuaries
- Particle Tracking
- Marine Biogeochemistry
- Sustainable Aquaculture

For further details about the sessions and to download an abstract template, please visit our dedicated webpage [here](#). The deadline for abstract submission is 17:00 on Monday 31st August. You don't need to be a MASTS member to submit an abstract and/or attend the ASM.

We will also have the following collated special sessions as part of the programme (but these do not feature in the call for abstracts):

- Emerging Research and Conservation of Sharks, Skates and Rays
- ECOWind - Connecting science and policy for the coexistence of offshore wind and thriving marine ecosystems

- Co-location and co-existence in shared island marine governance

If you have any queries about the ASM, please feel free to [contact us](#)

### **13th-17th November 2026: International Marine Conservation Congress 2026**

*Edinburgh, Scotland*

The [8th International Marine Conservation Congress](#); the world's largest gathering of ocean conservationists, bringing together 800+ researchers, policymakers, practitioners, educators, artists, and community leaders. Our mission ? Making Marine Science Matter by connecting science to real-world conservation action.

Including::

- Symposia & Panel Discussions
- Workshops & Short Courses
- Focus Groups
- Art-led Conservation Engagement (visual art, performance, documentary films)
- Plenary Speakers

Sessions will be scheduled November 13th-16th. [Login to the IMCC submission platform](#) with your SCB credentials (or create a new account): Questions? Email [scbmarinecomms@gmail.com](mailto:scbmarinecomms@gmail.com).

### **17th-20th November 2026: World Conference on Marine Biodiversity 2026**

*Bruges, Belgium*

Submit your research for a session on ocean acidification at the [World Conference on Marine Biodiversity 2026](#). This call welcomes diverse contributions from laboratory, field, to modelling and conceptual studies. During the session, the Decade Programme [Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability \(OARS\)](#) will highlight innovative solutions to strengthen cross-regional collaboration and advance collective understanding of ocean acidification. [Find more information here](#).

### **7th-11th December 2026: American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting 2026**

*San Francisco, USA*

Abstract submissions are now open for AGU26, this year, we're returning to our iconic host city, and we can't wait for you to join us. For decades, San Francisco has been the home of AGU's Annual Meeting, a place where Earth and space scientists from around the world have gathered to share discoveries, build connections, and

advance science together. Be part of the world's largest gathering of Earth and space scientists at [AGU26](#) Share your research with the global science community and build connections with others in your field and across all scientific disciplines.

Find even more options with the Session Finder, just paste in your draft abstract and get new session recommendations based on your research. You can also [browse sessions by topic](#). Don't have research to present, but have a great presentation or panel idea? Submit a [Science Exchange Session](#), a pathway for contributions from individuals that highlights experiences, ideas, tools, or the latest challenges and technologies for the AGU community.

Ocean Visions is co-convening two sessions at the 2026 AGU Annual Meeting and invites researchers to submit abstracts:

- The first session, *Research and Emerging Approaches to Slow the Loss of the Cryosphere Through Mitigation and Targeted Interventions*, will explore approaches to slow the loss of the cryosphere, including carbon and methane reduction or removal, ecosystem protection, ice management, solar radiation modification, surface albedo modification, stabilization techniques, black carbon, and wildfire management. The session welcomes research on the current state and potential of these approaches, as well as their social and environmental risks, co-benefits, and governance considerations. [Submit an abstract](#)
- A second session, *Assessing SRM Impacts on Ocean Systems: What Can Existing Tools Tell Us and What Do We Need Next?*, will focus on assessing the impacts of solar radiation modification (SRM) on ocean systems, including physical circulation, carbon uptake, biogeochemical, light and temperature conditions, ecosystem responses, marine heatwaves, and interactions between SRM and marine carbon dioxide removal. The session also welcomes abstracts that introduce datasets or approaches to support future research



and strengthen connections between the SRM and ocean science communities.  
[Submit an abstract](#)

## **2nd-4th March 2027: 5th Ocean Visions Biennial Summit**

*Cartagena, Colombia*

[Save the date](#), this solutions- and action-oriented event will bring together scientists, policymakers, climate and ocean activists, innovators, funders, students, and others from around the world to build community and explore potential solutions to help restore our ocean and stabilise the climate. Join this multidisciplinary community focused on pursuing solutions to the ocean's most pressing challenge, climate disruption.

Programming will be highly interactive and include ample opportunities for collaboration. More information about the Summit and registration will be available soon. Contact [courtney@oceanvisions.org](mailto:courtney@oceanvisions.org) and [laura@oceanvisions.org](mailto:laura@oceanvisions.org) with any questions or to explore partnership opportunities. We look forward to hosting this special convening of the ocean-climate community and look forward to seeing both new and familiar faces.

## **7th-9th April 2027: 2027 Ocean Decade Conference**

*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

Co-organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI), and the City of Rio de Janeiro, the 2027 edition will build on the outcomes of the [2024 Ocean Decade Conference](#) in Barcelona, Spain, and carry forward the ambitions and milestones of the Ocean Decade; [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 \('Ocean Decade'\)](#). We will unite governments, scientists, Indigenous leaders, youth, civil society, philanthropy, and the private sector to accelerate transformative ocean action. We're inviting forward-thinking partners to join us as sponsors and help shape a better future for the ocean; [explore sponsorship opportunities and packages](#).

The 2027 Ocean Decade Conference is already made possible through the generous support of Brazil. Additional sponsors will play an important role in expanding the reach, accessibility, and overall impact of the Conference experience and its legacy outcomes. By supporting key

**August 2026**

components of the Conference, you have the opportunity to help shape a landmark moment for global ocean action while gaining visibility within an influential international network of decision-makers, thought leaders, scientists, and ocean stakeholders. [Sign-up](#) to receive updates.

Institutions worldwide are invited to lead full-day Special Events as part of Ocean Decade Week, the official extended programme of the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference in Rio de Janeiro: [submission](#) deadline 31st August 2026.

## **26th May 2027: European Ocean Carbon Summit**

*Brussels, Belgium*

The European Ocean Carbon Summit is a campaign driven by a coalition of Horizon Europe projects focussed on investigating ocean carbon to jointly create a report describing the aims and achievements of this EU investment portfolio with recommendations for future funding actions. The report will be presented at an interactive event in Brussels on 26th of May, 2027, open to all. The European Commission has invested heavily in ocean carbon cycle science over recent years across various threads, including: research, technology, governance and infrastructure. In parallel, several organisations are delivering programmes of work that complement and leverage the results of these projects.

Given the scale of the investment, the acceleration in ocean activity and the severity of the climate crisis, it is timely for the ocean science community to come together and jointly take stock of what this investment is telling us now and where we should go next. The European Ocean Carbon Summit is bringing together multiple Horizon Europe projects representing 50+ million euro of investment to:

- assess results from projects at various stages of maturity
- define key messages for policy
- suggest pathways toward action
- identify gaps and recommend next steps.

A report will summarise the results and provide consensus around priorities for future investment and will be presented during the 26th May 2027 event, headlining a programme featuring project presentations along with discussions to connect the key messages to stakeholders, end users and policy makers. We will also acknowledge and celebrate the important achievements of the

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participating projects and wider community. To see who is currently involved, find more information and sign-up for ongoing updates, please visit the registration page: <https://ocean-icu.eu/ocean-carbon-summit/>

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The CSMS email address is [challenger.society@gmail.com](mailto:challenger.society@gmail.com). Contributions for next month's edition of Challenger Wave should be sent to: [john@myocean.co.uk](mailto:john@myocean.co.uk) by the 31st August.

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# Some dos and don'ts for posters and presentations

If you have your eye on the prizes to be won for posters and talks at the Challenger Society Conference, here are some tips. The poster prize honours Cath Allen, a researcher in fluid dynamics at the University of Lancaster, who died in 1991. The Challenger Society introduced the prize to combat the idea that contributing to a conference poster session is a second best alternative to delivering a paper, even though a poster needs to be at least as well thought-out as a talk. The prize for the best talk honours Norman Heaps, a shelf-sea modeller who died in 1986. He was a particularly clear speaker, with an enthusiastic, lively and entertaining way of delivering a talk.

## The Cath Allen Poster Prize

- A poster is a chance to use your skill in presentation of data, in layout, and in distilling the essence of your message. **It is not an abbreviated paper.**
- **A poster needs to be attractive**, with an interesting title that is visible from a distance. If a poster doesn't draw attention to itself, it could be overlooked, and all the work put into it could be wasted.
- **A poster needs to be easily readable**, and not just by someone standing really close to it. For the main text, take care to choose a clear type-face at sensible point size. Avoid long complex sentences.
- **Avoid large slabs of text** and overlong line-lengths; the optimal line-length for readability is considered to be 50–65 characters per line, including spaces. For consistent spacing between words, use unjustified text.
- **Ensure your diagrams are large enough** to be seen clearly, and that the line weights of graphs etc. aren't too spindly.
- **Ensure that you have explained your symbols and acronyms**, and have put scales on figures if necessary.
- **Try not to have more than about five figures** (diagrams and photos). Remember that a well-chosen picture can be worth a thousand words.
- **Diagrams need to be close to the text** that relates to them, **or very easily found**.
- **Make use of colour** to enliven the poster and help direct the reader where to look.
- **Don't be tempted into over-complicating the appearance of the poster**, and obscuring your message.
- **Try to convey why your research is so exciting.**
- **Be there by your poster to answer questions.**

## The Norman Heaps Prize

- **Time your talk beforehand.** There is nothing more upsetting than having to leave the podium without getting to your conclusion.
- **Beware of overload.** It's not advisable to have more than about five pieces of 'hard' information (diagrams, maps, tables) per 10 mins of presentation. **That's still only 1–2 minutes per picture.** (This doesn't preclude any scene-setting photos.)
- Don't forget that **your 10 minute time slot includes 2 minutes for questions.**
- Everyone uses their Powerpoint slides as memory prompts, but **try not to find yourself just reading from them or you will lose spontaneity.**
- In particular, reading through introductory slides that show the title, the aims, methods, results and even conclusions, takes up valuable time and isn't necessary, as the Chair will have already introduced you, and the audience has the list of abstracts. **If you are determined to have an introductory slide, make it brief and interesting.**
- Your results may be fascinating, but that's irrelevant if they can't be read from further back than the first two rows. **Graphs and diagrams are easier for an audience to take in than tables.** If you do use tables, highlight the numbers you are talking about.
- **Make use of colour** to enliven your graphics and help convey your storyline.
- **Use variety – switch between text, diagrams and photos.** If you use visuals from a number of sources, ensure that they use the same conventions for symbols etc.
- **Remember who your audience are.** Challenger conferences are attended by marine scientists from all disciplines, each with their own vocabulary, so try to explain any specialist terms so that everyone can follow your talk.
- **Try to convey why your research is so exciting.**



## ***JOBS and OPPORTUNITIES***

### **MBA funding opportunity for marine researchers at all career stages**

The [Marine Biological Association](#) (MBA) has opened applications for two fantastic Investigatorships, providing funding and access to world-leading marine science facilities and expertise:

#### **Peter Baker Investigatorship (Early Career)**

For researchers within 10 years of PhD  
Supports fundamental physiological research in marine systems  
Up to £5,000 for projects (research costs, travel, subsistence)  
Residency at MBA (Plymouth) for up to 8 weeks in 2027  
Deadline: 5 October 2026

#### **Ray Lankester Investigatorship (Established Researchers)**

For researchers 10+ years post-PhD  
Up to £7,500 to support collaborative research at MBA  
Flexible visits (1–5 months total) starting in 2027  
Deadline: 28 September 2026

Both schemes offer:  
Collaboration with MBA Research Fellows  
Access to outstanding facilities, long-term datasets, and diverse marine ecosystems  
Support for travel, subsistence, and research costs  
A strong commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion

These are excellent opportunities to develop new collaborations, access unique marine resources, and advance innovative research. Learn more and apply: [Peter Baker Investigatorship](#), [Ray Lankester Investigatorship](#)

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### **MPC Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Visiting Scholar Program (2026–2027) – Call for Applications**

The WHOI is sharing a new opportunity from the [Marine Policy Center](#) (MPC) at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. We have launched a [Visiting Scholar Program](#) supporting short-term (approximately three-month) residential appointments for established individuals working at the intersection of ocean science, policy, and decision-making.

The program is designed to bring scholars and practitioners to Woods Hole for a focused period of collaboration with MPC researchers and the broader WHOI scientific community. We are particularly interested in individuals whose expertise complements or expands our current areas of focus and who are interested in engaging across disciplines.

Applications are now open for residencies in Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Fall 2027, with a second deadline of October 15th, 2026.

Full program details and application instructions can be found here: <https://www.whoi.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Marine-Policy-Center-Visiting-Scholar-Program-FINAL.pdf>

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### There are jobs in the MASTS newsletter

#### **New vacancies:**

[Visit our Vacancy Webpage to find all the positions listed below.](#)

- ✓ Research Fellow in Offshore Charger Development and Vessel Charging Management, UCL – apply by 16/8/26
- ✓ Project Officer - ZSL Seascape Programme (Oysters) – apply by 17/8/26
- ✓ Lecturer in Geography and/or Sustainable Development with specialism in coastal environments – apply by 1/9/26
- ✓ Lecturer in Planning (incl. marine governance), QUB – apply asap
- ✓ Project Support and Finance Administrator, SAIC – apply asap

#### New PhD studentships

[PhD – Delivering a model of civic participation for just decision making in offshore energy](#)

[PhD position in Marine Observation System Resilience](#)

[Ecosystem revival: evaluating seagrass and saltmarsh habitat restoration potential in eutrophic estuaries](#)

[Explore all internship opportunities](#)

[Postgraduate Placement, Fishing Vessel Data Analysis and Mapping](#)  
[UKRI policy internships 2026](#)

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