

INTO THE

WORKING TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN

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SAVE AFRICAN
PENGUINS

STATE OF NATURE
REPORT

EUROPEAN COURT
OF JUSTICE

BLUE

Cover Photo:

Hawksbill Turtle
Swimming

*Ocean Image Bank
Cinzia Osele Bismarck*



WELCOME

There is lots to discover in the latest edition of 'Into the Blue'. Blue Marine Foundation is excited to open a public ballot for schools to apply for free tickets to attend the Future Generations' Premiere of OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH.

The culmination of years of work to end overfishing in the UK came to a head in March when Blue Marine had its day in court against the UK government, challenging decades of catch limits set above scientific advice.

We have a pengWIN in South Africa, where, after months of campaigning to #SaveAfricanPenguins by Blue Marine, our partners, the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) and BirdLife South Africa, have reached a favourable settlement with the fishing industry to protect six critical marine areas.

We hope you enjoy the issue. Don't forget to follow Blue Marine on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for the latest news.

African penguins are
loyal partners

Photo: iStock

Schools' Ballot to attend the Future Generations' Premiere of *OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH*



This month Blue Marine Foundation is excited to offer free tickets for schools to attend the Future Generations' Premiere of *OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH*.

Made possible by the support of People's Postcode Lottery and UBS, the ballot will allow thousands of UK schools to apply. Each randomly selected lucky school will receive **15 free tickets** to attend the exclusive world premiere on **Tuesday, 6 May 2025**, at the **Royal Festival Hall** in London.

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH will share Sir David's greatest message of hope yet – about how we can, and must, restore and protect life in the ocean. The documentary takes viewers on a breathtaking journey, showing that there is nowhere more vital for our survival, fuller of life, wonder or surprise, than the ocean.

[Enter the ballot.](#)

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, baitball

Photo: Doug Anderson
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OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, David Attenborough

Photo: Keith Scholey
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Blue Marine in the High Court to challenge overfishing

On March 5, Blue Marine went to the High Court in London, accompanied by inshore fishermen, to challenge the UK government for setting fishing opportunities higher than scientists advise. The continued exploitation of key commercial species – such as cod, pollack and mackerel – is causing an ecological crisis in UK waters, and decimating the livelihoods of its inshore fishing fleet.

The aim of the case is to reform fisheries management at a government level, allowing coastal communities to

thrive and the UK's marine life to recover. It has taken nearly a year to come to court and challenge the determination of fishing quotas for the year 2024 by the previous government in December 2023. When those decisions were made, quota for 54 per cent of fish stocks were allocated above scientific advice.

Our journey to court was covered in [this short film](#), and secured press coverage in multiple national press outlets including the Financial Times, London Standard and The Guardian.

Read the full story [here](#).

Throw our fishers a lifeline

Photo: Duncan Nicholls

Hope for African Penguins



A settlement has been reached in South Africa, where Blue Marine has been supporting partners SANCCOB and BirdLife SA in the #SaveAfricanPenguins campaign.

After months of mounting pressure a set of highly ambitious settlement terms by the conservation NGOs were agreed to by the fishing industry. The South African government will implement closures to commercial fishery around six of the last major breeding colonies of this Critically Endangered species.

Your support played an important role in this campaign. The petition, hosted by Only One, received over 39,000 signatures – our deepest thanks to everyone who signed and shared.

Jo Coumbe, communication director at Blue Marine, said: “The recent settlement is a step in the right direction and these new, effective measures will help avert a catastrophe for the African Penguin. However, continued vigilance is essential. Now that an agreement has been reached, we must ensure these protections are upheld.”

Read the full article [here](#).

Save African Penguins

Photo: iStock



Solent 'State of Nature' report

A new report released by Blue Marine has brought together data to reveal for the first time that many internationally important habitats within the Solent – such as seagrass, saltmarsh and oyster reefs, as well as key animal species – could be lost entirely in the near future.

However, there is hope. The active restoration recommended by the report to stop the decline is already taking place across the area.

However, there is hope. The active restoration recommended by the report to stop the decline is already taking place across the area, including the Solent Seascape Project, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the UK that aims to protect and restore nature at seascape level. The project is part of the internationally recognised UN Ocean Decade.

Blue Marine is working collectively with local communities to co-develop an ambitious recovery plan for the Solent, to actively restore and reconnect critical coastal habitats to create a thriving, functioning seascape for all.

You can read the full report [here](#).

In defence of tuna at the European Court of Justice

Last month, Blue Investigations partnered with BLOOM Association to challenge the European Commission in court over its decision to block crucial fisheries management measures for the protection of the marine environment in the Indian Ocean.

In 2023, the EU objected to an important environmental measure on drifting fish aggregating devices led by several coastal states of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). The measure put in place stricter controls on this destructive gear, including an important closure period. The EU's objection has allowed its vessels to continue to plunder the region's tuna stocks,

to the detriment of the marine environment and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Our team contends that the objection to this critical measure is in breach of environmental law and the EU's own commitments to sustainable fisheries. We hope that through this case we can curb overfishing in the Indian Ocean, and ensure that NGOs can hold EU institutions accountable when they fail to abide by environmental law.

Follow us on social media for updates:





Attracting the world's leading conservationists *Our Annual Review of 2024* highlights a year of successes

Blue Marine's Annual Review for 2024 is available now for all to read. As we develop innovative approaches for countries to achieve their 30 x 30 targets, the report shines a light on some of our most significant conservation successes last year – from the pledge by the Dominican Republic to protect 30 per cent of its waters, to the commitment by the Maldives to traditional one-by-one tuna fishing, and new marine protected areas in Greece. You can read these stories and many more [here](#).

“Ultimately, it is our team that makes Blue Marine such a beacon of hope – a group of dedicated, tenacious, and highly intelligent people, driven by the urgency of our mission, yet still kind, thoughtful and inventive. It was testament to the exceptional culture of our fast-growing charity that in 2024, some of the leading conservationists in the world came to work with us.”

CLARE BROOK

International Day of Women and Girls in Science



To celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science, we wanted to highlight some of the exceptional women who work with and alongside us to protect our ocean. From dedicated scientists and researchers to passionate educators and communicators, we are inspired by all the women leading the fight for ocean conservation around the world. Here are some of their stories:

- Angela Lazou Dean, our Greece projects manager. Angela has spent more than 16 years campaigning for the oceans, working towards the establishment of marine protected areas and the adoption of progressive policies for sustainable fisheries.
- Shaha Hashim, the executive director for Maldives Resilient Reefs. Since 2016, Shaha has been deeply involved in marine conservation efforts across the Maldives, contributing to the establishment of new protected and conserved areas, and promoting sustainable practices in coral-reef fisheries and tourism.
- Kathryn Smith, our Jersey project officer. Kathryn leads our snorkel trail programme and Jersey educational programmes. Last year, she worked with 900 children across the island.

All our partners continue to inspire us. Thank-you to all the women who are working on the frontlines of ocean conservation.

Read the full story [here](#).



THANK YOU
*for your
support!*

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

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To stay up to date with the latest news and events follow Blue Marine on social media.

[@bluemarinefoundation](https://www.instagram.com/bluemarinefoundation)

Dive in

Photo: Paola Oraranza, Unsplash

