

## SMMR-Net Activities from 2021 to 2025

### Activities 2021

Format	Speaker & Institution	Title & Links	Abstract
<b>SMMR-Net Webinars</b>	MarSocSci Network (Marine Social Science Network)	"2 EDI Seminars on Race and Ethnicity and Access and Disability" <a href="#">YouTube: Race &amp; Ethnicity</a> & <a href="#">YouTube: Access &amp; Disability</a>	N/A

### Activities 2022

Format	Speaker & Institution	Title & Links	Abstract
<b>SMMR-Net Trainings</b>	Dr Rebecca Jefferson (Human Nature Ltd)	"Introduction to Conservation Social Sciences" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Conservation Social Science training for conservation professionals and researchers
	Nigel Hawtin (Freelance)	"Visual Storytelling with Infographics" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Nigel Hawtin was the graphics editor at New Scientist for 20 years and companies including BBC, the UN, the NHS and many more have all been clients of his infographic content. In this training, Nigel's expertise will help you to learn how to take your own research and tell a story, and how to visualise your research from a brief to finished graphic. Only some colour pencils and paper are required, as this session will focus on the fundamentals of infographic design and not how to produce infographics with digital software.
	Liliana Bastian (University of Exeter) and Dr Sien van der Plank (University of Southampton)	"Introduction to Flexible Coding for Qualitative Marine Sustainability Research" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	This two-hour practical introduces flexible coding for the context of collaborative, qualitative research in marine sustainability. Flexible coding is a contemporary approach to qualitative data analysis developed by Deterding and Waters (2018) that is especially well-suited to collaborative and group coding work. The discussion-based session aims to aid researchers in social and ecological sciences in applying deductive and inductive coding to identify and characterise themes in marine social science data. Participants will a) gain an understanding of flexible coding and assess its usefulness for their own research, b) practice collaboratively developing a code book and coding using sample data, and c) learn strategies for managing and documenting collaborative coding processes.

SMMR-Net Webinars			Researchers in social and ecological sciences with a range of experiences in qualitative coding are welcome.
	SMMR Project "Pyramids of Life"	"Workshop Exploring Narratives in Environmental Sciences" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Narratives can be extremely powerful. We often use narratives (sometimes in the form of stories) in the area of environmental challenges to help us to understand and communicate problems, develop solutions, and map possible future scenarios. However, ensuring that these narratives adequately capture complex reality is difficult. This hybrid (in-person and online) workshop follows the webinar on Friday 11th March (watch webinar) and is targeted broadly at those working on environmental challenges, but with all disciplines being welcome. In this workshop, we build on and explore ideas introduced in the webinar, using case studies to demonstrate an approach from literary studies to help us incorporate critical awareness of the limitations of narratives into our communicative strategies.
	Kip Stewart and Kate Ravillious (Freelance)	"Social Media Training - What's Your Story? Communicating your research to the world" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Join Chris Stewart and Kate Ravillious as they host a workshop to develop participants' confidence and skills in communicating about their work as professional scientists — with a particular focus on the professional use of social media for networking and public engagement. The two half-day workshops proposed here allow participants to expand their sci-com toolbox, starting with defining their communication goals and target audiences, and finding ways to tailor their message to specific audiences. They then explore the wide landscape of communication channels, from major social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, to YouTube and podcasts, to mainstream print, radio and TV.
	Prof Paul Hibbert (University of St Andrews)	"Skills for Collaborative Interdisciplinary Research" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Hold the date and watch out for a sign-up link coming soon for the training with Paul Hibbert surrounding Skills for Collaborative Interdisciplinary research. This will run over two half days on the 1st and 2nd of August. This will be the second time SMMR puts on this training due to the high demand and positive feedback.
SMMR-Net Webinars	Marine Conservation Society	"2 EDI Seminars on Gender and Youth Voices" <a href="#">Webpage Gender</a> <a href="#">Webpage Youth Voices</a>	In collaboration with the Marine Social Science Network (MarSocSci) and Sustainable Management of Marine Resources (SMMR), the MSCC Social Science Task group are planning a series of seminars on EDI (Equality, Diversity and Equality) and the marine environment. This is to promote understanding of the relationship between EDI and the marine environment and how these influence engagements with marine and coastal spaces. The seminars will provide an opportunity to learn from and engage with other experts, including accomplished researchers and practitioners, and share best practice and establish evidence gaps.
	SMMR project "Diverse Marine Values"	Trans-disciplinarity and Diverse Values: WetlandLIFE, SMMR and beyond	N/A

		<a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	
	Dr Chris Leakey (NatureScot)	Dive-In, an interdisciplinary museum exhibition for public engagement in marine science and climate action <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Chris Leakey from MASTS and their People Ocean Planet initiative will talk about a recent collaboration between a museum, designers, climate communication specialists and marine scientists, developing and testing an exhibition of marine science that aimed to stimulate behavioural change in audiences.
	Professor Abigail McQuatters-Gollop (University of Plymouth)	From science to policy: Connecting research and data to decision making <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Biodiversity data and research are essential for informing management and policy, particularly in supporting the new generation of marine legislative drivers, which take a holistic ecosystem approach to management. In Europe, for example, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) seeks to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of European seas, while at the global scale UN Sustainable Development Goal SDG14 strives to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". These instruments recognise the importance of biodiversity and marine ecosystems, but appropriate biodiversity data and research are needed to support their implementation, assessment, and reporting. Communicating biodiversity data and science into policy requires multiple approaches from formal engagement to casual communication over social media. From project conception through to policy assessment, innovative and active engagement methods should be used to gain policy feedback, help frame the science in policy terms, and gather consensus from the wider scientific research community. Open communication and trust between scientists and decision-makers is instrumental to successfully using biodiversity science to fulfil policy needs.
	Tara Marshall (University of Aberdeen)	Lessons learned from the design and deployment of an industry-based tool for avoiding bycatch in Scottish fisheries <a href="#">Webpage</a>	An innovative, web-based app, known as the Bycatch Avoidance Tool using Mapping (BATmap; <a href="https://info.batmap.co.uk">https://info.batmap.co.uk</a> ), was co-developed by the University of Aberdeen, the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation and Scottish skippers and launched in June 2020. It is currently being routinely used by 16 fishing vessels operating on the west coast of Scotland. Skippers log the start and end time of each haul, and the total catch of cod, whiting and spurdog, three species which they may wish to avoid catching. The data are combined, and alerts, including hotspot maps, are automatically sent out to users when pre-defined levels of catch are exceeded. This real-time, spatial information allows skippers to make more informed decisions about where and when to fish. The complex process of co-developing and implementing BATmap, the first successful implementation of information sharing for bycatch avoidance in European waters, will be reviewed to inform the ongoing development of similar initiatives in other fishing regions.
	Gustav Delius (SMMR Project "Pyramids of Life")	Size-based multi-species fisheries modelling with mizer: a practical introduction <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Gustav Delius will show in a hands-on manner how to use the mizer R package ( <a href="https://sisespectrum.org/mizer/">https://sisespectrum.org/mizer/</a> ) to set up a size-based multi-species model of a fished marine ecosystem and how to use it to explore the ecosystem consequences of different fishing scenarios. This is

			being used in the SMMR project "Pyramids of Life". If this whets your appetite, you are invited to an in-depth online mixer course that will run from the 7th to the 25th of November, which you can take part in, in your own time.
<b>Ocean Partnerships Speed Networking</b>	Prof David Paterson (University of St Andrews) <i>(Dec)</i>	Ocean Partnerships Launch "Ideas for interdisciplinary collaboration to enhance marine research."	N/A

## Activities 2023

Format	Speaker & Institution	Title & Links	Abstract
<b>SMMR-Net Trainings</b>	Dr Jamie Gallagher (Freelance) <i>(March)</i>	"Policy Engagement for Researchers" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Researchers can provide essential information, direction and expertise to policy makers – but making your voice heard can be a challenge. Through this interactive workshop, you will explore the legislative process and how you can work to influence both policy and policymakers. Led by engagement consultant Dr Jamie Gallagher, you will discover how to engage with the parliamentary processes from contributing to a committee meeting to preparing briefing notes for MPs. The workshop will draw on successful (and unsuccessful) examples, helping you to map your own policy engagement journey. The session will also cover impact monitoring and reporting, preparing you to report to funders or write an impact case study.
	Dr Anna Ploszajski (Freelance) <i>(Jan)</i>	"Networking Through Story" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	In this workshop, award-winning materials scientist and storyteller Dr Anna Ploszajski will help you become a better networker through the study of story. We'll cover an introduction to story, story structure, and think about the worlds & characters in our work. You'll walk away with a draft of your 'career story', which you can use at networking events or conferences.
	Dr Kate Smith (Credo Educational Training) <i>(June)</i>	"Grant Writing for Researchers" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	'Grant Writing' with Dr Kate Smith covers all you need to know to write successful grant applications speedily and effectively. Offering lots of do's and don'ts and practical tips and techniques from lived experience, the session includes research councils and other grant-awarding bodies including philanthropic foundations, Fellowship applications, and collaborative applications. Exemplars from the pack are reviewed, and discussion about narrative structure, financial narratives and recommendations for outputs and dissemination are set out. Includes Q&A and direct advice on applications.

	Dr Jamie Gallagher (Freelance) (April)	"Powerful Posters" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	In this half-day interactive workshop, Dr Jamie Gallagher (winner of multiple Best Poster prizes) will take you through all you need to know to design and share an award-winning poster. Discover tips and tricks to put your work in the spotlight, useful not only for posters but talks, public engagement and much more.
	Dr Kate Smith (Credo Educational Training) (Nov)	"Grant Writing for Researchers" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	'Grant Writing' with Dr Kate Smith covers all you need to know to write successful grant applications speedily and effectively. Offering lots of do's and don'ts and practical tips and techniques from lived experience, the session includes research councils and other grant-awarding bodies, including philanthropic foundations, Fellowship applications, and collaborative applications. Exemplars from the pack are reviewed and discussion about narrative structure, financial narratives and recommendations for outputs and dissemination are set out. Includes Q&A and direct advice on applications.
	Dr Frank Siedlok (Heriot-Watt University) (Oct)	"Skills for Collaborative Interdisciplinary Research" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	The course will cover 4 main sections: Disciplines and interdisciplinarity   Understanding drivers of, and barriers to, IDR   IDR practices and skills (part 1)   IDR practices and skills (part 2) and conclusion
SMMR-Net Webinars	Alberto Roca (University of York) (March)	"Economic, social and environmental impact assessment of MSP (Marine Spatial Planning) for UK marine-related industries" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a process of coordinating the use of marine resources in an attempt to achieve economic, social, and environmental objectives. This is an extremely challenging goal, and the benefits of MSPs are contested. In this seminar, we develop a marine input-output model for the United Kingdom. We use this model to explore relationships between greenhouse emissions, employment and gross value added in marine-related sectors and other industries. Based on our results, we identify three clusters of marine-related sectors, each characterised by a different relationship between environmental and socio-economic goals. Analysing the clusters could allow marine spatial planners to better understand how their policies will impact communities and the broader environment and prioritise accordingly.
	Clara Andrea Ortiz Alvarez, Sohini Dudhat (University of St Andrews) (Nov)	"Fishing for Information: Stakeholder Engagement in Fisheries" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	From our experiences of working with fishing communities in India and Peru, we will be talking about how to tap into the traditional knowledge of fishers, what motivates them and how they can contribute to the conservation of marine megafauna. Clara Ortiz Alvarez is a PhD student at the University of St Andrews. Her research focuses on the conservation of the Burmeister's porpoise and its interactions with gillnet fisheries in Peru. She completed her Masters in Marine Biology at James Cook University and has worked in marine conservation and the interaction of marine megafauna with fisheries for 7 years, before starting her PhD. Also a PhD student at the University of St Andrews, Sohini Dudhat's work focuses on strandings of marine mammals and turtles in Oman. After completing her Masters from Pondicherry University in India, she continued to work in India

			for 5 years on seagrass and coral ecosystems before starting her PhD in Scotland.
	Prof Jon Pitchford (University of York) <i>(May)</i>	"Simple, elegant and useless: are we using the right models?" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	People like simple stories. They are easy to understand, efficient to communicate, and can be a very useful tool for getting people to agree. Unfortunately, if the stories are too simple then the agreements reached might actually be harmful. I will attempt to illustrate these ideas using mathematical models (which are just "stories") for marine systems. I will cover some old descriptions of larval foraging and recruitment dynamics, where accidentally using the wrong model can lead to interesting insights in evolutionary ecology. This may or may not involve a dead gorilla. I will then describe some of the problems with Maximum Sustainable Yield agreements in fisheries, and discuss how developing size-based models and data could lead to practical new approaches to management.
	Dr Amos Barkai (OLSPS) <i>(April)</i>	"Innovative software solution for the accurate and efficient capture and reporting of fisheries data" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	In recent years, two technologies have emerged to monitor commercial fishing activities. These technologies are a) electronic logbooks (eLogs) for the electronic reporting (ER) of compliance reports, and b) electronic monitoring (EM), which refers to the use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in order to record fishing activities on the vessels. While both ER and EM technologies are found to be very effective in their task, they still suffer from several significant shortcomings. EM technology is mainly hampered by the huge amount of video footage it produces, which makes the processing of its data very tedious and labour-intensive process. Electronic logbooks on the other hand, while capable of recording many data types with great detail, suffer from a possible lack of accountability, since a lot of data must be entered manually and certain entries cannot be verified, leaving room for misreporting. In order to make the scanning of EM videos more practical and focused, OLSPS has developed a conceptual integration model between eLogs and EM cameras, which has been named iEMR – Integrated Electronic Monitoring and Reporting. This solution allows images recorded by cameras to be viewed and stored on the Olrac Dynamic Data Logger (OlracDDL) dashboard and to use the vessel date and time of activity as a common key that allows images taken by the cameras to be easily matched to data recorded and reported by the Olrac eLog. Examples of activities that are important to keep track of are discarding events, excessive catches, bycatch, and marine life interactions. The ability to match recorded images to relevant eLog records means that clear discrepancies between what the skipper reports and the actual visuals can be easily identified and scrutinised.
	Corrine Condie & Scott Condie (CSIRO) <i>(July)</i>	"Using social influence modelling to plot a pathway out of marine-based conflict (a case study of Tasmanian salmon aquaculture)" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Conflict between stakeholder groups around social and environmental issues can fragment communities and disrupt development. For the past decade, salmon farming has globally been one of the most contentious issues within the aquaculture sector. Attempts to mitigate these conflicts have often been counterproductive due to high levels of distrust between

			<p>stakeholder groups. A lower risk approach is to evaluate strategy options within a virtual socio-ecological system prior to real-world implementation. Using the Tasmanian salmon debate as a case study, we describe results from a social influence model representing key stakeholder groups and the effects of broadcast media. This approach has allowed the responses of different stakeholders and their contribution to overall conflict to be explored and assessed under alternative communication strategies. Reductions in community conflict were achieved through improved marine literacy, collaborative learning amongst key stakeholder groups, and broad dissemination of information relating to industry performance on social and environmental issues. While applied here to salmon aquaculture, the modelling approach and lessons on effective communication strategies are likely to be relevant to a broad range of marine-based conflicts.</p>
	Anouska Mendzil (Swansea University/SMMR project "ReSOW UK") <i>(July)</i>	"Finding the fisheries 'sweet spot' in temperate seagrass meadows" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Anouska Mendzil is part of the SMMR Restoration of Seagrass for Ocean Wealth (ReSOW) Project and will be giving an insight into her research in this online SMMR-Net Webinar.
<b>Ocean Partnerships Speed Networking Events</b>	Dr Anna Ploszajski <i>(Jan)</i>	"Share your Career Story"	N/A
	Chris Leahey (NatureScot) <i>(Feb)</i>	"Your Dream Collaboration for a positive Ocean"	N/A
	Maja Rimer (Creative Carbon Scotland ) <i>(March)</i>	"Marine stewardship, community engagement and creative practice" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Through creative practice and place-based activities, we can connect climate science with lived experience and build resilience and empower communities. For this session, we will therefore invite people to reflect on: How can we improve marine stewardship through community engagement and creative practice? An example of one of our collaborations: Seas of the Outer Hebrides. Bringing community members together though creative practice was at the heart of the Seas of the Outer Hebrides project, which was created in partnership with Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring (MarPAMM). Seas of the Outer Hebrides brought in an inclusive, creative approach to build a shared vision for Marine Protected Areas in the region – by involving artists and creative practices to help explore the cultural dimension of residents' relationship to the sea. The aim was to create a different and accessible way to work with the Outer Hebrides' communities. Creative approaches can allow us to gain a deeper understanding of communities' priorities for the marine environment while bringing in people's relationship to the sea.
	Prof David Paterson (University of St Andrews) <i>(Sept)</i>	"Language as a Barrier – I heard what you said, but don't know what you mean." <a href="#">Webpage</a>	"The United States and Great Britain are two countries separated by a common language". This quote, attributed to Irish writer George Bernard Shaw, encompasses the challenges sometimes faced by people from different backgrounds, trying and failing to communicate effectively despite



			using the "same" language. This rings most true in areas where joint efforts are additionally affected by differing stakeholder backgrounds, as for example with marine conservation. Why is it that people united by a common interest (as in our case, the marine environment) and language (English) struggle to communicate?
	Dr Mark James (University of St Andrews) ( <i>Oct</i> )	"Pace Paradox in a Fast-Moving World" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	In our rapidly evolving world, we experience a mismatch between the speed of global and environmental change, technological advances and decision-making processes. Many factors contribute to this imbalance, which hinders the progress of positive initiatives, causing a delay in their implementation. As new realities unfurl around us at an unprecedented rate, our responses appear to lag behind. Join us as we explore the challenges posed by this pace paradox in a fast-moving world and the potential solutions to bridge the gap between intention and implementation.
	Neil Banas (University of Strathclyde) ( <i>July</i> )	"How can engaging with the arts and humanities shape our science?" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Very often, artists are placed in the role of translators or spokespeople for finished scientific ideas. What would it look like to let engagement with the arts and humanities help shape scientific idea generation and research practice? What would the benefits be, and what are the barriers? What are the situations or problem areas where a more symmetrical relationship between practice-based arts, humanities, and science could have the biggest impact?
	Elis Jones (University of Exeter) ( <i>April</i> )	"Blue Humanities, Marine Science and Science Studies: Interdisciplinary Dialogues"	N/A
	Dr Andrew Blight (University of St Andrews) ( <i>Nov</i> )	"Seaweed: to farm or not to farm" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	There is growing interest in the sustainable use of seaweed or seaweed products for use in food, skincare or other health industries. Much of the industry in Scotland is based around wild harvest of seaweeds from intertidal habitats. However, there is growing interest in the development of nearshore seaweed farms to boost this industry. Wild harvesting or seaweed farms are viewed as sustainable practices which utilise what is considered to be an abundant ocean resource. This discussion session will examine some of the benefits and potential impacts of this industry and what can be done to make sure this practice remains sustainable.
	The Institution for Environmental Sciences ( <i>Nov</i> )	"#IESTurningTheTide - Speed Networking: Working across disciplines and sectors to solve environmental challenges" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Within the wide array of marine-related disciplines, we all have our niches and specialties, and we all have important roles to play in the offshore projects we help to make happen. In our focus on our specialties are we risking limiting innovation and problem-solving? The environmental challenges we face need joined-up thinking, and nowhere is this truer than with the large-scale developments, and conservation challenges, in our marine spaces. We need solutions where the engineering design is compatible with environmental protection.



	Lindsay Grant (JNCC) (Dec)	"Women in Ocean Science" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	"I recently started working as a Marine Support Officer within the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Team at the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) after completing the Marine Ecosystem Management Masters at the University of St Andrews. I work on projects relating to offshore MPAs within the UK and internationally through the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP). Something that became apparent to me on the master's programme within St Andrews is that I had many questions about what it is to be female within the field of marine science and what that meant for my future. There are many amazing women within the field at St Andrews, so it was hard to know exactly who to talk to! I also felt that many people may benefit from the answers I may find. With the help of Dr Carol Sparling, Director of the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), I put together the Women in Ocean Sciences in St Andrews (WOSiStA) panel event where 5 incredible women from academia and industry shared their experiences and advice."
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## Activities 2024

Format	Speaker & Institution	Title & Links	Abstract
<b>SMMR-Net Trainings</b>	Horace McDonald (Scotwork) (November)	"10 Rules of Negotiation" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Rule 1: Negotiation is not about winning the argument; it is about leverage and skill. Discussing a job offer, asking for a raise, making the case for funding or arguing for the best price at the local flea market – negotiations are a part of everyday life. By acquiring a set of negotiation skills, we are able to improve all areas of life, professional and personal, thus increasing the chances of reaching the outcomes we desire. With experience in the world of consultancy since 1975 Scotwork developed 10 Golden Rules of Negotiation, valuable advice and coaching for practical methods and ready-to-use skills. Scotwork's guide supports the development of expert negotiation ability, boosting conflict resolution competencies. It also helps in defining prioritised objectives, taking initiative and developing a clear positioning statement.
<b>SMMR-Net Webinars</b>	Dr Heather Ritchie (Queen's University Belfast) (January)	"The Marine Planning Problem" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Heather's presentation will look at introducing the topic of Maritime Spatial Planning, providing some ideas of the rationale of MSP, the provenance of MSP, the evolution of the governance of MSP and will highlight some issues with property rights. She will also look at what is meant by the 'Marine Planning Problem', and will draw upon some comparisons between MSP and Terrestrial Spatial Planning. The presentation will conclude with a look at the marine plans that have been adopted within the UK and Ireland, and finally some recent areas of

			research. Dr Heather Ritchie is specialised in Marine Spatial Planning and Stakeholder Engagement, with experience in marine social science research, action research and policy appraisal in the fields of coastal and marine spatial planning. Her research interests include land-sea interactions, transboundary marine planning, environmental impact assessment and planning law.
	Prof Anton Edwards (SAIC) <i>(February)</i>	"The Balance and Beauty of Science and Humanities" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	"Science or humanities acting alone cannot deal successfully with all issues. The uses and beauties of the humanities need to be balanced by those of science. Despite the differences, both are constrained in their creativity by their contexts. In this webinar, I offer a few simple – even naïve – perspectives on this age-old dichotomy, in the hope of promoting a little more unity and mutual respect." Professor Edwards has been the rector of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), independent scientific panel member for the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) and has focused his work on applying oceanography to issues of ocean circulation coastal pollution, defence, aquaculture and marine management and regulation.
	Elina Apine & SMMR Co-Opt Project team <i>(March)</i>	"Interdisciplinarity in Coastal Research" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	In this session, early career researchers from the "Co-Benefit Solutions for Resilient Coasts" (Co-Opt) project will reflect on their individual and collective experience navigating interdisciplinary research. They have various backgrounds and are trained in disciplines spanning from social to environmental sciences. They will discuss the barriers and synergies encountered across the case studies of the project. Co-Opt early career researchers are: Dr Elina Apine (University of St Andrews), Dr Amani Becker (National Oceanography Centre), Dr Sara Kaffashi (Cranfield University), Dr Constantinos Matsoukis (National Oceanography Centre), Dr Marta Meschini (University of Liverpool) and Dr Marta Payo Payo (National Oceanography Centre).
	Prof Daniela Schmidt (University of Bristol) <i>(April)</i>	"Ocean & Climate Change - What we know, don't know and how we talk about it" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	"I will provide an overview of the climate change impacts and risks on UK and European marine and coastal ecosystems. I will focus on adaptation feasibility and effectiveness, the options we have and the role conservation can play. I will introduce a climate and ocean literacy project which we have been running to empower a wide group of people to get engaged in conservation, protection and provide agency."
	Dr Victoria Leslie (University of Portsmouth & SMMR DMV Project) <i>(April)</i>	"Storytelling and Climate Research" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Within climate sciences, storylines, i.e., physically-based unfoldings of past climate or weather events, or of plausible future events or pathways, are increasingly used. However, the role of storytelling to enhance scientific evidence is only recently gaining scholarly attention. This webinar will focus on some of the building blocks of narrative in

			order to develop effective stories, as well as drawing upon literary examples of environmental change.
	Ian Rowlands (Siren Calling) <i>(June)</i>	"Language, Story, Values & You" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	When we talk about our science or our work, the language we use can alienate, confuse, anger or bemuse those we communicate with, and often we never even know it's happened. Our vocabulary is bonded to our own set of Basic Human Values, but an understanding of this can transform the way we tell better science 'stories'. This webinar will outline four key ways you might communicate with those you most wish to influence, whether that's decision-makers, funders, colleagues or public audiences.
	Chantal Lyons (Mindfully Wired) <i>(June)</i>	"The Clean Catch Programme" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Reducing bycatch of sensitive species in UK fisheries – including marine mammals, seabirds, sharks, skates and rays – demands genuine collaboration with fishers and other actors from policy-makers to scientists to eNGOs. Clean Catch has sought to achieve this since its inception. The programme is now entering a new phase, which will see it add a second bycatch mitigation trial to its portfolio and deliver a range of other outputs, including knowledge exchange across and beyond the UK, and locally-tailored and species-specific bycatch mitigation guides. In this webinar, communications lead Chantal Lyons will explore Clean Catch's future and how this will build on the lessons of the past.
	Mike Elliott (University of Hull) <i>(July)</i>	"Wading through the morass: Managing Marine Resources Sustainably" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	This brief overview will use information from recent publications and from ongoing projects to indicate the direction of research and advice in both natural and social marine sciences. It will reflect on the need for multidisciplinary research and show the way in which systems analysis can be used to tackle marine problems and allow the wise and sustainable use of marine areas. It will present ideas on footprints of activities, pressures and effects on the natural and societal systems and also explain management response-footprints. This will encompass monitoring and assessment developments, including cumulative effects, maritime spatial planning and other conservation designations, socio-ecological systems, the assimilative and carrying capacities of seas, and the valuation of biodiversity in ecological and socio-economic terms. It will also question how we know when marine management has succeeded. In this, it will raise discussion related to the breadth of the SMMR and wider research activities.
	Fazeel Mohammed (University of Bedfordshire) <i>(October)</i>	"Fluorescence and Phytoplankton" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Harmful algal blooms pose significant challenges to aquaculture and fisheries resources, causing substantial economic losses and potential food shortages. To address this issue, a comprehensive approach that

<b>Ocean Partnership s Speed Networkin g Events</b>			combines fluorescence spectroscopy with machine learning models can serve as a reliable solution to enhancing warning systems. This technology can proactively provide steps for the precise identification of harmful algae, thereby providing an early warning system for aquaculture and ensuring its sustainable future. In this webinar, we present our initial findings, primarily based on literature review and secondary data, together with a way forward to address this challenge.
	Rhianna Rees (Scottish Seaweed Industry Association) <i>(December)</i>	"Market Insights: Exploring End Markets for Seaweed Products" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	This session will be dedicated to delving into the dynamic world of end markets for seaweed products. From culinary to pharmaceutical, the demand for seaweed is ever-evolving. We'll uncover key market trends, discuss emerging opportunities, and explore strategies to inform the public of the diverse applications of seaweed. Whether you're a seaweed farmer, a researcher, or a business enthusiast, this session promises valuable insights and connections to navigate the thriving landscape of seaweed end markets.
	Dr Karen Alexander (Heriot-Watt University) <i>(January)</i>	"Coastal Community wellbeing in a changing environment – why should we care?" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	We are at a pivotal moment in the future of our ocean. Disputes over the use of marine resources and real estate are ubiquitous but are likely to increase in frequency and intensity. We can carry on with established 'ways of doing' which risk embedding management processes resulting in conflicts that can become increasingly hard to untangle or we can instead set a precedent for a more balanced ocean future by exploring how wellbeing might be considered in environmental management and decision-making.
	Ian Rowlands (Siren Calling) <i>(February)</i>	"Speaking Outside Our Echochamber" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Decision-makers, funders, the public; we often overlook these values, motivators and language that really influence people's decision-making and behaviour change. This session will introduce some tools that can positively impact communication and engagement and give an overview of cultural dynamics and values, which can be used to make our research more applicable to others. Ian Rowlands is a former Guardian journalist and sees communication as the key to tackling the great environmental challenges of our time. Having worked in the environmental NGO sector for many years, Ian has gained valuable experience in leading large-scale projects with the creative community, reaching a diverse audience about environmental issues.
	Rhianna Rees (Scottish Seaweed Industry Association) <i>(April)</i>	"Market Insights: Exploring End Markets For Seaweed" Products" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	This session will be dedicated to delving into the dynamic world of end markets for seaweed products. From culinary to pharmaceutical, the demand for seaweed is ever-evolving. In this speed networking event, we'll uncover key market trends, discuss emerging opportunities, and

			explore strategies to inform the public of the diverse applications of seaweed. Whether you're a seaweed farmer, a researcher, or a business enthusiast, this session promises valuable insights and connections to navigate the thriving landscape of seaweed end markets.
	Philip Bell-Young (MASTS) <i>(July)</i>	"Message in a Bottle: A Sci-Comm approach to Audience Engagement" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Effective science communication is crucial, but it can be challenging to master. From simplifying complex concepts to reaching the right audience, there are many hurdles to overcome. In this short talk, Phil will offer valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance your communication skills. Whether you're a seasoned science communicator or just starting out, this session is a chance to share best practices and learn from each other. Join us and discover how to make your scientific message clear, engaging, and impactful. After all, there's plenty of room for everyone on this journey.
	Russell Arnott (Incredible Oceans) <i>(November)</i>	"From Physics to Phytoplankton: A Multidisciplinary Voyage in Marine Science" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	An increasing number of marine researchers are adopting a multidisciplinary approach as more and more people realise that in order to properly understand ocean systems, we need to break out of our silos. Dr Russell Arnott will share his unique journey and experience with being on the periphery of two worlds: ocean physics and plankton ecology. This informal talk will explore the challenges and triumphs of bridging scientific disciplines, offering insights and sparking discussions on the interdisciplinary nature of modern marine science. Perfect for anyone navigating multiple fields or just curious about the interconnectedness of our ocean.

## Activities 2025

Format	Speaker & Institution	Title & Links	Abstract
SMMR-Net Trainings	Ian Rowlands (Siren Calling) <i>(January)</i>	"Communication Essentials "	N/A
	Jamie Gallagher (Impact through engagement consultancy) <i>(April)</i>	"Policy Engagement" <a href="#">Webpage</a>	Researchers can provide essential information, direction and expertise to policy makers – but making your voice heard can be a challenge. Through this interactive workshop you will explore the legislative process and how you can work to influence both policy and policymakers. Led by engagement consultant Dr Jamie Gallagher you will discover how to engage with the parliamentary processes from contributing to a committee meeting to preparing briefing notes for MPs. The workshop will draw on successful (and unsuccessful) examples,

			helping you to map your own policy engagement journey. The session will also cover impact monitoring and reporting, preparing you to report to funders or write an impact case study.
	Kate Smith (Credo Educational Training) <i>(May)</i>	"Grant Writing for Researchers"	'Grant Writing' with Dr Kate Smith covers all you need to know to write successful grant applications speedily and effectively. Offering lots of do's and don'ts and practical tips and techniques from lived experience, the session includes research councils and other grant-awarding bodies, including philanthropic foundations, Fellowship applications, and collaborative applications. Exemplars from the pack are reviewed and discussion about narrative structure, financial narratives and recommendations for outputs and dissemination are set out. Includes Q&A and direct advice on applications.
<b>SMMR-Net Webinars</b>	Ethan Addicott (University of Exeter) <i>(March)</i>	"Measuring Ocean Ecosystem Wealth in the Context of Global Change and Conflict" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	The goal of sustainable resource management is non-declining wealth. Natural asset pricing methods have been used to measure changes in resource wealth within the boundary of a single decisionmaker; however, as climate change reallocates resource distributions, new methods are needed to account for transboundary resources managed by multiple decisionmakers. We compare the one-actor/one-stock approach to the two-actor case through simulation and demonstrate that actions by one actor can influence another actor's price function under non-cooperative use of a common resource. We then show how changes in access rights further exacerbate differences in asset prices in our setting and how assumptions about the shape future conflicts take widen or attenuate differences in country asset prices for a shared resource. Finally, we hypothesise how our multi-actor natural asset pricing framework might serve as a useful tool in evaluating climate impacts, anticipating conflicts and delivering more sustainable resource management.
	Lorna McKellar (Bangor University) <i>(April)</i>	"Setting thresholds for good status in marine ecosystem management" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a>	Values which distinguish between good and not good ecosystem states, or 'thresholds', are required under international marine management legislation to assess the condition of marine areas and evaluate progress towards achieving biodiversity objectives. There are numerous methods being used to estimate thresholds, which can result in inconsistent interpretations of what is defined as 'good'. Simultaneously, despite a range of methods being available, there are a lack of thresholds in place for many ecosystem components, which means that full ecosystem assessments are often not completed. A framework for setting reliable, accurate thresholds, consistently across different marine indicators and robustly in the face of limited data, is needed to fill these gaps.

	Louise Anderson and Sam Matthews (JNCC) (April)	<p>"New evidence and visualisations for a universal Asset Service Matrix that informs natural capital approaches to understanding ecosystem service delivery"</p> <p><a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a></p>	<p>In a natural capital-based framework, understanding the ecosystem services provided by the environment and its assets (habitats, species, and processes) is crucial to informing management decision-making. An asset-service matrix (ASM) is a tool used in natural capital approaches to describe and catalogue linkages between natural assets and the ecosystem services that they provide. JNCC's 'universal' ASM unifies ecosystem service – asset evidence links for UK marine ecosystems with a common crosswalk for classification and a standardised tool to assemble linkages and enable consistent, comparable outputs. The uASM tool was first released in 2023. Now, in collaboration with the Marine Biological Association (MBA), we have developed a spatial visualisation of potential ecosystem service provision across UK subtidal habitats. The uASM has also had its first major evidence update since its launch, with over 11,800 new ecosystem service – asset linkages from UK marine habitats and species, representing an over 180% increase in the number of linkages. In this talk, we will discuss the recent updates and their applications to natural capital and ecosystem service approaches. This work supports marine natural capital approaches and accounting by providing an iterative, evidence-driven tool to understand potential ecosystem service provision. The uASM tool supports decision-makers and stakeholders to create bespoke ASMs, account for the full range of known services, and apply knowledge on varying levels of service delivery by marine assets.</p>
	Pat Danahey Janin & Gina Yannitell Reinhardt (University of Essex) (June)	<p>"Stakeholder perceptions of the Marine Planning Process in the United Kingdom: 4 Case Studies"</p> <p><a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a></p>	<p>Stakeholder engagement is presented as key to all stages of the marine planning process from setting priorities to evaluating and choosing plan options, to enforcement and finally to assessing overall effectiveness.<sup>1</sup> Stakeholders who are involved in the elaboration of marine plans are more likely to support, engage with, or follow the rules established through this process.<sup>2</sup> This research draws on 71 stakeholder interviews that accompanied a survey on marine values, preferences and trade-offs carried out within the framework of the multidisciplinary Marine Spatial Planning Addressing Climate Effects project (MSPACE). A qualitative thematic analysis of stakeholder perceptions of marine planning stakeholder engagement across the four UK nations (Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England) brings forth the lived stakeholder experience of the iterative and on-going engagement process. Our research reveals the influence governance structures have on the stakeholder engagement process itself, affecting the stakeholders' perception of strategic coherence around marine management, bureaucratic processes, internal and external strains on the activity and funding levels for management and monitoring. While the UK stakeholders interviewed appreciate the opportunity to participate and acknowledge the evidence-based process and efforts, they do not think stakeholder engagement is working across the board for all actors. Key</p>



			<p>areas of concern lie within the process itself, the variable levels of engagement, the risk and arbitration of conflict, and limited resources. This study illustrates the importance of overall governance structures and the variability of stakeholder engagement across nations with particular contextual challenges in stakeholder engagement for each nation case.</p>
	<p>Tim Stojanovic (USTAN), Dan Morris (Orkney), Chris Cutts (Clyde)</p>	<p>"Evaluating Marine (Spatial) Planning" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a></p>	<p>Marine (Spatial) Planning (MSP) is now entering a second iteration in many parts of the world, so now is an ideal time to reflect on what has been learned. In the first part of this seminar, I will review what marine plans have aimed to achieve. In the main part of the seminar, I will outline five key major theoretical approaches which have been used to review marine planning, and what they reveal about the strengths and weaknesses of MSP in different nations.</p>
	<p>Neil Banas (University of Strathclyde) <i>(Oct)</i></p>	<p>"Precarious livelihoods in changing oceans: Salmon, sandeels, plankton, and people" <a href="#">Webpage</a>   <a href="#">YouTube Recording</a></p>	<p>Marine foragers from zooplankton to whales are, almost by definition, dependent on a patchwork of resources: often a shifting assemblage of species; patchy and unpredictable in space; seasonal or ephemeral in time. Life for a North Sea sandeel, in other words, subsisting on dimly seen patches of more than a dozen plankton species, is something like precarious employment or the gig economy: like a driver who relies on unpredictable calls from four taxi and food-delivery companies simultaneously. "Precarity" and foraging lifeways are old subjects in ethnography and anthropology, and marine scientists might find inspiration in how contemporary scholars in the humanities like Anna Tsing ("The Mushroom at the End of the World", 2015) link these conditions and strategies to the new world of the Anthropocene. In this talk, I will sketch how Tsing's work on precarity and problems of scale might change our perspective on climate-driven declines in the food chain supporting UK wild salmon and seabirds, suggest new quantitative modelling approaches, and call our attention to possible refugia and modes of resilience.</p>