



BLUE MARINE  
FOUNDATION

**2019  
REVIEW**



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*Photo: Black triggerfish in the waters of Ascension Island*

*Cover photo: A pilot whale mother and calf surfacing in the Strait of Gibraltar by Rory Moore*

*Back cover photo by Ben Thouard*



## DEEP WATER

The climate crisis is an ocean crisis. For 40 years we humans have looked at climate change from a terrestrial viewpoint, focusing on sea level rise and warming weather as the potential threats to civilisation.

Meanwhile, the oceans have shielded humanity from the worst effects of warming, absorbing 95 per cent of excess heat produced in the last 50 years. But acidification, de-oxygenation, changes in biodiversity and decline in fish populations suggest the ocean is in deep trouble. The buffering capacity that is provided by the ocean, the largest carbon sink on the planet, is reaching its limits.

But as well as being a victim of climate change, the ocean holds the key to its mitigation. Until recently, the extent to which the ocean offered solutions to the climate crisis also went unrecognised.

A high-level UN panel changed all that in September 2019 with the astonishing finding that ocean-based actions could deliver no less than a fifth of the mitigation needed to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C. The emissions that could be soaked up per annum by not only marine renewables but also marine ecosystems – such as seagrass beds, mangroves and saltmarshes, all of which are under threat – are potentially larger than by stopping all the coal-fired power plants on the planet. The potential greenhouse gas reductions from protecting coastal and marine ecosystems alone amounts to three times the potential carbon reductions from installing offshore renewable energy generation by 2030, according to the report, *The Ocean as a Solution for Climate Change*. There are benefits also in saving other “forests of the sea,” such as maerl beds and kelp, and marine fauna from whales to krill.

BLUE knows this well for it has projects all over the world trying to make the sea more resilient which we know have as-yet-unquantified carbon benefits – and are therefore outside the scope of the Paris Agreement. We have kelp forests in Sussex, mangroves in the Maldives, maerl beds and seagrass in Jersey, seamounts with fast-reproducing sea urchins on them around Ascension Island. The communities that support these projects could all benefit from some of the funds deployed to tackling climate change.

Yet how is this to happen, given that the ocean has come late to the conference table? We hope that the focus on the ocean, finally, at the December climate change meeting in Madrid, COP 25, will lead to the inclusion of ocean-based measures in countries’ contributions in 2020. The goal of protecting 30 per cent of the world’s ocean by 2030 needs to be the cornerstone of creating ocean resilience. But that goal cannot be reached without agreement in 2020 on a new Law of the Sea protecting areas beyond natural jurisdiction and tightening controls over high seas fisheries and seabed mining.

The climate emergency has made us join things up, as never before. Now we need to create marine protected areas that save carbon and biodiversity and find new funding mechanisms to pay for them. BLUE is aware that every strand of this will need campaigning for, but we are up for it and 2020 is going to be a vital year.



*An ornate ghost pipefish in the Maldives*

## REFLECTIONS ON 2019

2019 has been a landmark year for BLUE. It’s remarkable how much we have accomplished, not only in terms of conservation, but also in terms of advocacy and innovation.



**Arlo Brady**  
Chairman, Blue Marine Foundation

None of that would be possible without the small and dedicated team that we have assembled, and as chairman, I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all that they do for “the 70 per cent” of our world that is covered in salty water.

As I look towards 2020, I am terrifically excited about what we can do to catalyse marine conservation. I use the word “catalyse” very deliberately. Almost ten years in, we have taken the opportunity to consider what it is that we do best – and catalysing action is our “special sauce”. We are different by design, and as a result have a unique and disruptive place in the marine conservation world.

You will be reading about this year’s highlights in this report, but I am most proud of the small victories that go unsaid, yet together make all the difference. As we gear up to celebrating our tenth year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your commitment and ask you to double down on us. We are ready for the “Decade of Delivery”, but we can’t do it without you.



**Charles Clover & Clare Brook**  
Executive Director & CEO, Blue Marine Foundation



# BLUE'S MISSION

Our oceans are in crisis. Marine life is under threat from climate change, acidification, pollution, invasive species and plastic. But arguably the greatest threat of all is from overfishing because oceans stripped of all their life will have even less resilience to the other threats. It is the complex web of marine life in the oceans that enables them to absorb nearly half the world's carbon dioxide and produce half our oxygen. Overfishing therefore threatens the future of humanity.

**BLUE aims to restore the ocean to health by addressing overfishing, one of the world's biggest environmental problems.**

BLUE is dedicated to creating marine reserves, restoring vital habitats and establishing models of sustainable fishing.

BLUE's mission is to see at least 30 per cent of the world's ocean under effective protection by 2030 and the other 70 per cent managed in a responsible way.

**BLUE'S VISION IS A HEALTHY OCEAN  
FOREVER, FOR EVERYONE.**

# BLUE'S STRATEGY

**Our focus is to restore oceans to health by tackling overfishing. Our key strategic interventions are as follows:**



## Securing marine protected areas

to ensure the protection of at least 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030.



## Developing models of sustainable fishing

proving that low-impact fishing benefits marine life, local fishers and communities.



## Restoring marine habitats

to revive and protect vulnerable and threatened species and to sequester carbon.



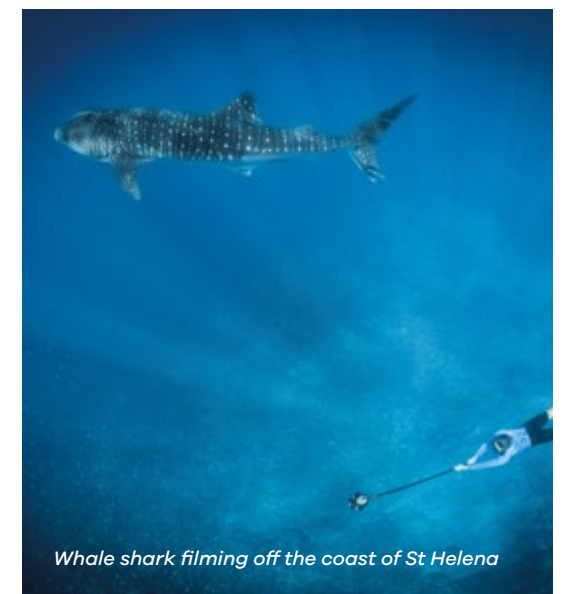
## Tackling unsustainable fishing

by highlighting poor practice and developing solutions.



## Connecting people with the sea

and enhancing ocean understanding across generations.



*Whale shark filming off the coast of St Helena*

**BLUE works using a combination of top-down intervention to improve governance of our seas and bottom-up project delivery to help local communities who are at the front line of ocean conservation.**

BLUE works in any area of the world where its intervention can deliver tangible and rapid results. We work in partnership with international NGOs on policy and with local communities and NGOs in our project locations. We use innovative media to raise awareness and to galvanise change. We understand that financial solutions are often needed and use our networks to raise funding which we deploy where it will have the greatest impact.



*Dr Joanne Preston, Jacob Kean-Hammerson and Dr Luke Helmer re-house oysters at Port Hamble Marina*



# BLUE'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2010–2019

- 2010

In 2010, BLUE, with support from the Bertarelli Foundation, brokered a deal to enable the creation of what was then the largest marine protected area (MPA) in the world around Chagos in the Indian Ocean.
- 2012

In 2012, BLUE partnered with the Government of Belize and the Bertarelli Foundation to protect the Turneffe Atoll in Belize, an area rich in biodiversity and CO<sub>2</sub> absorbing mangroves.
- 2015

In 2015, BLUE and the Great British Oceans coalition secured a government manifesto commitment to create a “Blue Belt” around all 14 UK overseas territories, hailed as “the greatest conservation commitment by any government ever”.
- 2015

In 2015, the Great British Oceans coalition, of which BLUE is an active part, secured a UK Government commitment to create the world’s largest marine reserve around Pitcairn in the Pacific.
- 2015

BLUE launched Reserve Seafood – an innovative label to celebrate the success of sustainable fishing in Lyme Bay and help fishers earn more from their catch.
- 2015

BLUE’s research on bass resulted in EU-wide measures to protect the stock.
- 2016

In 2016, BLUE secured the creation of a no-take zone in 52.6 per cent of Ascension Island’s waters.
- 2017

In 2017, BLUE, as part of the Great British Oceans coalition, secured an even stronger manifesto commitment from the UK Government ahead of the June 2017 election to protect over four million square kilometres of ocean around the UK overseas territories.
- 2017

In the summer of 2017, broodstock oysters in BLUE’s Solent Oyster Restoration Project spawned, releasing millions of larvae into the Solent.

- 2017–2018

BLUE spearheaded a social media campaign to encourage the public to tweet and email their MPs, resulting in 285 MPs from eight political parties signing up to the Blue Belt Charter by the end of 2018.
- 2018

The UK Government announced a target of 30 per cent of ocean protected by 2030, aligning with BLUE’s long-term strategy.
- 2018

Azerbaijan declared the first MPA in the Caspian Sea, the largest inland body of water on the planet. The new MPA will seek to protect six significant marine species on the brink of extinction.
- 2019

BLUE published its ground-breaking four-year Potting Study, commissioned by Defra, which evidences sustainable potting levels in Lyme Bay as a model for crab and lobster management UK-wide.
- 2019

Following BLUE’s #StopElectricFishing campaign, undertaken in collaboration with Bloom Association, the European Parliament’s Committee on Fisheries voted to ban electric pulse fishing in EU waters.
- 2019

With support from BLUE, 100 per cent of the waters around Ascension Island were designated a marine reserve, creating the largest fully protected marine reserve in the Atlantic, an area nearly the size of France.



A scallop diver surfacing in Jersey





# 2019 IN BRIEF

## JANUARY:

Adrian Gahan from BLUE and Polly Burns, a researcher, visited Ascension Island to make the case for establishing an Endowment Fund for the benefit of the Ascension community upon the establishment of a marine protected area.



## FEBRUARY:

BLUE's European Fisheries Exchange brought together fishermen from five countries in BLUE's Lyme Bay Fisheries and Conservation Reserve in order to learn from its small-scale fishermen.



BLUE helped to organise the first annual St Helena Whale Shark Festival that saw the island community come together to celebrate their marine protected area and its fish inhabitants.



BLUE's SAFEGEAR initiative was launched in Plymouth Sound to combat ghost gear and fight plastic pollution where it matters most – at source.



## MARCH:

The then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond announced that the UK Government would support the call from the Ascension Island Council to protect 100 per cent of Ascension's waters, creating the largest fully protected marine reserve in the Atlantic.



The European Parliament and EU member states agreed to ban electric pulse fishing from 2021 after a campaign by BLUE and the French charity, BLOOM.



## APRIL:

BLUE's Solent Oyster Restoration Project reseeded 25,000 oysters to a new seabed site near the Isle of Wight.



## JUNE:

BLUE brought together over 100 delegates to discuss an ambitious global deal to protect nature on the high seas.



BLUE published a report warning Indian Ocean nations of the overfishing of yellowfin tuna by EU (and other) fleets as talks on controlling fishing effort got under way in Hyderabad.



BLUE teamed up with BOAT International and Fishmongers' Hall to celebrate the winners of the 2019 Ocean Awards.



BLUE partnered with JGM Gallery to host the "Caught in the Net" ghost gear art exhibition.



## JULY:

A quarter of all luxury Maldives resorts signed up to the #ProtectMaldivesSeagrass campaign run by BLUE and the Maldives Underwater Initiative.



## AUGUST:

BLUE co-hosted a VIP reception at the United Nations inter-governmental high seas conference in New York.



## SEPTEMBER:

BLUE partnered with Onetrack Running Club for the first annual Onetrack1000 charity run.



Princess Eugenie and James Blunt launched the fourth and most successful London to Monaco cycle ride to date.



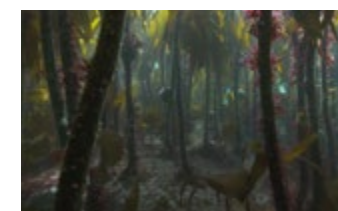
The Blue Marine Yacht Club event in Monaco raised over £300,000 for marine conservation.



Britain's first national marine park was declared in Plymouth Sound and was "strongly supported" by the government's review of national parks.



David Attenborough lent his support to the #HelpOurKelp campaign to restore the underwater forests off the Sussex coast.



## OCTOBER:

BLUE helped organise the Laamu Atoll Reefs Festival in the Maldives.



BLUE co-hosted a shellfish symposium with the Berwickshire Marine Reserve.



BLUE co-founded the UK Sturgeon Alliance dedicated to reintroducing these critically endangered species.

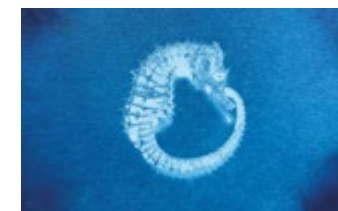


## NOVEMBER:

The first Hope Spot in the Caspian was created at BLUE's suggestion to protect critically endangered sturgeon.



BLUE brought together 36 international artists for an exhibition celebrating the wonder of the high seas.



## DECEMBER:

BLUE's partnership with Healthy Seas and Ghost Fishing saw 10 tons of discarded "ghost gear" removed from waters around the Aeolian Islands.



# OUR PROJECTS



NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

MENORCA

AEOLIAN ISLANDS

AZERBAIJAN

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

ASCENSION ISLAND

ST HELENA

NAMIBIA

MALDIVES

INDIAN OCEAN

SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

PATAGONIA

SOUTH GEORGIA & THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

SOUTHERN OCEAN

KEY:



THE HIGH SEAS



OUR PROJECTS

PROTECTING

30% BY 2030



# UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES



SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

Britain is the custodian of the fifth largest marine estate on the planet; 6.8 million square kilometres of ocean.

A mere tenth of these waters are found around the UK. The other six million square kilometres are dotted around the world's different oceans: the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, the Atlantic, the Southern Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific and the Antarctic; all a part of the UK Overseas Territories.

Legally, all of these waters are considered British and can therefore be protected unilaterally, using modern observation technology and enforcement procedures.

For the past five years, BLUE has been working with the UK Government to establish the Blue Belt, an ambitious programme to protect four million square kilometres of ocean by 2020 across a number of these most remote and near pristine

territories. It is our ambition to see 30 per cent of the world's ocean highly protected by 2030.

As the fifth largest marine estate in the world, with such a rich maritime history and representative of so many of the planet's ecoregions across the seven seas, we feel the UK has a special responsibility to lead the world in the protection of the ocean.

In partnership with our colleagues from the Great British Oceans coalition of NGOs (Greenpeace, Marine Conservation Society, Pew Trusts, RSPB and Zoological Society of London), our Overseas Territories work in 2019 has included four magnificent territories: Ascension Island, Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and the South Sandwich Islands, which we hope will be collectively responsible for the protection of close to two million square kilometres of ocean.

## BLUE MARLIN

**Status:** Vulnerable, IUCN

Some of the largest blue marlin in the world have been captured in the waters of Ascension Island, with one caught in 2013 weighing 1,320 pounds!



# TRISTAN DA CUNHA



SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

Tristan da Cunha is the most remote inhabited island in the world, located 2,700km from Cape Town. It is home to a community of around 270 UK citizens, who have made a visionary commitment to establish a protection regime for their vast 754,000 square kilometres of territorial waters by the end of 2020.

The islands are famed for some of the world's most important seabird breeding sites, including the endemic Tristan Albatross. There are also populations of seals, penguin colonies, bluefin tuna and blue sharks.

BLUE has joined our partner organisations RSPB and the National Geographic Society, which have been working with the Tristan da Cunha community for a number of years. BLUE is supporting the development of potential models of long-term community support that will recognise the islanders' globally significant contribution to marine conservation.



An albatross chick.  
Photo by Pristine Seas / National Geographic.

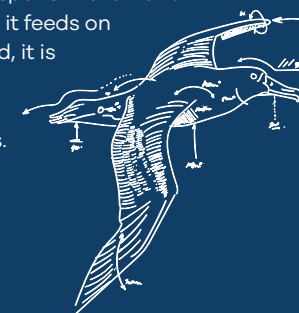


Northern Rockhopper Penguins.  
Photo by Pristine Seas / National Geographic.

## TRISTAN ALBATROSS

**Status:** Critically Endangered, IUCN

This magnificent bird has one of the largest wing spans in the world but, because it feeds on fish and squid, it is vulnerable to longline fishing hooks.



# 754,000KM<sup>2</sup> TERRITORIAL WATERS





## ASCENSION

Ascension Island is a UK overseas territory mid-way between Brazil and Africa just south of the equator. Although it is only 10km across, its exclusive economic zone extending out 200 nautical miles covers 441,000 square kilometres. Ascension is a biodiversity hotspot with several of its own endemic species as well as one of the largest breeding populations of green turtles in the Atlantic and some of the largest migratory fish in the world.

Until 2013, Ascension's 440,000 square kilometre exclusive economic zone was vulnerable to over-exploitation from international long-line tuna fishing, with associated human rights concerns, shark finning and high levels of by-catch (catching high volumes of non-target species such as turtles and sharks).

In 2016, BLUE helped secure the closure of 52.6 per cent of Ascension's waters, but a few licences were still sold to long-liners in the other half.

The Ascension Island Council has been keen to close all its waters to fishing, thus creating the largest no-take marine protected area (MPA) in the Atlantic, but needed reassurance that it would not be left to pay for monitoring and enforcement of the MPA, and that it would receive some much-needed income for the island, which it had previously received – albeit intermittently – from the sale of fishing licences.

In January 2019, BLUE's Polly Burns and Adrian Gahan flew to Ascension via St Helena. Polly



SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

showed her work on Ascension's exceptional biological significance and Adrian presented to councillors and filmed them saying how proud they were of Ascension and how much they would like an MPA, if the UK Government were to support them. BLUE then turned these interviews into a short film and in February 2019 presented it to MPs, including then Environment Secretary Michael Gove MP, back in Westminster.

On 13 March, the then UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond announced it would support the call from the Ascension islanders to create a 100 per cent MPA in Ascension's waters.

On 24 August 2019, the Ascension Island Government announced the designation of the 100 per cent MPA around Ascension. Next is the implementation stage, which will happen following the UK Government's 2020 spending review and

anticipated five year spending commitment to Ascension.

In September 2019, BLUE donor Peter Lürssen confirmed his commitment of £2 million to establish a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) upon the implementation of the Ascension MPA in 100 per cent of its waters. Peter Lürssen's generosity will help reassure the Ascension islanders that their bold conservation move will earn them an annual income in perpetuity, to be spent on community needs.

**Ascension's MPA will be the largest no-take zone in the Atlantic and the eighth largest in the world. The Ascension Island Conservation Trust Fund will be the first such fund to be established for the protection of the UK Overseas Territories and will create an inspiring model which other territories may choose to follow.**

### £2M

ENDOWMENT FUND  
PLEDGED FOR  
ASCENSION

### 100%

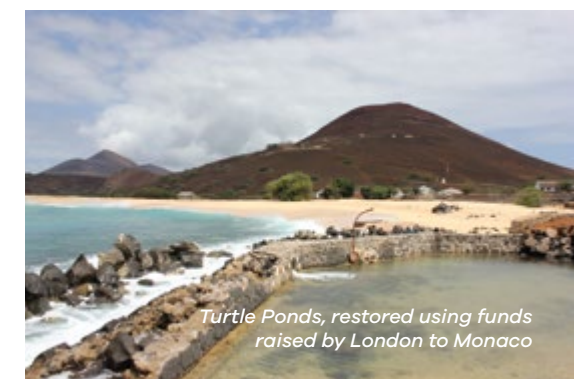
MPA  
DESIGNATED

### 440,000KM<sup>2</sup>

OF MID-ATLANTIC  
BIODIVERSITY  
HIGHLY PROTECTED



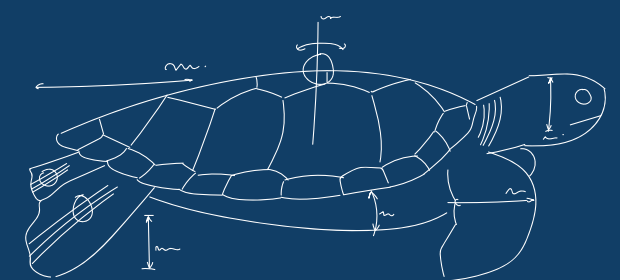
Coalfish, also known as Black Jacks



Turtle Ponds, restored using funds raised by London to Monaco

## GREEN TURTLE

Ascension is now home to the second-largest green turtle breeding population in the Atlantic. The green turtle is now protected but it was once taken in its thousands to feed passing seamen and for the aristocratic tables of Europe.







SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

# SAINT HELENA

Saint Helena is a remote island in the tropical South Atlantic, home to 4,500 British citizens (known as Saints) and an incredible one third of all native British species, all contained within a magnificent 445,000 square kilometre marine protected area – an area twice the size of the UK.

Since 2016, BLUE has provided the St Helena National Trust with a marine team to champion and support the establishment of the marine protected area around the island. The trust builds conservation capacity and supports science locally.

Beth Taylor leads the team, conducting scientific monitoring of a unique sub-population of whale sharks and ensuring that tourism remains sustainable. In 2019, funding from UK financial firm NEX was used to deploy the world's first ever "deep tag" – capable of withstanding depths of up to 6,000m – to enable us to better understand the movements of this highly migratory endangered species.

Annual whale shark sightings are usually between 30 to 40 individuals, but the marine team's 2019 research resulted in over 175 sightings of more than 100 different whale sharks, with a remarkable 94 of these being individuals that have never been recorded before. Their work featured on BBC Blue Planet Live and BBC Earth, reaching a combined audience of 15 million in 2019.

BLUE has been building local capacity by supporting team members to travel abroad

for upskilling and training opportunities, and has match funded the local Dive Scholarship Programme, in association with the St Helena Dive Club and local dive operators. The team has continued to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy ocean to life on St Helena by hosting the Island's first ever Whale Shark Festival and the London to Monaco tribute cycle ride, providing National Trust internships, leading island-wide beach cleans and data collection on plastic pollution, and giving every Primary School student a free interactive educational booklet – a Makerzine. BLUE's media team filmed and produced the first 360 Virtual Reality footage of St Helena's whale sharks, which was shown on VR headsets at these events.

Through extensive policy engagement with the St Helena Government and the Commercial Fishermen's Association we have also been supporting the implementation and revision of the fisheries regulations and management plan to safeguard the one-by-one heritage of Saint fishermen (one man, one fish, caught by rod and line) and to ensure that industrial scale long-lining of tuna cannot take place in these precious waters.



A child enjoys 360 Virtual Reality footage of St Helena's whale sharks



The St Helena National Trust marine team with Jonathan the tortoise, the oldest known terrestrial animal in the world

A whale shark swimming in St Helena's waters

OUR PROJECTS



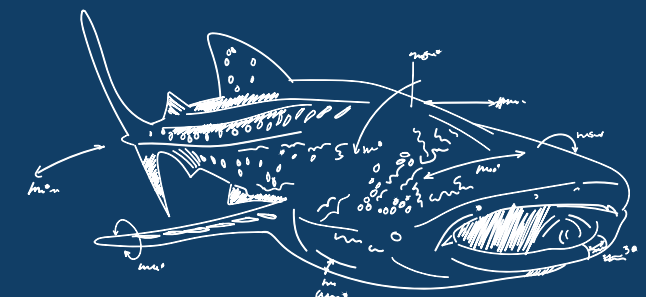
**94**  
WHALE SHARKS  
NEVER PREVIOUSLY  
RECORDED

WHALE SHARK  
FOOTAGE REACHED  
**15 MILLION**  
PEOPLE

## WHALE SHARK

**Status:** Endangered, IUCN

St Helena is one of the few places in the world where the whale shark – the largest fish in the world – is thought to breed.





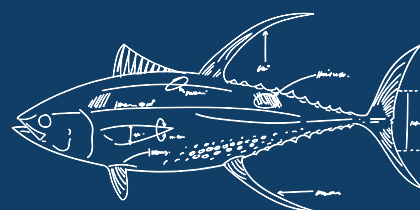
# PROTECTING THE HIGH SEAS

Much of the world's ocean lies beyond national control of coastal states and their laws. These international waters, commonly known as the high seas, cover 63 per cent of the ocean. BLUE has been working with an international coalition of NGOs, the High Seas Alliance, over the past 18 months, campaigning to secure a "Paris Agreement for the Ocean" that will introduce greater levels of protection for nature in these waters.

## YELLOWFIN TUNA

**Status:** Near threatened, IUCN

Yellowfin tuna – sold in shops and restaurants around the world, including the UK – is overfished in the Indian Ocean, with fishing pressure increasing every year.



SECURING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

**"THE NEGOTIATORS NEED HELP FROM PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE CONSERVATION NEEDS OF HIGH SEAS LIFE AND HOW BEST TO MEET THEM, AND WHO APPROACH THE CHALLENGES WITH ENTHUSIASM, TENACITY AND DEDICATION"**

Professor Callum Roberts

Despite covering 43 per cent of the surface of the planet, no legal instrument currently exists to protect nature on the high seas. A process is underway at the United Nations to remedy this problem by establishing a global treaty to protect Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ); nature that belongs to no one country or economic interest and is legally considered "the common heritage of mankind".

This UN process is due to conclude in the first half of 2020.

BLUE recognised an important role for the United Kingdom Government in raising the level of international ambition to secure an ambitious agreement. The UK already has an enviable record of protecting the waters of its Overseas Territories and is therefore in a strong position to lead on the diplomatic effort to protect international waters.

**BLUE would like to see the high seas treaty deliver a legal instrument to:**

- create MPAs on the high seas; and
- hold to account the patchwork of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and other institutions that currently attempt to manage human activities on the high seas.

**In May, we published our report by Professor Callum Roberts, "A Blue Vision for the High Seas". It called for six areas of action that must be enabled by a UN treaty:**

1. the ability to create fully protected MPAs in international waters;
2. urgent reform of regional fisheries management organisations;
3. a moratorium on high seas fishing until RFMOs are reformed;
4. a moratorium on fishing in the mesopelagic (the "twilight zone") of the ocean;
5. reform of international shipping routes in order to reduce noise and pollutants; and
6. a moratorium on deep sea mining.

In June, BLUE convened over 100 delegates from government, business and science at Somerset House with the goal of framing ambition for high seas biodiversity conservation. Representatives from Defra and FCO heard from keynote speakers including Kristina Gjerde, Rashid Sumaila and Maria Damanaki.

## High seas fisheries reform

BLUE is simultaneously undertaking investigative work into the inadequacies and failings of the existing regional fisheries management system. In June, a report published by BLUE's in-house investigations team uncovered the continued unlawful overfishing of near-threatened yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean by EU fleets. This report and the subsequent media campaign received much press coverage, both in the UK and in continental Europe.



OUR PROJECTS

# TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF BRITISH SEAS



# THE STATE OF BRITISH WATERS

Lundy Lighthouse

The British Isles – with their seagrass meadows, kelp forests, cold water corals, saltmarshes and sandbanks – showcase some of the most diverse marine habitats in the Northern Hemisphere. This stunning biodiversity is not just ecologically important but sustains the livelihoods of local fishing communities and provides vital buffers against climate change.

British seas have experienced devastating change over the last century. Technology and destructive fishing practices have laid waste to marine life and habitats, altered coastlines beyond recognition and forced small-scale fishing families to find work elsewhere. We have already lost many once prolific and productive species, such as giant skate, angel sharks, sturgeon, bluefin tuna, porbeagle sharks and native oyster beds.

Marine protected areas are created to protect nationally important habitats and species. They cover 25 per cent of UK waters, yet many are ineffective with just 2.2 per cent of UK waters closed to the most damaging fishing activities and only 0.001 per cent protected from all fishing.

BLUE's five strategic interventions – securing marine protected areas, developing models of sustainable fishing, restoring marine habitats, tackling unsustainable fishing and connecting people with the sea – aim to address these problems and transform the future of British seas.

**95 PER CENT**  
OF NATIVE OYSTERS HAVE BEEN  
LOST IN EUROPE

**50 PER CENT**  
OF UK STOCKS ARE OVERFISHED  
OR DATA DEFICIENT

**85 PER CENT**  
OF SALTMARSH HAS BEEN LOST IN ENGLAND

**49 PER CENT**  
OF UK SEAGRASS BEDS HAVE BEEN LOST  
IN THE LAST 35 YEARS

## LYME BAY

Lyme Bay is a BLUE flagship project, proving sustainable fishing can co-exist with conservation. One of the largest MPAs in the UK protected from dredging and trawling, it preserves rocky reefs and the largest colony of pink sea fans in the British Isles. The collaborative model, initiated in 2012 by BLUE and local fishermen, has worked to manage the remaining small-scale, static gear fisheries within sustainable limits.

2019 saw BLUE publish a pioneering four-year study showing the impact of pot fishing within MPAs. The study, undertaken by Adam Rees PhD with Plymouth University, monitored the effect of potting on Lyme's reefs and fishermen's catch. It showed that the number of pots used by fishermen under a voluntary code of conduct had little impact on the marine environment. However, if commercial intensity were to increase above a measurable "threshold", the study revealed that the reef species that have started to return following the ban on trawling could be negatively affected. Interestingly, crab caught in areas of low potting levels were of greater average weight, providing a potential incentive for fishermen to fish less for the same catch value.

**11<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**  
OF MONITORING SHOWING  
MARKED RECOVERY WITHIN MPA

**2,133 BOXES**  
OF SUSTAINABLE LYME  
BAY SEAFOOD DELIVERED  
TO MARKET



A Lyme Bay fisherman holds large brown crab



DEVELOPING MODELS OF  
SUSTAINABLE FISHING

Back on land, BLUE's Lyme Bay team celebrated the first birthday of the Reserve Seafood van, with over 2,133 boxes of traceable, sustainably-caught Lyme Bay seafood delivered to market. To further improve the quality of catch and consistency of supply, BLUE has supported the installation of a lobster storage facility at Axmouth harbour.

The Lyme Bay model continues to provide a gold standard for the management of marine protected areas, delivering benefits to marine life and the communities that depend on it.



Two small-scale fishing boats in Lyme Bay

### PINK SEA FAN

**Status: Vulnerable, IUCN**

The pink sea fan – a type of slow-growing coral – increased by 22% in the Reserve between 2008 and 2016.





**ONE OF  
ONLY FOUR  
NO-TAKE ZONES  
IN THE UK**

**4x MORE  
KING SCALLOPS  
IN NO-TAKE ZONE  
SINCE 2010**



SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

## ISLE OF ARRAN

The Lamlash Bay no-take zone on the Isle of Arran is one of only a handful of marine protected areas in the British Isles where all forms of fishing are banned.

It was designated in 2008, following 13 years of campaigning by local community group, the Community of Arran Seabed Trust, and sits within the larger South Arran Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area. Together, they contribute to the mere four per cent of Scotland's exclusive economic zone that is closed to damaging fishing methods like dredging and trawling.

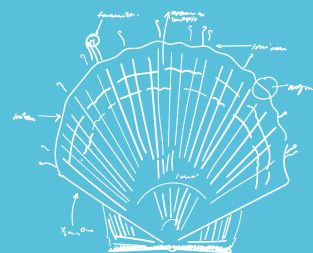
Just over one square mile in size, Lamlash Bay protects fragile maerl beds. These slow-growing coralline algae can take over 100 years to form and serve as important carbon stores. They are also extremely sensitive to damage and disruption.

Research by the University of York, supported by BLUE, has documented the recovery of marine life including shellfish species important to the local fishing fleet. In particular, scallop populations – known to seek out maerl beds as nursery areas – have shown spectacular recovery. Densities of king scallops have increased by almost four-fold in the no-take zone since 2010. In the wider South Arran MPA, densities increased by six-fold after only three and a half years of protection. These numbers are substantially higher than those in areas off the North East coast of Arran currently subject to dredging.

This research is demonstrating the power of well-managed marine reserves and their value, both to marine life and fisheries. Our results are providing strong evidence to the Scottish Government in support of highly or fully protected marine areas, validating BLUE's mission to see similar reserves established around the UK.

### KING SCALLOP

King scallops have shown a remarkable recovery within the Lamlash Bay no-take zone.

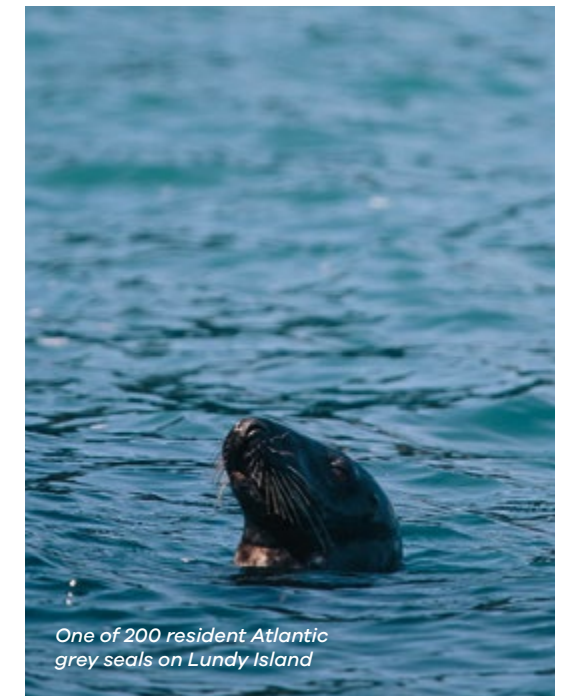


## NORTH DEVON

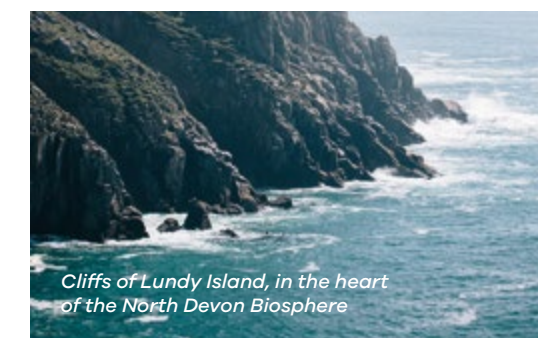
The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere holds rich biodiversity and is of huge importance for fishing, recreational activities, tourism and the well-being of the communities that surround it. BLUE is supporting the small-scale fishing fleet along North Devon's coastline to use their knowledge to take the lead in the management of their fisheries.

Working in collaboration with Defra, the Devon and Severn IFCA, the North Devon Biosphere and local North Devon fishermen, we have created an informal partnership to discuss issues affecting the North Devon fishing fleet and develop collaborative projects. So far, the work undertaken has highlighted pressures facing the area from fishing, dredging, nuclear power and climate change.

Using fishermen's knowledge, we are gathering evidence of locally-spawning herring – something fishermen have reported for years. The Bristol Channel Herring project has sampled over 2,000 herring and preliminary results show that, not only are the herring a separate stock, but that they have a spawning ground somewhere in the Biosphere. Targeted for centuries, herring are an important heritage fishery and these findings have allowed BLUE and our partners to shine the light on the threat posed by Hinkley Nuclear Power Station which has the potential to suck up half a million fish each day through its giant cooling system. BLUE's Legal Unit is also playing an active role in ensuring that this is not allowed to happen.



One of 200 resident Atlantic grey seals on Lundy Island

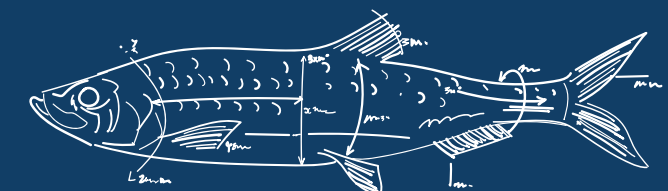


Cliffs of Lundy Island, in the heart of the North Devon Biosphere

**HALF A MILLION  
FISH POTENTIALLY SUCKED UP  
EACH DAY BY HINKLEY POINT  
POWER STATION**

### ATLANTIC HERRING

Studies have shown that North Devon's herring could be a separate population that spawns in the Biosphere.



DEVELOPING MODELS OF  
SUSTAINABLE FISHING





TACKLING  
UNSUSTAINABLE FISHING

# BERWICKSHIRE

Close to the Berwickshire shore, kelp forests grow thick and wild while, in deeper waters, soft corals and anemones carpet rocky reefs. Converging cold and warm water currents provide an unusual diversity of marine life. Cup corals share space alongside Arctic wolffish and pods of bottlenose dolphins, giving scientists an opportunity to monitor the effects of climate change within a marine protected area.

Sadly, reports of unlawful fishing by trawlers in the static gear-only part of the Berwickshire Marine Reserve are common. Reports of illegal fishing within marine protected areas are not unique to this coastline. Data obtained from the Scottish Government revealed there have been 112 reports of incursions into Scotland's protected areas over the past four years. None of these incursions has been prosecuted.

At a national level, BLUE has been calling on the Scottish Government to govern its waters and protect its rich biodiversity for the benefit of all users. On the ground, BLUE is working in

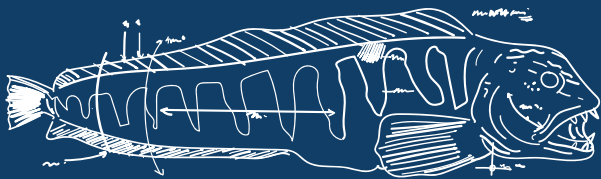
collaboration with the local fishing community and the Berwickshire Marine Reserve to implement our bottom-up approach to management, developed in Lyme Bay.

One of the key outputs of this will be a regional management plan for crab and lobster to support local fishermen, creating jobs, improving livelihoods and rebuilding communities. Using Berwickshire as a demonstrator for Scotland's seas, BLUE will call for regional fisheries co-management regimes for Scotland that are diverse, flexible, resilient and within the law.

## WOLFFISH

Status: Endangered, IUCN

Weighing up to 25kg and measuring up to 1.5m long, these specially adapted fish produce anti-freeze proteins in their blood, preventing ice crystals from forming.



112

REPORTS OF  
INCURSIONS INTO  
SCOTLAND'S  
PROTECTED AREAS

Dawn at Green Ends Gully, Eyemouth



RESTORING MARINE  
HABITATS

# UK STURGEON

The European sturgeon has been a royal fish since the time of Edward II who was assassinated in Berkeley Castle beside the Severn in 1327. It is thought that the great size of the sturgeon was the reason for its designation as a royal fish.

Ecologically, sturgeon provide a valuable role in food chains; the adults are benthic omnivores (removing organic detritus from rivers and estuaries) and the young and eggs provide food for a wide variety of aquatic predators.

The downfall of the European sturgeon coincided with the industrial revolution: rivers became polluted and the construction of river dams and weirs blocked their path to upstream spawning areas. The last European sturgeon was sighted in the Severn in the 1980s and the last in the UK in the Tywi river in 1993.

The critically endangered European sturgeon is now only found spawning in the Garonne river in France though it is being reintroduced to the Elbe in Germany. This year saw the first French tagged fish returning to the south coast of England.

BLUE has partnered with the Severn Rivers Trust, the Zoological Society of London and the Institute of Fisheries Management to launch the UK Sturgeon Alliance. The aim of the alliance is to collect data on the historic presence of European sturgeon in the UK, restore spawning and feeding grounds, and eventually reintroduce fish into river systems. The programme will take advantage of the 'Unlocking the Severn' project, which will bring major environmental benefits to the River Severn and species that can thrive there.

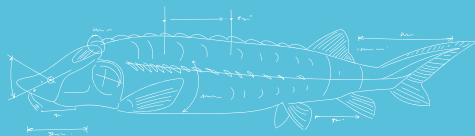


Sturgeon migrate up-river to spawn

## EUROPEAN STURGEON

Status: Critically Endangered, IUCN

European sturgeon are one of the most critically endangered species on the planet. Once common in European rivers and estuaries, they are now a rare sight.



"I HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH  
OF ONE [STURGEON]  
WHICH WAS CAPTURED  
IN THE SEVERN IN 1941.  
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A  
HUGE MONSTER, FOR IT  
WAS 9FT 6" LONG AND  
WEIGHED 353 LB"

J Arthur Hutton.  
"Wye Salmon and Other Fish", 1949





SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

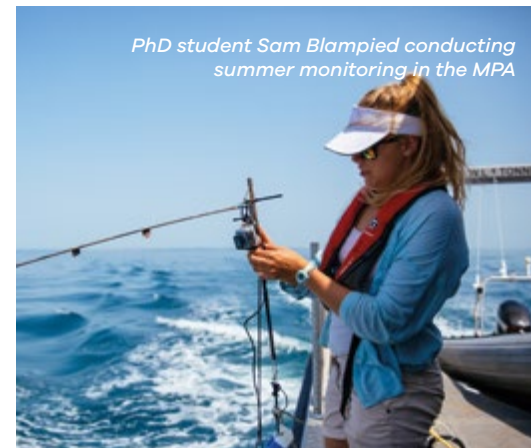
# JERSEY

Jersey has an extraordinary marine estate. The north west coast has the greatest diversity of seaweed in the British Isles. On the south west, some of the richest and most diverse clam beds in Northern Europe can be found and the rocky inter-tidal and outlying shallow reefs offer habitats found nowhere else in the region.

Our BLUE-funded PhD student has been monitoring the recovery of marine life within Jersey's existing marine protected area network – habitats protected from trawling and dredging and, in some cases, potting too. However, much of Jersey's waters remain unprotected and the impact on marine life unknown. Using our research and in partnership with the Société Jersiaise – a historical research institute – we are building an evidence base for well-managed marine protected areas.

To ensure fishing communities can continue to operate, thrive and co-exist alongside marine conservation, BLUE is applying its model of fishery co-management developed in Lyme Bay. This model proves that by using low impact methods, fishermen's livelihoods can improve while marine biodiversity thrives. In Jersey, we are supporting local fishermen to lead the management of their fisheries in line with conservation goals.

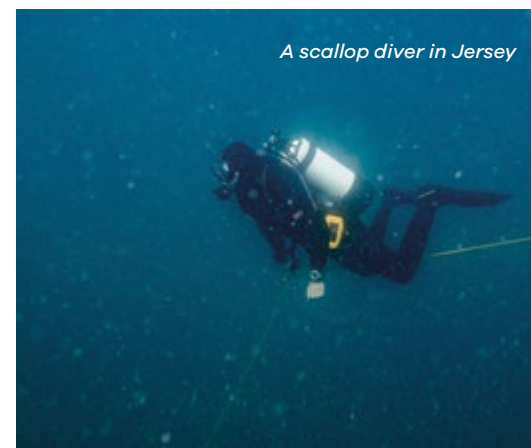
By proving that marine protection in Jersey supports both the recovery of marine life and local fishing communities, we will make the case for the creation of additional protected areas, ultimately creating an "emerald ring" around Jersey.



PhD student Sam Blampied conducting summer monitoring in the MPA



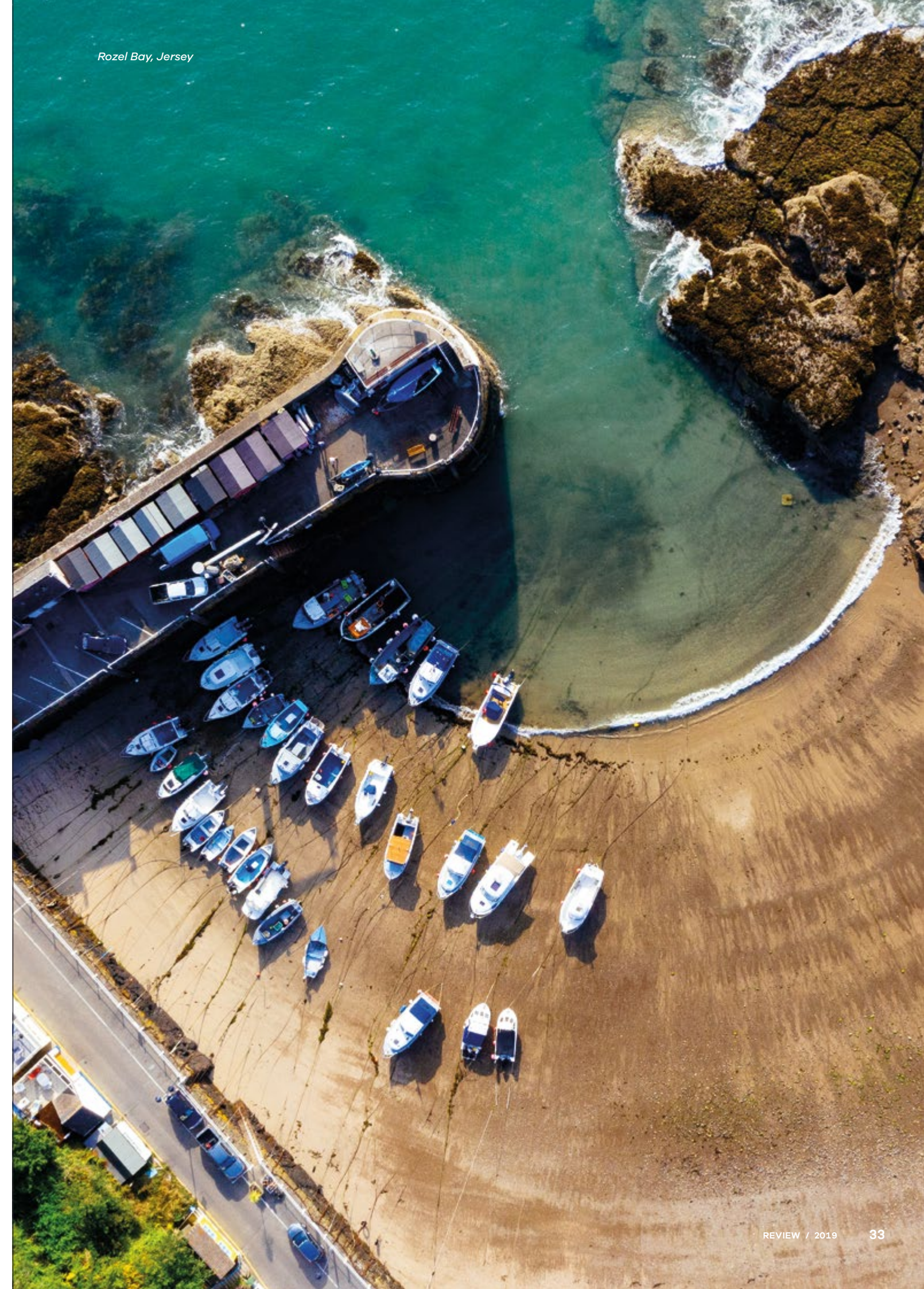
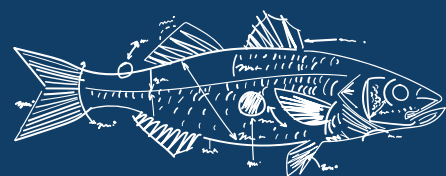
Scallop divers haul in their catch



A scallop diver in Jersey

## SEABASS

Bass is strictly managed in Jersey in order to safeguard stocks for generations to come.



Rozel Bay, Jersey





CONNECTING PEOPLE  
WITH THE SEA

# NATIONAL MARINE PARKS

The UK is home to some of the richest coastal waters on the planet. National parks on land are important to 90 per cent of people in the UK but, despite being an island nation with 30,000 kilometres of coastline, we have no national parks in the sea. The biodiversity in our waters is protected by a long and confusing list of designations, but the nation at large remains completely disconnected from the sea.

BLUE has a vision for a marine park network by 2030, succeeding where so many attempts at marine conservation in this country have historically failed. There is an opportunity for marine parks to involve people in the stewardship of our coastal waters, bringing a wealth of benefits to deprived coastal communities and, critically, a marine environment under threat.

In June 2018, BLUE invited 130 people to discuss the future of marine parks in the UK. The day ended with unanimous consensus that national marine parks as a concept could be used to better protect coastal waters while bringing shared prosperity, broader public engagement and regeneration of deprived coastal communities. The conference agreed that Plymouth should declare a marine park.

**On 14 September 2019, 70 years after our first national parks on land, the city of Plymouth came together to declare Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.**

Plymouth will now enter a two-year development phase, running from January 2020, in which citywide stakeholders will help to frame what the marine park will become. BLUE has played a key role in the process to date, helping to shape the declaration, the identity of the park and the

engagement of the local population with the concept through our "Sea in the park" initiative delivered with the Marine Biological Association. BLUE has developed the SAFEGEAR initiative, fitting AIS beacons to fishing gear to eliminate ghost gear within the marine park. BLUE was delighted that the Government's review of national parks, chaired by Julian Glover, said it "strongly supported" in principle the idea of a national park in Plymouth Sound.

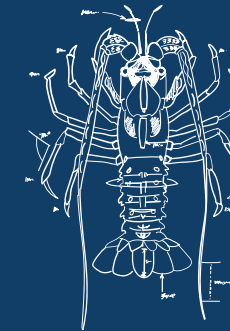
Around the country, conversations are emerging about the evolution of marine parks. To better understand this appetite, BLUE worked with governance expert Natasha Bradshaw to interview dozens of stakeholders to develop a vision for marine parks. Unsurprisingly, there are numerous potential locations for national marine parks around our coastline. We strongly believe marine parks will only work if they engage local communities and key stakeholders from the start. However, support will be needed from local and central government to ensure marine parks succeed.

Over the next decade, a critical one for our ocean, BLUE will help to mobilise the energy and potential for Marine Parks in the UK, working towards our vision for a network of marine parks that conserve and enhance the national beauty of our coastline.

## SPINY LOBSTER

**Status:** Vulnerable, IUCN

Spiny lobsters, overfished in the 1970s and 80s, have recently returned to Plymouth waters after a 40 year absence.



**"IT IS MY HOPE THAT, IN THE FUTURE, PEOPLE WILL LOOK BACK AT PLYMOUTH AS THE OCEAN INNOVATOR THAT SET THE STANDARD FOR NATIONAL MARINE PARKS IN BRITAIN AND ACROSS THE GLOBE"**

Lewis Pugh, UN Patron of the Oceans



UN Patron of the Oceans Lewis Pugh celebrates the marine park declaration with Plymouth's wild swimmers



A child learns about the abundance of marine life in Plymouth Sound



OUR PROJECTS

# COMMUNITY FISHING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN





# AEOLIAN ISLANDS AND ITALY



DEVELOPING MODELS OF  
SUSTAINABLE FISHING

About 700,000 years ago, the volcanic Aeolian Islands emerged from the Tyrrhenian Sea, north of Sicily. Productive upwelling waters swirled around the obsidian pinnacles, supporting all forms of marine life. Deep coral gardens and shallow seagrass beds attracted great schools of fish, turtles, sharks, squid and whales.

When humans first colonised the islands, they harvested these abundant and rich marine resources and farmed the fertile volcanic slopes. Tales of tuna and swordfish schools so dense that fishermen could walk across the sea from one island to another are common and ancient submerged ruins hint at some of the first fish traps in history, luring all kinds of sealife into stone-walled pools.

Six thousand years later, descendants of the colonisers pull up empty fish pots from shrinking seagrass meadows and haul in nets in hope of a small catch. Tuna fishing is forbidden for local fishermen as they do not possess catch quota, which is dominated by industrial fishing vessels. The very same industrial-scale fishing has depleted fish stocks to levels where local artisanal fishing communities struggle to survive. Illegal poaching accentuates the problem, with tonnes of fish stolen from the islanders each year.

**BLUE is working with the Italian Ministry of Environment, the Aeolian Island Preservation Fund, and local fishermen to protect and restore Aeolian sea life by creating a marine protected area and sustainable fisheries management plan which, if successful, will ensure a sustainable future for the islands and all those who live on and visit the archipelago.**

Ninety per cent of fishermen on the islands of Salina and Stromboli have signed up to responsible fishing "codes of conduct", minimising their impact on marine habitats and fishing

sustainably for fish that can be traced back to the boat on which it was caught. BLUE supports the fishermen with insulated fish boxes and ice machines so that fish remains of a premium quality and can be sold at a top price. Hotels and restaurants are encouraged to buy the local fish and consumers are taught how to seek out sustainable, locally caught seafood. BLUE's new research vessel supports teams of visiting scientists, who work to protect the carbon-trapping seagrass meadows and identify important ecosystems for high levels of protection.

The responsible fishermen of the Aeolians set an example for all the islands to follow and they demand protection of the resources that they depend on. Research data is passed to the Ministry to inform and push for effective protection. Aeolian community support for an MPA is growing, support for an MPA which would put an end to illegal fishing, close areas for fish to reproduce, stop the destruction of ancient marine habitats and do what all MPAs are designed to do: preserve diverse ecosystems and restore marine life to healthy levels.

BLUE's Aeolian sustainable fishing and conservation model has been described to other small-scale fishermen in Italy through knowledge exchange events where fishermen explain the benefits of responsible fishing. BLUE is adapting the model in two other Italian sites, where it will be deployed to improve existing MPAs, creating a network of fishermen-led protected areas – the most effective of their kind.

## SPERM WHALE

**Status:** Vulnerable, IUCN

Sperm whales visit the Aeolian islands in the Autumn with their calves to rest and feed in the warm, clear, waters. Adult sperm whales have the biggest brains on earth.



"BLUE AND THE AIPF PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE AGGREGATION, AWARENESS AND A VOICE FOR AEOLIAN ARTISANAL FISHERMEN. I HOPE WE WILL SOON HAVE AN MPA WHERE FISHERMEN CAN HAVE AN ACTIVE ROLE AND COLLABORATE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE OF THE SEA"

Clara Rametta, Mayor of Malfa, Salina



An Aeolian fisherman hauls his boat onto the shore

**SEAGRASS CAPTURES CARBON UP TO 35 TIMES FASTER THAN TROPICAL RAINFORESTS**



Fishermen in Stromboli with the first handful of ice from their new ice machine



A researcher examines a chunk of Aeolian seagrass ripped up by an anchor



# SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES EXCHANGES, CYPRUS AND MENORCA



DEVELOPING MODELS OF SUSTAINABLE FISHING

In the Mediterranean, small-scale fishermen are struggling to maintain their livelihoods as fish stocks are not recovering.

## Fisheries exchanges

This year, BLUE invited these fishermen from all over Europe to Lyme Bay in the UK to attend an event hosted by fishermen from the Lyme Bay Reserve. The fishermen exchanged experiences, knowledge and ideas about sustainable fishing. The Lyme Bay fishermen explained how they fished within a reserve, taking advantage of recovering fish stocks while adhering to sustainable fishing "codes of conduct". The message was well received by the visiting fishermen who went home with hope for the future.

## Cyprus

BLUE built upon the exchange with an event in Cyprus with small-scale and recreational fishermen who were keen to replicate the Lyme Bay fisheries and conservation model. Cyprus is home to two UK Sovereign Base Areas, Akrotiri and Dhekelia, which are a UK Overseas Territory. These areas retain the rights to 20,000 square kilometres of ocean, which BLUE aims to protect in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, Cyprus Department of Fisheries, local NGO Marine and Environmental Research (MER) and fishing communities. This will extend the UK Government's Blue Belt programme into the Mediterranean, protecting waters home to endangered monk seals, green turtles, a diversity of fish and cetaceans.

**"I THINK BLUE'S INSULATED FISH BOXES WOULD BE INVALUABLE FOR MY FAMILY IN CYPRUS, BUT WE JUST CAN'T CATCH ENOUGH FISH TO FILL THEM – THERE ARE NONE LEFT"**

Stella Stylianou, Cypriot fisherwoman

## Menorca

In Menorca, BLUE partners with the Menorca Preservation Fund to protect threatened habitats and fish stocks. This year the Isla del Aire MPA was designated on the south coast of Menorca. A new patrol boat was donated to the Menorca Island Government to enforce regulations within the MPA.

### The BLUE patrol boat is currently:

- stopping illegal fishing in the newly declared MPA around the Isla del Aire;
- explaining the new MPA declaration and what this means for visiting vessels;
- supporting the seagrass protection team in informing people not to anchor on seagrass beds;
- collecting plastic while out at sea; and
- supporting a ghost net retrieval and recycling project working with dive boats to collect lost fishing nets.

The next step is to develop a Menorcan adaptation of the sustainable fisheries and conservation model proven in Lyme Bay and the Aeolians, guiding and supporting local small-scale fishermen to adhere to codes of conduct in Menorcan waters, which are soon to be declared a UNESCO Biosphere reserve, which will insist on stricter regulations for fishermen.

**10 TONS**  
OF FISHING NETS  
REMOVED IN 2019

## LIONFISH

### Status: Invasive species

Originally from the Red Sea, highly invasive lionfish are a pest in the Mediterranean, eating native fish with their huge mouths.



BLUE's co-founder Chris Gorell Barnes christens the new patrol boat



Small-scale fishermen and women from Mediterranean countries join their counterparts from Lyme Bay on Beer Beach



Fishermen from Greece, Italy and Turkey at BLUE's European small-scale fisheries exchange



OUR PROJECTS

# PROTECTING AND RESTORING MARINE HABITATS



RESTORING MARINE  
HABITATS

# SOLENT OYSTER RESTORATION

Oyster reefs are one of the world's most degraded marine habitats with 95 per cent having been lost in Europe. But in many cases, simply protecting a habitat is not enough to reverse the damage. BLUE is actively reseeded two of the UK's most important oyster grounds: the Solent and the Blackwater Estuary in Essex. Oysters filter the water, provide habitat for other species and remove pollutants. In particular, they fix nitrates – excessive nitrates in water is a main cause of anoxia, or dead zones, where marine life is starved of oxygen.

BLUE is restoring native oysters on a large scale by combining community engagement and different restoration techniques which include innovative broodstock cages and direct restoration on the seabed. In 2019, BLUE reseeded 45,000 oysters across two acres of seabed in a series of trials. The learnings from these trials will be used to restore the Solent's lost oyster beds by reseeded up to three million oysters over the next few years.

BLUE's broodstock oysters can produce one billion larvae in a single spawning season and bred again in 2019, delivering the next generation of oysters to the seabed. The cage structures also shelter an abundance of species (97 at the latest count), including endangered eels and seahorses.

The cages are a marvellous educational tool for visiting parties of school children who can see for themselves, when the cages are lifted out full of

strange creatures, the wealth of life that inhabits the murky waters of the Solent.

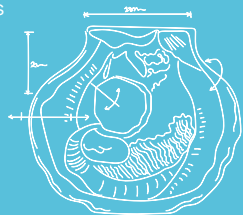
At the end of 2019, BLUE installed oyster cages at Wightlink's ferry terminal in Lymington in the hope that oysters can work to clean this busy waterway.

In the Solent, BLUE has been working to remove some of the barriers to oyster restoration across Europe. One of the major barriers is the disease Bonamia which has decimated native oyster populations. BLUE is working with the Roslin Institute and Cefas to identify genetic resistance to this disease.

In late 2019, BLUE, with the University of Portsmouth, helped to establish the UK's first restoration-focused oyster hatchery. A successful hatchery will be able to directly supply oysters to the Solent for years to come to restore this essential habitat.

## NATIVE OYSTER

Oysters improve water quality by filtering large volumes of water, removing pollutants in the process. A single native oyster can filter up to 200 litres of water a day!



Native oysters



# BLACKWATER OYSTER RESTORATION

The Blackwater and surrounding estuaries have a 1,000-year history of oyster culture, yet populations are now at serious risk. BLUE, working with the Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative (ENORI), has had an eventful year in the Essex estuaries. This Spring, 420 tonnes of stone and shell – "cultch" – was laid, along with over 10,000 mature brood oysters, to recreate the thriving and diverse habitat that oyster reefs create.

Over the next four years BLUE will help ENORI to continue restoration efforts with over 10,000 cubic metres of shell and 100,000 mature broodstock oysters to be deployed.

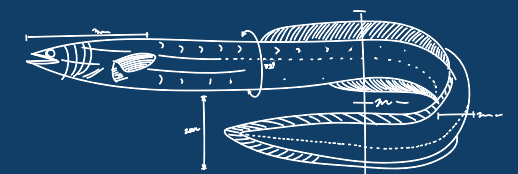
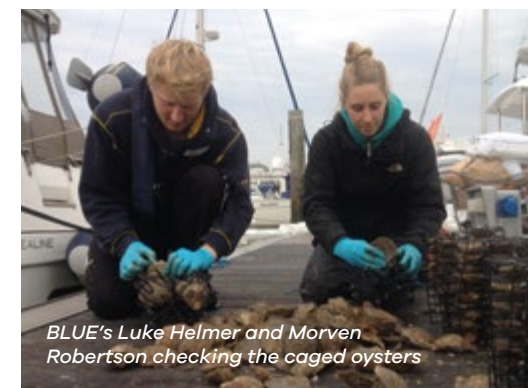
# OYSTERS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Concern over climate change means the number of offshore wind farms is set to increase rapidly. BLUE has identified an opportunity to use the de-facto protection these farms provide by designing ways in which mature brood oysters can be suspended around wind turbine bases. In 2020, BLUE will begin a pioneering trial with Ørsted, the company that operates the Gunfleet Sands array, to demonstrate how wind energy and the restoration of marine life can go hand in hand.

## EUROPEAN EEL

**Status:** Critically Endangered, IUCN

Critically endangered European eels are one of 97 different species that have been found living within our project's oyster cage network.

Oysterman Allan Bird  
collecting oysters in EssexBLUE's Luke Helmer and Morven  
Robertson checking the caged oysters

# 69,000

NATIVE OYSTERS RESTORED  
ACROSS 12 RESTORATION SITES

# 5 BILLION

LITRES OF WATER FILTERED ANNUALLY,  
EQUIVALENT TO 2,000 OLYMPIC SIZED  
SWIMMING POOLS

# 2 ACRES

OF OYSTER BED RESTORED

# 97 SPECIES

FOUND LIVING AROUND THE OYSTERS  
INCLUDING: SEAHORSES, JUVENILE  
BASS, SPIDER CRABS AND CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED EUROPEAN EELS



# THE CASPIAN SEA



SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

The IUCN lists sturgeon as more critically endangered than any group of species on the planet. Eighty-five per cent of sturgeon are at risk of extinction. These prehistoric fish can grow to seven metres in length and live for 150 years.

Several sturgeon species inhabit the Caspian Sea, the world's largest inland body of water. Sturgeon share this sea with Caspian salmon, Caspian kutum, Caspian seals, lamprey, anchovies, pikeperch and a host of other endemic marine creatures. Many of these fish are anadromous, meaning that they swim up rivers to lay their eggs before returning to the sea.

The very nature of these fish makes them extremely vulnerable to exploitation and habitat destruction. Entire breeding populations can disappear in just a few weeks if their migration is blocked by fishermen's gillnets and their historic spawning and feeding grounds destroyed by dams and pollution. The black-market demand for caviar encourages rife poaching for fish at their critical reproductive stage, when their bodies are full of precious eggs ready to lay.

**BLUE is working with a local NGO, IDEA to reverse the rapid decline of some of the world's last remaining marine behemoths. Fishing for sturgeon has been banned throughout the Caspian Sea and the use of gillnets has been banned in Azerbaijan. Ongoing raids remove illegal gillnets from rivers and markets are monitored for illegally caught fish. This year, BLUE has seen the designation of the first ever MPA in the Caspian Sea, a marine area the size of Belgium, closed to fishing.**

This area is crucial for juvenile sturgeon as they adapt from fresh water to marine. It is so unique that BLUE, IDEA and Mission Blue have designated it as a Hope Spot, encouraging other Caspian states to follow suit and protect their own marine ecosystems. As reports come in from fishermen of fish returning to their native rivers to spawn, the future of Caspian sturgeon, salmon and kutum is full of hope.

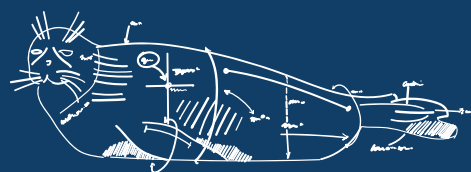


The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water

## CASPIAN SEAL

**Status: Endangered, IUCN**

Endangered Caspian seals are the only mammal inhabiting the Caspian Sea and are a key indicator for the health of the environment.



**"THIS (MPA) IS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN OUR EFFORTS TO SAVE THE CASPIAN AND ITS UNIQUE SPECIES, AND WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD THAT AZERBAIJAN WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY IN THE REGION TO ADOPT SUCH MEASURES"**

Leyla Aliyeva, Founder of IDEA

# NAMIBIA



SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

The Namibian Islands' Marine Protected Area (NIMPA) is Africa's second largest marine reserve. However, without a management plan in place to guide its governance, the reserve is redundant and life within it remains at risk to diamond mining, overfishing, pollution, port development, untested phosphate extraction and, disturbingly, live marine mammal harvesting.

**BLUE has partnered with the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) to ensure that this incredible area is managed sustainably and that it receives the protection it so badly needs.**

The NIMPA boasts the highest variety of habitats found anywhere along the coast, including lagoons, wetlands, salt pans, rocky shores, reefs, sandy beaches, kelp beds and several small islands. These islands are used as spawning grounds for the entire Namibian breeding population of Cape gannets and almost all of Namibia's endangered African penguins. The NIMPA is also home to endemic dolphins, six different species of whale and almost

70 per cent of the global population of Cape fur seals. It is truly an area of outstanding marine biodiversity.

The NIMPA was proclaimed as a protected site 20 years ago, in 2009. However, since then, no staff or budget have been allocated to its development and no management plan was ever ratified. BLUE is supporting the NNF to kickstart the revival of this reserve by bringing together stakeholders to agree on a way to leverage funds and resources that will enable the government to prioritise its management for the benefit of Namibia and its people.



The islands in the MPA are used as spawning grounds for almost all of Namibia's endangered African penguins

**HOME TO  
SIX DIFFERENT  
SPECIES OF WHALE**

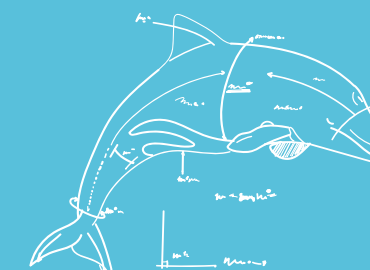
**AND ALMOST 70% OF THE  
GLOBAL POPULATION  
OF CAPE FUR SEALS**

**SECOND LARGEST  
MARINE RESERVE IN  
CONTINENTAL AFRICA  
10,000KM<sup>2</sup>**

## HEAVISIDE'S DOLPHIN

**Status: Near Threatened, IUCN**

These small dolphins are endemic to the Benguela ecosystem on the south-west coast of Africa and are often seen leaping out of the water in the NIMPA.







RESTORING MARINE  
HABITATS

# THE MALDIVES

The Maldives is the lowest-lying nation in the world. The future of the Maldives and its people are entirely reliant on the protection of their marine and coastal environment. Yet, overfishing, excessive tourism, pollution and coastal development are degrading the country’s reefs, seagrass and mangroves and these habitats are losing their capacity to support the people who depend on them.

BLUE’s aim is to restore coral reefs as climate resilient ecosystems for the benefit of nature and people that depend on them, and to raise awareness of the need to protect seagrass which is 35 times more effective at storing carbon than tropical rainforests.

In 1972, there were two resorts in the Maldives and 100 visitors made their way to these remote islands. The new airport expansion project, to be completed by the end of this year, will allow 7.5 million people to visit. While tourism remains the backbone of the country’s economy, unmanaged and unregulated operations can devastate marine life. Ensuring resorts put sustainable business at the core of their operations is a priority for BLUE’s work in the Maldives.

In April 2019, BLUE launched the #ProtectMaldivesSeagrass social media campaign, together with our partner resort Six Senses Laamu, to call on resorts to stop removing the seagrasses around their resort island to make clear lagoons for their guests. Within the space of three months, BLUE managed to convince more than a quarter of all resorts in the country to commit to protect more than 830,000m² of seagrass, absorbing significant amounts of carbon.

In November 2019, BLUE successfully developed the first ever sustainable resort reef fishery model in the Maldives. Fifteen reef fishermen who sell their catch to Six Senses Laamu signed up to a responsible fishing “code of conduct”, agreeing to target semi-pelagic and pelagic species and use selective gears to reduce their impact on Laamu’s reefs. In exchange, Six Senses Laamu has agreed to reward fishermen through a benefits scheme providing an economic incentive to fish sustainably.

Though there are more than 50 protected areas in the Maldives, only four have management plans. BLUE and Six Senses Laamu facilitated a visit to one of these sites for the local government on Laamu to show them how protected areas benefit communities. Later in the year, BLUE secured funding from the Disney Conservation Fund to work collaboratively with communities on Laamu to develop a network of protected areas on Laamu.

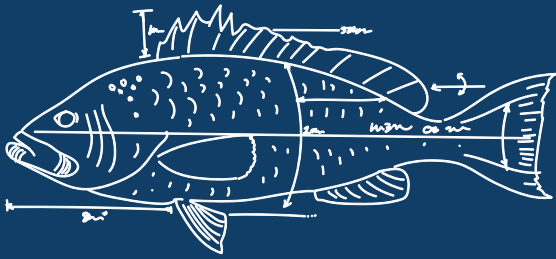
MORE  
THAN ¼  
OF ALL RESORTS IN THE  
COUNTRY COMMITTED TO  
PROTECTING 830,000m²  
OF SEAGRASS

FIRST  
SUSTAINABLE RESORT  
REEF FISHING MODEL  
DEVELOPED ON  
LAAMU ATOLL

FIRST  
PROTECTED AREAS  
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE  
TRIP ORGANISED FOR THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON  
LAAMU ATOLL

## GROUPER

Status: Vulnerable, IUCN  
These large, predatory reef fish are essential to the healthy functioning of coral reefs, but are frequently targeted for the live fish trade.



Shaha Hashim and Ali Shareef,  
BLUE’s team in the Maldives



Maldivian children on a climate strike





SECURING MARINE  
PROTECTED AREAS

# PATAGONIA

The Fjords and straits of Patagonia weave through one of the last great wildernesses on the planet. The environment can be harsh and inhospitable but under the surface is a marine world rich with life. From great humpback, blue and sei whales to cold-water corals and a huge diversity of fish species, the productive waters attract all kinds of marine creatures.

For centuries, local indigenous coastal communities lived in harmony with the sea, harvesting what they needed to survive and no more.

However, in recent years the fjords have come under threat from industrial fishing and destructive salmon farming. Sixteen out of 25 of Chile's main fisheries have collapsed due to overfishing and poorly regulated salmon farms spread far and wide, polluting entire marine areas and destabilising the natural balance of these fragile ecosystems.

Although Chile has worked hard to create MPAs, most are offshore and neglect the precious fjords. BLUE is working to protect 70,000 square

kilometres of coastal waters, a combined area the size of Ireland. The project aims to protect specific areas with high diversity and collect evidence to prevent the spread of salmon farming into pristine marine ecosystems.

**BLUE is working with research vessel Saoirse, which is collecting data to support the designation of an MPA in the Gulf of Penas. The gulf saw the largest ever stranding of sei whales in 2016 and this year, BLUE researchers filmed the first ever sighting of a blue whale in the gulf. The area is clearly of great significance to baleen whales and BLUE supports Oceana to protect the gulf and its leviathan visitors.**



A juvenile blue whale in the Gulf of Penas

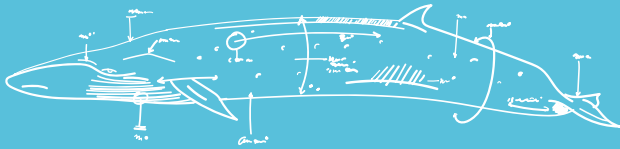


Patagonian sea lions

## SEI WHALE

**Status:** Endangered, IUCN

Sei whales weigh one ton at birth and learn to "skim" plankton from the ocean surface as they grow towards their maximum length of 64 feet.



**TWO THIRDS**  
**OF CHILE'S COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**  
**HAVE COLLAPSED**



# BLUE INNOVATION

BLUE is seeking innovative solutions to problems such as unsustainable aquaculture and ghost fishing.



TACKLING  
UNSUSTAINABLE FISHING



A diver assesses a marine fish farm

## Sustainable Aquaculture

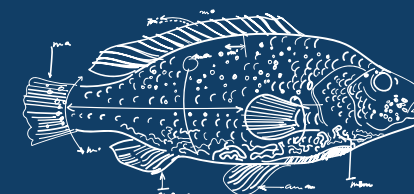
Aquaculture, particularly salmon farming, poses a serious threat to the marine environment. Millions of tonnes of wild fish are caught to provide feed for the farms. Intensive farming leads to disease and parasite infestation, which are combatted by high usages of antibiotics and pesticides, which in turn leak into the sea and bioaccumulate in the food chain. Genetically modified fish escape and destabilise wild populations and waste feed falls to the seabed causing eutrophicated ecosystems devoid of oxygen.

BLUE, in partnership with the University of Stirling has trialled alternative sources of protein to take pressure off wild fish stocks. Fly larvae, waste offal enriched with algae-based fatty acids can feed farmed fish. Closed-system, recirculating fish farms prevent escapees, parasite infestations and marine pollution.

In Scotland, an unregulated fishery that supplies the salmon aquaculture industry with parasite-eating wrasse has been operating for the last ten years. Wrasse are caught live using pots within some of Scotland's most important MPAs. In 2019, BLUE supported Scottish NGO SIFT to launch a #SaveScottishWrasse campaign to raise awareness of the issue and secure new conservation measures to protect the species. BLUE's immediate aim is to bring in fisheries management regulations to protect wrasse and the kelp habitats that they rely on. This

## BALLAN WRASSE

These brightly coloured fish are often caught alive for use as "cleaner fish" in salmon farms where they pick parasites like sea-lice off the farmed fish.



A SAFEGEAR beacon

unsustainable fishery has severely depleted wrasse populations, which deserve proper protection within MPAs.

In time, as finfish aquaculture moves from the sea into more controlled, efficient, land-based recirculating systems there will be no need for an unsustainable wrasse fishery. Sea-lice infestations will be a thing of the past and wild salmon populations will not suffer parasite plagues from their captive counterparts.

However, perhaps the most sustainable solution is to grow seaweed and shellfish and reduce our addiction to finfish. Shellfish farms for oysters and mussels filter and clean seawater and provide habitats for a diversity of other species. BLUE's Solent Oyster Restoration Project is a good example of this. Seaweed farms for species like kelp create diverse habitats, de facto MPAs, sequester CO<sub>2</sub> and release oxygen. They can even produce seaweed that can be added to cattle feed and reduce methane production by 80 per cent: win-win-win!

## SAFEGEAR

Although making up just 10 per cent of ocean plastic, ghost gear makes up 70 per cent of macro plastics (over 20cm) and kills four times as much marine life as all other ocean plastic. Lost fishing gear goes on catching marine life for decades, ensnaring everything from small fish to endangered whales, seabirds and turtles.

BLUE is developing a pioneering initiative called SAFEGEAR that aims to stop ghost fishing gear at source. SAFEGEAR is an AIS beacon to make fishing gear visible to passing marine traffic and allowing the gear to be monitored if it moves. In partnership with marine electronics experts, marine scientists and fishermen, BLUE is seeking to develop the model at scale, advocate for national policy adoption and publish a template in the global fight against marine plastic.

## OVER HALF A TRILLION

WILD FISH ARE CAUGHT EACH YEAR TO PROVIDE PROTEIN FOR FISH FARMS



# BLUE EDUCATION

BLUE can better achieve its mission to restore healthy oceans by engaging with local communities, fishermen and young people. BLUE Education equips children and adults alike with the knowledge needed to tackle the problems facing our ocean.



CONNECTING PEOPLE  
WITH THE SEA

Experiencing the wonders of the ocean from the shoreline, in a classroom or even under water are where many people start to care about protecting it. These special encounters form lasting impressions and encourage communities to support conservation programmes. The problem is that marine conservation education rarely features within school curriculums. BLUE is bridging this gap through innovative educational materials, community engagement, capacity building, empowering ambassadors, connecting with schools and enhancing career opportunities for young adults.

BLUE Education has had an exciting year of development. In the Maldives, we have established three citizen science programmes that enable young people to develop valuable scientific field skills by surveying coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangrove forests. Local fishermen that sign up to a sustainable "code of conduct" receive educational sessions on topics like climate change, and young people have had the chance to interact with conservation experts through a local seminar series. Interest in conservation was evident at the

**"A HUGE AMOUNT OF WORK HAS GONE INTO THIS, AND IT IS UNBELIEVABLY INFORMATIVE FOR THAT AGE GROUP – ACTUALLY, FOR ANY AGE GROUP! IF ONE OF YOUR PURPOSES WAS TO EDUCATE ADULTS VIA THEIR CHILDREN, IT HAS SUCCEEDED MASSIVELY."**

Jonathan Porritt CBE,  
Founder – Forum for the Future



BLUE's Sophie Locke helping students with their "makerzine" activities

annual community festival, Laamafaru, where students protested for climate change action and the protection of their coastal environment.

In the Aeolians, we have supported local students by providing a two-month marine education programme, which is led by marine biologists and small-scale fishermen from the area. Working with fishermen encourages them to pass on their knowledge of the sea to younger generations and creates conservation ambassadors, an initiative that proved to be immensely popular through our Lyme Bay Outreach Programme in the UK. These activities help communicate the benefits of conservation to the local community and are an important step towards designating an Aeolian MPA, which requires community buy-in and support.

BLUE's educational "makerzines" feature pop-outs of St Helena's MPA and explore topics such as ocean innovation, climate change, overfishing and the wonderful adaptations of species such as yellowfin tuna. Copies have been distributed to school children in Ascension, St Helena (where we are also working on an online ocean-saving game), the Solent, the Maldives and London.

# 3,500

COPIES OF "AN OCEAN  
ADVENTURE" MAKERZINE  
DISTRIBUTED ACROSS  
THE GLOBE



A girl holding her copy of BLUE's educational "makerzine"



A girl snorkelling in the Maldives

**"OUR CHILDREN WERE FASCINATED BY THE BLUE MARINE MAKERZINE – THE FACTS AND INFORMATION HAD THEM ENTRANCED AND SPARKED A FIERCE CURIOSITY ABOUT OUR FRAGILE PLANET AND ITS GLORIOUS SEAS."**

Marina and Ben Fogle  
Broadcaster, Writer, Adventurer



# BLUE MEDIA

From short films for direct lobbying, to international social media campaigns, and from virtual reality experiences to mainstream television – BLUE Media proved invaluable to the success of BLUE's projects and campaigns in 2019.

TACKLING  
UNSUSTAINABLE FISHING

*An electric pulse trawler*

BLUE Media produces marine conservation campaign media that makes a difference. Here are some of our successes from the past year:

**Stopping the destruction:** Working with our European partners, Bloom Association, to lobby the EU for policy change via a successful press and social media campaign (#StopElectricFishing), we have now achieved a total ban on electric fishing in the EU, including in the North Sea, from 2021.

**Protecting paradise:** With our innovative and highly targeted short films, we helped win a promise of full protection for 100 per cent of Ascension's waters – a total of 440,000 square kilometres of ocean – as part of our #BacktheBlueBelt campaign.

**Uncovering illegal fishing:** BLUE's investigative team exposed the unlawful overfishing of Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna – a stock at risk of collapse – by subsidised EU fleets. Our in-house investigation was widely reported on by the British and European press and on TV globally.

**Inspiring global ambitions:** BLUE Media supported BLUE's high seas campaign, capturing interviews with key players in the high seas debate and taking the campaign all the way to the UN.

**#MeetMyOcean:** We brought together the people of St Helena for our hugely successful Whale Shark Festival, showcasing the island's marine riches locally. Our underwater whale shark footage, shot in the island's waters, was then broadcast to five million people on BBC One's Blue Planet Live in March. Our 360 virtual reality video has reached a further nine million people worldwide. This exposure is instrumental in securing the proposed 445,000 square kilometre marine protected area around the island.

**Reframing nature:** Inspired by our in-country #ProtectMaldivesSeagrass social media campaign, a growing coalition of 33 Maldives tourist resorts and the Maldivian Government are now committed to protecting this precious marine habitat and carbon sink.

**Spreading the win-win message:** Our films of BLUE's flagship project in Lyme Bay are inspiring other fishing communities around the UK and Europe to adapt this win-win sustainable fishing model.

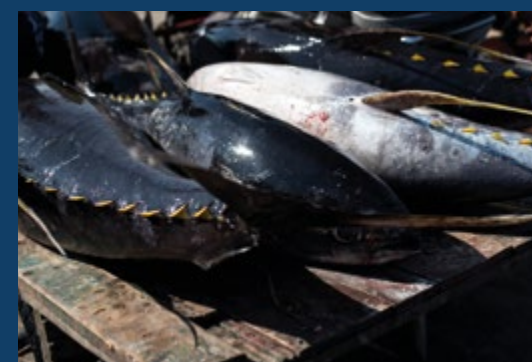


## BLUE LEGAL

Over the last year, BLUE has set up a legal unit to challenge unsustainable fishing and to make more active use of the legal system to achieve BLUE's conservation goals.



TACKLING  
UNSUSTAINABLE FISHING



There is a surprising amount of very good law already in place, but it is seldom used properly and is often misunderstood. We are pushing the development of the law itself in Parliament and in the broader marine conservation debate, and ultimately we are investigating taking some of our concerns to court.

In February 2019, we heard the announcement that our legal complaint to the EU, made in support of a complaint filed by French NGO BLOOM, had been successful and that electric pulse fishing would be banned. BLUE's complaint is still active and we are pressing the EU to close all offshore marine protected areas to harmful fishing activities as is required under the Habitats Directive.

In April and August 2019, working with the High Seas Alliance, BLUE was represented at the UN negotiations on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction – a treaty to secure environmental protection of the high seas. BLUE Legal also issued a formal complaint to the EU over its role in pushing yellowfin tuna towards the point of collapse in the Indian Ocean.

Over the summer, BLUE Legal took action against the Hinkley Point nuclear power station. The power station's cooling system is set to decimate fish stocks in the Severn Estuary marine protected area unless corrective action is taken. BLUE Legal also obtained evidence of fishing infringements and pressed for better enforcement by Marine Scotland on the Scottish east coast.

As autumn approached, we helped to provide the legal DNA for the UK's first national marine park in Plymouth and the regulations for the marine protected area around St Helena.

In 2020, BLUE Legal will be at the forefront of discussions over fisheries and Brexit. Dr Appleby, BLUE's Chief Legal Adviser, has already appeared in Parliament twice and work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that the current system, where fisheries are exempt from key environmental measures, does not survive in the UK or the EU post-Brexit.

We will also be undertaking a range of new investigations, from pollution from salmon farms to using the law (and potentially the courts) to tackle unsustainable fishing in the Indian Ocean.



# LONDON TO MONACO

BLUE launched the fourth annual London to Monaco cycle ride in September 2019. The ride raised a staggering **£680,000** for BLUE's work, exceeding its target of £500,000.

**"THE 2019 L2M WAS AWESOME. AN EPIC CYCLE, THROUGH INCREDIBLE AND DIVERSE COUNTRY WITH AN AMAZING GROUP OF PEOPLE. BLUE AND THE INCREDIBLE SUPPORT FROM JUST PEDAL, CLIMPSON AND SONS WAS QUITE SIMPLY OUTSTANDING."**

Gary Wright – Co-Founder of Y.CO

## 2019'S RIDE

- £680,000 raised this year
- 105 riders, eight days, four countries
- Funds supported nine of BLUE's projects: Ascension, Namibia, Maldives, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Lyme Bay, the Mediterranean, Asia and Patagonia
- The BLUE team took to the pedals again in 2019. Well done to SJ Skinner, Adrian Gahan, Morven Robertson, Adam Rees, Joe Richards, Luke Helmer, Sam Blampied and George Duffield
- 1,200 energy products, 1,000 cups of coffee, 2 alpine climbs in 1 day



## RIDING THE WAVES

In four years, a total of 380 passionate and determined ocean cycling warriors from 17 countries have helped raise £1.7 million for marine conservation projects around the world, resulting in huge conservation gains.

## £1.7 MILLION

RAISED FOR MARINE  
CONSERVATION PROJECTS  
AROUND THE WORLD





"THERE WERE MOMENTS OF EXHAUSTION AND MOMENTS OF EUPHORIA, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGING. WHAT REALLY SPURRED ME ON TO CYCLE THE EXTRA MILE WAS THE TEAM ALONGSIDE ME AND DOING IT FOR BLUE.

ARRIVING INTO MONACO, ELATED, WITH EVERYONE ELSE AFTER COMPLETING AN EPIC CHALLENGE WAS THE MOST TEAM BUILDING EXPERIENCE I'VE HAD IN MANY YEARS. I ENJOYED IT SO MUCH I'M GOING TO DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR TO CELEBRATE BLUE'S 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND 5TH YEAR OF THE LONDON TO MONACO RIDE!"

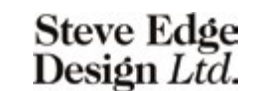
Andrew Winch – Founder and Creative Director of Winch Design



## SPONSORS



WINCH DESIGN



### CORPORATE TEAMS

Winch Design  
MB92  
Oceanco and Amels

### SPECIAL MENTION FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Tai Ping Yachts  
Veloforte  
Exsite

London to Monaco 2020 plans are already underway, including a new route, some alpine mountain climbs and additional exciting perks for our riders and sponsors. The ride will mark BLUE's tenth anniversary and the fifth year of the ride so it's going to be big. Watch this space!

To ride or sponsor next year, please visit: [www.london-monaco.cc](http://www.london-monaco.cc)



# ONETRACK1000

For those who find the idea of cycling 200km a day a bit daunting, BLUE has partnered with One Track Running Club to launch Onetrack1000. Runners of all abilities are able to pick their distance and circle the track to clock up either a 5k, a 10k or a half marathon while a DJ spurs them on with uplifting tunes.

On 1 September 2019, over 100 participated in the event at Battersea Park including BLUE Trustee, Craig Davies and six members of the BLUE Team who between them ran a total of 55km. The runners were greeted and cheered on by Olympic legend, Jamie Baulch.

BLUE CEO Clare Brook sent the runners off with a speech where she said that whenever she runs, she thinks she's going to run out of breath, and that's exactly what's happening in the ocean; agricultural run-off, sewage and other pollutants are starving the ocean of oxygen. The event was raising funds for BLUE's project in North Devon which aims to support traditional fishing methods which allow habitats to thrive and the sea to be restored to health.

**Onetrack1000 2020 will take place on Sunday 14 June 2020 and we're looking forward to an even bigger event.**



**BLUE MARINE YACHT CLUB**

## BLUE MARINE YACHT CLUB

### THE OCEAN'S FAVOURITE CLUB

The Blue Marine Yacht Club (BMYC) brings together those who love adventure and the sea and share a commitment to making sustainable long-term change.

#### On board

Following the success of our fourth London to Monaco cycle ride, BLUE hosted its annual Blue Marine Yacht Club event on board Lürssen's 106m superyacht AMADEA. The party marked the first evening of the Monaco Yacht Show and was generously sponsored by BLUE's long-standing major partner Lürssen and corporate partner Imperial Yachts. Attended by the Club's founding patron, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, BLUE experienced its most successful BMYC event to date raising £345,000 on the night among its members and guests to support BLUE's projects around the world.

Supporters have enabled the creation of some of the largest marine protected areas in the world.

#### The Club

The Blue Marine Yacht Club is unlike any other yacht club in the world. It was founded to help the superyacht community come together to protect the world's oceans for the health of our planet and the enjoyment of generations to come.

Supporters are provided with various means by which to demonstrate and showcase their commitment to ocean conservation by flying the exclusive BMYC burgee designed by Ralph Lauren and adhering to the BMYC Charter.

#### The Charter

The BMYC Charter cultivates supporters who are courageous enough to tackle some of the world's most important problems and committed enough to take action.

The Charter encourages supporters to reduce their impact on the ocean by minimising waste, respecting marine protected areas, anchoring responsibly and ensuring that they do not contribute to marine pollution. By following the Charter, our supporters are leading the way by setting an international benchmark for responsible and sustainable yachting.





# BLUE MARINE YACHT CLUB



**"IT IS THROUGH STRONG INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, SUCH AS THE ONE BETWEEN MY FOUNDATION AND THE BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION THAT WE CAN FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE AND MANAGE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY."**

H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, BMYC Founding Patron



BMYC event at the Monaco Yacht Show with H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco

## What our BMYC supporters have to say

**We are thrilled to welcome on board new 3-star member Evgeniy Kochman, Founder of Imperial Yachts.**

"It is with pride that we at Imperial support BLUE in their ongoing projects and campaigns. Since Andrew Winch introduced us in 2016 for the inaugural London to Monaco cycle ride, we have increased our support year after year. Becoming a BMYC member during the 2019 Monaco Yacht Show has formalised this long-term relationship and, as long as BLUE keeps pursuing its goals and educating the younger generations about ocean conservation, we will do all we can to support the team and echo their successes."

**Evgeniy Kochman, Founder Imperial Yachts, 3 star BMYC member**

"It is an honour to be a 3-Star Member of the Blue Marine Yacht Club. And at the same time it is a strong motivation to continue our support for BLUE and especially helping to organise the creation of marine protected areas. The state of the oceans is degrading at an alarming rate and it is our responsibility towards the future generations to help save the oceans and the marine life. Everyone can make a contribution – no matter how small – to make a difference."

**Peter Lürssen, CEO of Lürssen Yachts, 3 star BMYC member**

"We feel that anyone who looks to the ocean as a source of recreation owes it to themselves to get involved. Every member of the BMYC will be making a contribution."

**Kirsty Bertarelli, 3 star BMYC member**

"It makes complete sense to me to protect the things you love and enjoy. BLUE is making a real difference to the health of our oceans and life within it so it gives me great pleasure to be a long-standing member of the BMYC."

**Sir Charles Dunstone, 1 star BMYC member**

"I have been passionate about the sea since I was a child and that passion has never diminished. I am therefore delighted to be a long-term supporter of Blue Marine in their commendable endeavours to protect the world's oceans. We will continue to work with BLUE for many years to come as this is something which will impact us all if nothing is done."

**Andrew Winch, Founder and Creative Director, Winch Design, 1 star BMYC member**



BLUE's CEO Clare Brook at the 2019 BMYC event

**Now is the time to join. Help us turn the tide.**

For further information about supporting the BMYC please contact BLUE's Head of Partnerships, Sara-Jane Skinner: [sarajane@bluemarinefoundation.com](mailto:sarajane@bluemarinefoundation.com) or +44 (0) 207 845 5850

### BMYC Supporters

*Benetti*  
ITALIAN EXCELLENCE SINCE 1873

**BOAT**  
International Media

**fb** fondation  
bertarelli

**IMPERIAL**

**LÜRSSEN**

**PRINCE ALBERT II  
OF MONACO  
FOUNDATION**

**WINCH DESIGN**



# SUPPORTERS

## Major Partners

BLUE relies on donations from major partners to drive urgent changes in the management of the world's oceans. Individually, major partners play an integral role in BLUE's progress and impact around the world and are recognised for making significant contributions to the future of our oceans.

DP WORLD

IPGL

LÜRSSEN

PINMAR

SIX SENSES  
LAAMU

Sunseeker

VITA

WAITROSE  
& PARTNERS

WINCH DESIGN

## Corporate Partners

BLUE provides a platform for brands to demonstrate their commitment to marine sustainability and the environment. Corporate partners provide BLUE with core support and a global platform on which to raise awareness of the cause.

BOAT  
International Media

Bloomberg

BLUEGAME

DESENIO

Disney  
CONSERVATION  
FUND

KENZO

MDL MARINAS

REEF KNOTS  
Sustainable all the time

SWAROVSKI

YP  
YACHTINGPAGES  
MEDIA GROUP

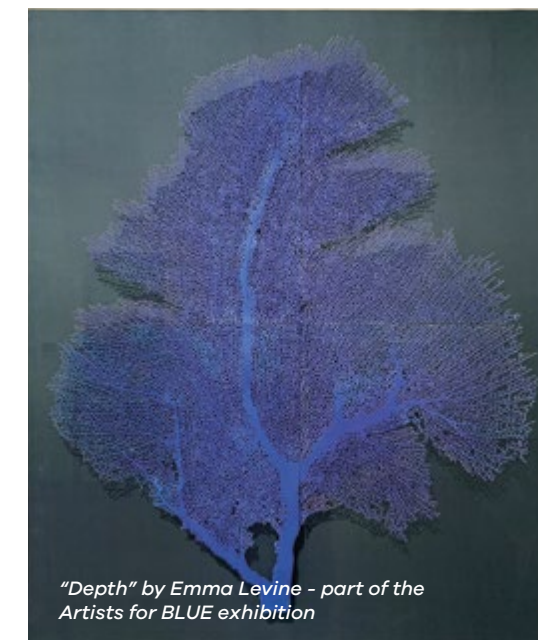


The Caught in the Net exhibition

## ARTISTS FOR BLUE EXHIBITION

BLUE Ambassadors Andrea Hamilton, and curator Nico Kos had the generosity and vision to organise an art exhibition in support of BLUE. They secured eminent artists including Andrea herself, Chris Levine, Koen Vanmechelen, Deborah Tarr, Hamish Mackie and Angela Palmer. The artists all agreed to donate up to 50 per cent of the sales of their works of art to BLUE.

On the opening night, BLUE hosted a panel discussion on how science and art can come together to combat environmental crises. BLUE would like to thank Andrea, Nico and all the artists for so generously giving their work, their time and their talent to help save the ocean.



"Depth" by Emma Levine - part of the Artists for BLUE exhibition

## CAUGHT IN THE NET

Jennifer Guerrini-Maraldi, of JGM Gallery in London kindly hosted an exhibition titled 'Caught in the Net' in support of BLUE. The exhibition featured artwork developed as a collaboration between Erub Arts - a group of artists working with fishing nets that have washed up on the shore of their Pacific Island, Torres Strait and Lynette Griffiths and Marion Gaemers, Australian artists at the forefront of the global ghost net artistic movement.



Panel discussion at the Artists for BLUE exhibition



# THE BLUE TEAM

## BLUE Team

**Charles Clover** *Executive Director*  
**Clare Brook** *CEO*  
**Dan Crockett** *Head of Development*  
**Vivienne Evans** *International Projects Manager*  
**Adrian Gahan** *Head of Government Affairs*  
**Tim Glover** *UK Projects Director*  
**Ian Hendy** *Head of Science*  
**Jacob Kean-Hammerson** *Solent Project Coordinator*  
**Sophie Locke** *Research Officer*  
**Lynne Medlock** *Financial Controller*  
**Rory Moore** *Senior Projects Manager, Overseas*  
**Michaela Moran** *Office Manager*  
**Emily Norris** *Fundraising Executive*  
**Jess Rattle** *Head of Communications*  
**Adam Rees** *Research Officer*  
**Morven Robertson** *Senior Projects Manager, UK*  
**Daisy Simpson** *Events Officer*  
**Sara-Jane Skinner** *Head of Partnerships*  
**Poppy Wetherill** *Head of Operations and Events*  
**Catherine Whitley** *Team Administrator and UK Researcher*

**Giulia Bernardi** *Aeolian Islands, Project Coordinator*  
**Jo Coumbe** *Social Media Consultant*  
**Anna Gage** *HR Consultant*  
**Shaha Hashim** *Project Manager, Laamu*  
**Luke Helmer** *Solent Scientific Officer*  
**Josh McCarthy** *Marine Parks Consultant*  
**Joe Richards** *Berwickshire Research Officer*  
**Tim Scoones** *BLUE Media*  
**Ali Shareef** *Research Assistant, Laamu*  
**Beth Taylor** *Head of Marine Conservation (St Helena National Trust)*  
**Rowena Taylor** *Design & Communication Consultant*  
**Matt Uttley** *ENORI Project Coordinator*  
**Mandy Wolfe** *South West Coordinator*  
**Andrew Woods** *Operations Consultant*

## Trustees

**Dr Tom Appleby**  
**Sofia Blount**  
**Dr Arlo Brady** *Chairman*  
**Craig Davies**  
**Lord Deben**  
**George Duffield** *Co-founder*  
**Chris Gorell Barnes** *Co-founder*  
**Professor Callum Roberts**  
**Mark Rose**



# THANK YOU

BLUE would like to thank every single one of our supporters, no matter how big or small. Your support makes our work possible. Thank you to every donor, foundation, partner, ambassador, supporter and volunteer, as well as to the universities and government bodies that help us to achieve our mission.

## Trusts & Foundations

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Artemis Foundation  
Brook Foundation  
Charities Trust  
Clore Duffield Foundation  
Disney Conservation Fund  
Don Quixote Foundation  
Dulverton Trust  
Fishmongers' Company  
Flotilla Foundation  
Gallifrey Foundation  
Garfield Weston  
Golden Bottle Trust  
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John Ellerman Foundation  
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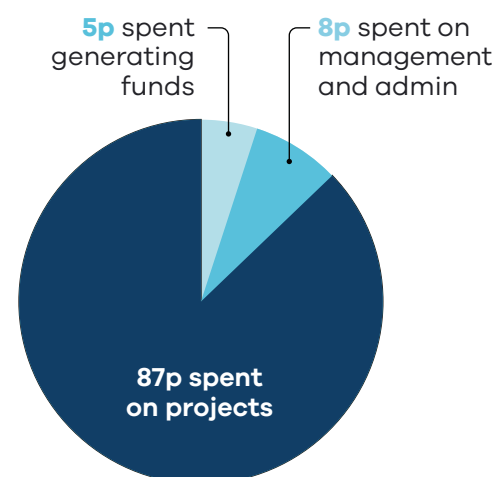
## NGO Partners

1851 Trust  
Berwickshire Marine Reserve  
BLOOM  
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Conservation Collective  
Dorset Coast Forum  
ENORI  
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Pristine Seas  
Severn Rivers Trust  
SIFT  
Société Jersiaise  
St Helena National Trust  
The Wildlife Trusts  
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# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW\*

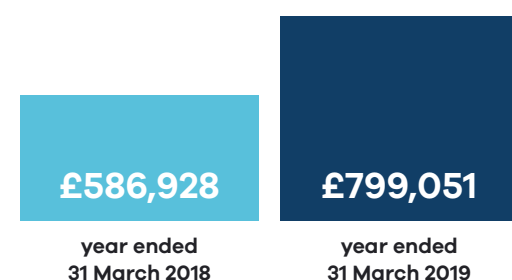
## Of every pound BLUE spent:



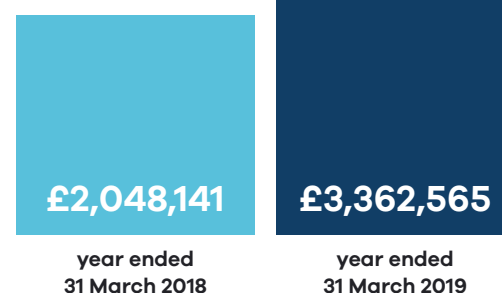
## Total income:



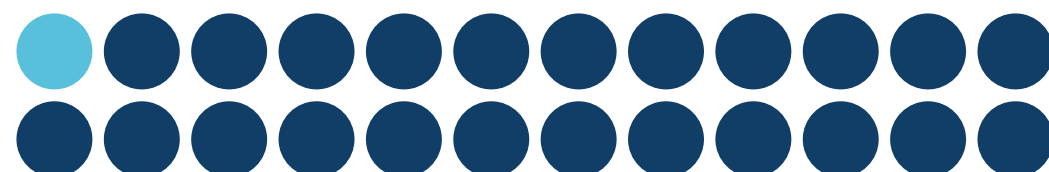
## 'Free' reserves as at 31 March 2019:



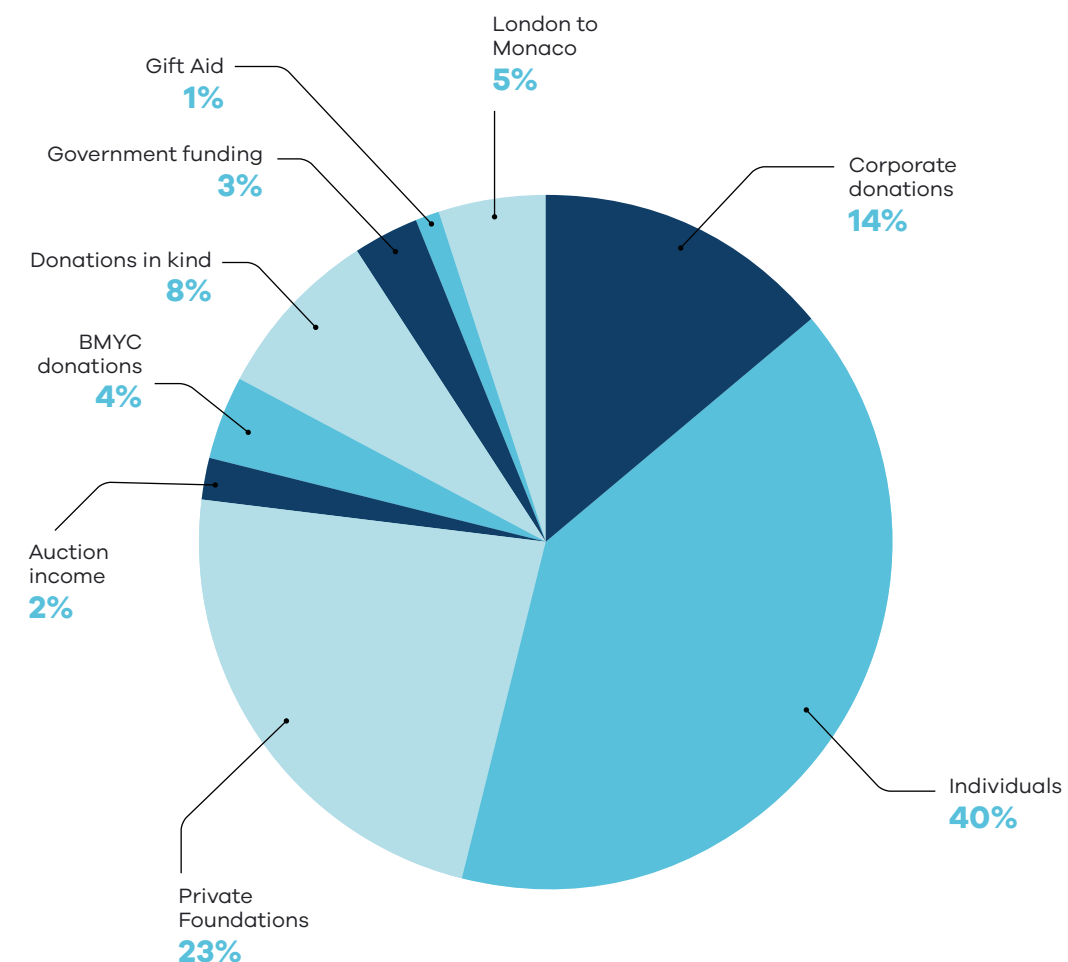
## Fund distributed:



For every £1 BLUE spent generating funds, we secured £23 of funding



## Sources of income:



## BLUE size:

Total square feet of office:  
**982**

Total number of team members:  
**20**  
(current statistic)

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**BLUE MARINE  
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