



BLUE MARINE  
FOUNDATION

# INTO THE



# BLUE

WORKING TO PROTECT OUR OCEANS

ISSUE 06 | MAY/JUNE 2024

Cover Photo:  
Asks for the Ocean  
Hutch

# WELCOME

Happy World Oceans Day! Today marks a very special day for the ocean, a day to catalyse collective action for a healthy ocean and stable climate.

The ocean is the world’s largest carbon store and a key solution to climate change. A healthy thriving ocean full of life - from ocean giants such as whales to the microscopic life found at depths of the sea floor – helps to fix more carbon. We hope you enjoy this World Oceans Day edition of ‘Into the Blue’ and explore our work from around the world.



Baby sea turtle taking its first steps

Photo: iStock



Election season is upon us and with less than five weeks to go until the UK general election, Blue Marine has written our 10 asks for the ocean. Our 10 asks for the ocean include ending overfishing by setting sustainable catch limits and maintaining a moratorium on deep sea mining.

Support the health of our oceans by writing to your local Member of Parliament to highlight these key asks. Make sure to follow our posts on social media and use the hashtag #SeastheDay to support these 10 key asks!

Dive into our asks for the ocean [here](#).

READ FULL ARTICLE

Mother and calf  
Photo: George Karbus

# Out of the Blue



We were delighted to see some of our partners at the Conduit club for our annual Out of The Blue event, where we shared some of our greatest recent achievements. From oyster restoration in the Solent to huge transboundary areas of protection in the Dominican Republic, the event celebrated all that has been achieved and laid bare the challenges that lie ahead.

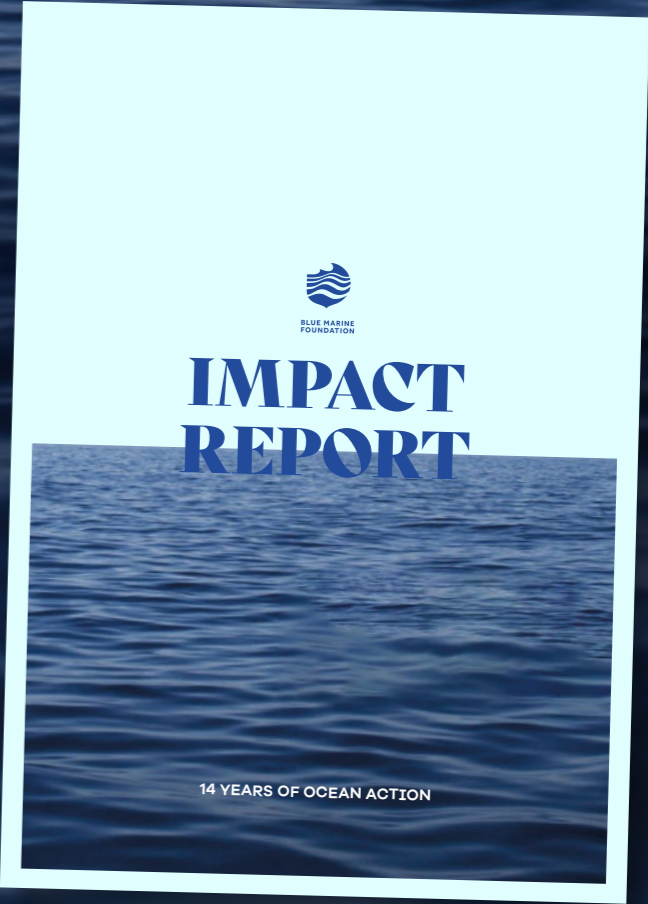
In case you missed it, you can watch the event on YouTube [here](#).

We also launched our first Impact Report, detailing 14 years of effecting change for the ocean, view it [here](#).

WATCH THE EVENT

READ FULL REPORT

Blue Marine Foundation Team  
Photo: Dan Kirmatzis



# New report shows Spanish and French-owned tuna vessels “going dark” despite being under investigation by the European Commission

**A** new report from Ocean Mind and Blue Marine shows that EU-affiliated purse seine fishing fleets in the Indian Ocean have been turning off their satellite tracking systems for long periods of time, often in areas where the highest levels of tuna catch have been reported, despite being under investigation by the European Commission.

Following a complaint submitted by Blue Marine to the European Commission in 2023, the Commission is investigating “the existence of potentially unlawful long gaps of the Automated Identification System (AIS) on board of Spanish and French vessels in the Atlantic and Indian ocean”.

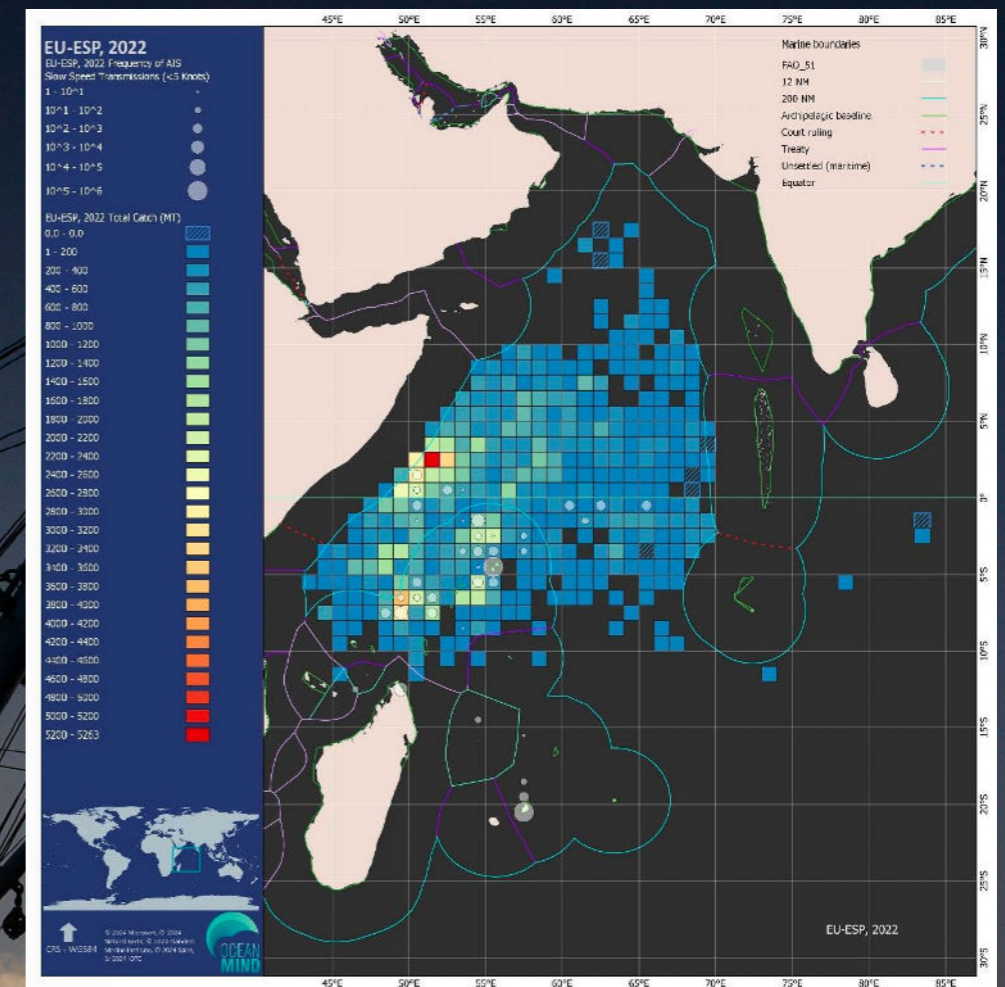
Jess Rattle, Head of Investigations at Blue Marine Foundation, said: “We’re glad to see that the European Commission is undertaking an investigation into these fleets that go

dark for months at a time in an ocean where tuna stocks are overfished and where EU vessels continue to use destructive drifting FADs to wipe out millions of juvenile tunas. We hope that this is a sign that the EU will finally start taking responsibility for the behaviour of its distant-water fleet, and that this will translate into greater transparency on the water, followed by a moratorium on the use of harmful drifting FADs”.

Overfished Indian Ocean tuna (caught using harmful drifting fish aggregating devices) is on sale in most large supermarkets in the UK and retailers are enabling the rampant overfishing of dwindling Indian Ocean tuna stocks.

Read the Ocean Mind report [here](#).

Read Blue Marine’s report on the UK’s tuna blind spot [here](#).



**READ FULL REPORT**

Read the Ocean Mind report

**READ FULL REPORT**

Read Blue Marine’s report on the UK’s tuna blind spot

Industrial fishing

**Photo:** Alex Hofford

Map

**Photo:** Ocean Mind

# Mud worms: science's secret weapon for saving the world



**R**agworms, three-inch long invertebrates crawling on the seafloor are unlikely warriors in the fight against climate change. These squirmy superheroes, along with sea potatoes, brittle stars, tower shells and cactus worms are all underwater creatures living on the seafloor which play a vital role in burying carbon in the form of algae.

As each creature burrows into the mud, it also drags down phytoplankton, bacteria and other organic matter into the sediment. The carbon can be stored on the seafloor for centuries. "The amount of sediment moved by animals living in mud globally is 12.5 times the volume of Mount Everest, every minute of every day," said Dr Ceri Lewis.

Convex Seascape Survey is a five-year partnership between Blue Marine, the University of Exeter and Convex

Insurance researching how much carbon is stored in the continental shelves. The team is collecting data in Scotland, New Zealand, South Africa and Indonesia to discover how much carbon could be stored in the future.

Gabriella Gilkes, programme manager for the Convex Seascape Survey, said: "The ocean covers 70 per cent of the Earth's surface and makes up 95 per cent of the planet's biosphere, making it the largest area capable of capturing and storing carbon. But where is that carbon? How did it get there? Where did it come from? And what is the role of life and biodiversity in ocean carbon storage? These are the questions we are hoping to be able to answer with our research."

Read The Sunday Times feature on the survey [here](#).

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Dr Ceri Lewis on the island of Great Cumbrae off the west of Scotland

Photo: Adam Porter

## 7.83 Hertz Illuminating the Convex Seascape Survey

Chris Levine unveils new artwork in partnership with Convex Seascape Survey to highlight the health of our oceans on World Ocean Day

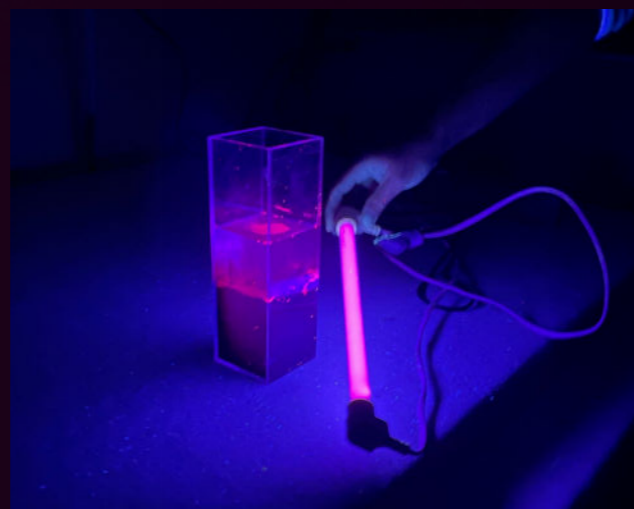
**L**aunched for World Ocean Day 8 June 2024, Levine's immersive, multisensory work illuminates the mysterious superpowers of the undersea – how the ocean's sedimentary seafloor and the creatures therein form part of the slow carbon cycle, and play a vital role in the global ecosystem. This reflects the work of the Convex Seascape Survey – led by a team of experts, with partners Blue Marine Foundation, the University of Exeter and Convex Group Ltd, the project aims to document the little understood processes of the slow carbon cycle. It will deliver new, reliable open-source data which will educate, inspire and enable informed decisions on ocean use.

**Where:** 5A Shepherd St, London W1J 7HW

**When:** Monday, 10th June 2024 – Thursday, 4th July 2024

Monday – Thursday, 10am – 5pm

To book your appointment, please email [studio@chrislevine.com](mailto:studio@chrislevine.com)



Chris Levine Art Exhibition

Photo: Matt Jarvis

Bioturbation experiments in the lab, National Oceanography Centre

Photo: Gail Fordham

# Winners of the 2024 Ocean Awards

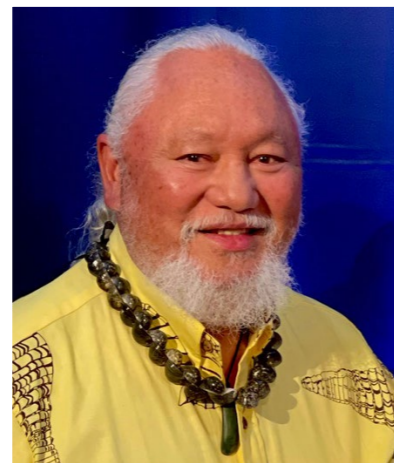
Each year the Ocean Awards, held in partnership with BOAT International, celebrate the achievements of individuals, groups and organisations from around the world that are dedicated to restoring the health of our oceans. Now in their ninth year, the awards continue to shine a light on a number of deserving individuals and worthy projects and a panel of judges recently had the unenviable task of whittling down hundreds of entries to just seven winners.

The Lifetime Achievement award is the most prestigious award and this year it was awarded to the great Hawaiian conservationist, Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala, also known as Uncle Sol. Sol is a native elder and a seventh-generation resident of the island of Lāna'i. He has been campaigning for ocean protection since 1978. He was involved in the creation of the largest marine protected area currently on earth the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Controversially, the judges created a special award this year for the ban on sand eel fishing in the North Sea which is currently being challenged by the EU.

Listen to the full podcast with Uncle Sol [here](#).

Read about all the winners [here](#).



LISTEN TO THE  
FULL PODCAST

READ FULL ARTICLE

Solomon Pili  
Kaho'ohalahala

Photo: Ocean Awards

An ocean full of life

Photo: Sebastian Pena  
Lambarri, Unsplash



# Conservationists condemn France's protest over UK's bottom trawling ban

In April, just before Greece announced the visionary decision to extend its marine protected areas to 32 per cent of its waters and ban bottom trawling in all protected areas by 2030, the UK found itself in a skirmish with France over its own areas of protection.

The UK announced a ban on bottom trawling from 13 protected areas within its territorial waters to safeguard vulnerable habitats in March. This drew fire from trawling interests in France in an election year in which President Macron's party is under pressure from right wing parties which support trawling.

French diplomats claimed that the British ban on bottom trawling within the protected areas was a breach of the UK-EU Trade and Co-operation Agreement and have lodged a complaint with the European Commission.

Charles Clover, co-founder of Blue Marine, told the Financial Times: "The UK is not only within its rights to prohibit trawling in certain MPAs: it is legally

required to. Many of these sites were designated under EU laws — laws that many EU member states are not following."

This month a new development piled pressure on the EU to resolve the widening gulf between its member states over marine protection when Sweden became the second European country to announce its intention of banning bottom trawling not only in marine protected areas but within 12 nautical miles of the shore.

Swedish Environment Minister Romina Pourmokhtari said: "From now on, sturgeon, herring and even cod can play along our coasts without being hindered by industrial trawlers." She explained that she was working "through consultations with the Commission and the member states" to generalise these measures across the EU.

Read the full article [here](#).

*"The UK is not only within its rights to prohibit trawling in certain MPAs: it is legally required to. Many of these sites were designated under EU laws — laws that many EU member states are not following."*

CHARLES CLOVER

READ FULL ARTICLE

MPA bottom trawling

Photo: iStock

# Lundy Film



The island of Lundy is situated 11 miles off the North Devon coast in the Outer Bristol Channel. The waters around the island, which is owned by the National Trust and managed by the Landmark Trust, is home to an amazing diversity of marine life and seabirds. They are also protected by a Marine Protected Area (MPA) which has just celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The launch of the film “Safeguarding Our Seas: Lessons from Lundy” explores the impact of having a No Take Zone within the MPA at Lundy. The Lundy No Take Zone was established in 2003 and was the first

*“From valuable lessons in filmmaking, to marine conservation and biology, to history, Lundy was no longer just a vista on the horizon. It was the experience of a lifetime. And a place where they’d develop a lifelong connection”*

DIRECTOR GARETH ALVAREZ

legally enforced no fishing area in UK waters. This highly protected reserve of 4 square kilometres hosts colourful shoals of fish, giant lobsters, delicate sunset cup corals and much more.

This 30-minute film tells the story of Britain’s first marine No Take Zone, its amazing wildlife, the people who established and work to protect the area, and the fishermen who have benefited from the sanctuary this MPA provides for lobsters and fish.

The team behind the film at North Devon Moving Image (NDMI) aims to provide filming opportunities for young people in North Devon,

recognising the lack of opportunities in the area. They took a team of eight students aged 14-18 to take part in the filmmaking process.

“After my time on Lundy Island I have progressed my filmmaking skills by following a media course at GCSE. I have since worked on multiple film projects and found success in most of them. Lundy taught me many new interesting ways of acquiring footage, and I look forward to where I end up next.” – Charlie Verney.

Watch the film [here](#).

Read the blog post [here](#).

WATCH THE FILM

READ FULL ARTICLE

Lundy Island

Photo: North Devon Moving Image

Sunset cup coral, Lundy

Photo: Paul Kay

Edible or brown crab, Lundy

Photo: Paul Kay

# People's Postcode Lottery support Blue Marine

Blue Marine is pleased to share that we are now receiving support from players of People's Postcode Lottery (#PostcodeLotteryPeople), supporting Blue Marine's vision of a healthy ocean abundant with life that supports people and climate.

The funding award of £400,000 per year will help Blue Marine in its mission to restore the ocean to health by protecting and restoring marine life. This long-term support will provide essential funding to enable the organisation to grow in tandem with increased conservation impact.

We are grateful to the flexibility this type of core funding gives for us to apply it to our units. These units underpin and support the whole of Blue Marine's work but are also fast-growing think tanks in their own right. Through securing funding for our units, we can not only ensure that their core funding needs are met, but that they are also able to respond quickly and effectively to opportunities. As an organisation, Blue Marine prides itself on being flexible and agile; this type of funding would ensure we could focus on delivering results from our units without having to focus efforts on securing funds.

Restoring our oceans

Photo: Ben Jones, Ocean Image Bank



## Meet the team

Each month we like to introduce you to a member of the Blue Marine team. This month we'd like you to meet **Judith Brown** our Projects Director.

**Q** If you were a marine animal, what would you be?

**A** A gentoo penguin! I'd get to cruise the open ocean, dive through kelp forests and waddle around in a comedy style on amazing Antarctic/sub-Antarctic islands!

**Q** Where is your favourite place?

**A** I have an incredible soft spot for South Georgia where I spent two years on the British Antarctic Survey research station. It has dramatic mountains, glaciers and coastline and incredible wildlife including penguins, albatross and seals. However, I'd have to say my favourite place is my croft on the Isle of Skye, set between rolling hills, the river and close to the sea I can spend time with my floofs (two dogs, one cat, 11 chickens, 10 koi carp and two dwarf sturgeons – to increase by three dairy goats very soon!) and feel I can sustainably manage my little piece of the world.

**Q** Why do you care about the ocean?

**A** As a youngster I spent many family holidays snorkelling and learnt to dive in a quarry in northern England. I was captivated by the beauty and diversity of the oceans from my

first dive in the sea and love the silence and total absorption in your surroundings the moment you submerge beneath the surface. I have seen the impact of human activity in over 2000 dives over 30 years across the globe and know what the ocean could look like if we reversed the damage we have done.

**Q** What's one fact you wish everyone knew about the ocean?

**A** That it is not limitless.

(And that there is a sea snail called *Claremontiella judithae* – a new species I found in Ascension Island)

**Q** What is your favourite quote?

**A** “Just keep swimming, just keep swimming” – Dory from Finding Nemo

**Q** What do you consider your greatest achievement?

**A** Having made and kept lifelong friends.

**Q** Why Blue Marine?

**A** Blue Marine is full of amazing, friendly, energetic people with a real family feel. I particularly like the variety of skillsets found within Blue, meaning we can all learn from each other.

**Q** What are you reading at the moment?

**A** I've just finished reading the guidelines on how to fill in a VAT claim for a self-build house – that took up a fair bit of brain space!

**Q** What is your favourite thing about your job?

**A** Working in, on, by and for the ocean.

## Blue Challengers

Blue Marine have launched two brand new rides this year:

Come and join us on a ride and help save the oceans.

JOIN HERE

### London to Solent 19 September

A beautiful city to coast, one day ride along some of UK's best cycling roads and finishing with a dinner altogether in the picturesque Chichester Harbour, home of our Solent Seascape Project.

### Ventoux Challenge 21 – 24 September

An epic 3-Day cycle ride, taking on the infamous Mont Ventoux and two further days of stunning cycling, arriving into Monaco with the champagne spray finish on the eve of the Monaco Yacht Show. This will of course be followed by a Monaco Street Party to carry on the celebrations and a free pass for the show.





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# THANK YOU *for your support!*

To learn more about marine  
conservation at Blue Marine  
please contact:

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To stay up to date with the latest  
news and events follow the Blue  
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**Photo:** Jacob Owens,  
[Unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

