



BLUE MARINE  
FOUNDATION

# INTO THE

WORKING TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN

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EXPANDED MARINE  
PROTECTION IN GREECE

THE TRUTH ABOUT  
TUNA STOCKS

JERSEY'S  
UNDERWATER WORLD

# BLUE

Cover Photo:  
Whale Song  
Jenny Stock



# WELCOME

## Season’s greetings!

This *Into The Blue* brings good news from Jersey where the government has voted Yes to marine protection and we celebrate the launch of Blue Marine’s new educational hub, the *Jersey Ocean Observatory*. In a giant step for a tiny island, Formicula in Greece has also announced more protection for its waters. From further afield, you can read a report from the Blue Marine team that went to COP16 in Cali, Columbia, to pursue our goal of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030.

While we reflect on a year of groundbreaking conservation gain, we steady ourselves for the year ahead, marking the halfway milestone of the “ocean decade.”

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Jersey’s underwater world  
**Photo:** Charlotte Hotton Slater



# Expanded marine protection in Greece

At the “Marine Protected Areas in Greece” event in early December, Petros Varelidis of the Greek Ministry of Environment and Energy announced that the islet of Formicula will receive strict protection under a new Ministerial Decision.

This is a huge step for the endangered Mediterranean monk seal and a biodiversity hotspot in the Ionian Sea. Once official, Blue Marine will work with Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency Greece, the Ministry of Environment and Energy, Lefkada municipality and local partners to bring this plan to life.

We would like to warmly thank the Monk Sea Alliance and the local community, tourism businesses and fishing associations for supporting our proposals and work in the area. We look forward to the realisation of this critical protection.

Learn more about Formicula and our proposed plan [here](#).

## FIND OUT MORE

Expanded marine protection

Photo: iStock

Sailboats anchored in bay

Photo: iStock





# African Penguin now classified as 'critically endangered'

The African Penguin, with its distinctive black-and-white tuxedo and playful nature, is a cherished symbol in South Africa and around the world. Sadly, this charismatic species is now one step away from extinction in the wild as it has now been uplisted to Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

The primary cause of the plight of the penguin is a lack of available food due to climate change, made worse by competition from commercial fishing around its breeding colonies, which impacts the species' survival and breeding success. While there

are existing no-take zones where commercial fishing is prohibited to help the penguins better access the fish they feed on, primarily sardines and anchovies, research by seabird scientists has demonstrated that these zones are currently inadequate for penguin conservation.

We are working with SANCCOB and BirdLife South Africa in calling on the South African government and the international community to take urgent action to save the African Penguin.

Join over 26 thousand people in the bid to save African Penguins [here](#).



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## SIGN THE PETITION

Above: at Boulders Beach, south of Cape Town

Photo: iStock

Right: Save African Penguins

Photo: Rachel Martin, Unsplash

Far right: Baby penguin nestled in

Photo: Dan Callister





# The truth

## about tuna stocks



*These are wild animals,  
and they are not an infinite  
renewable resource unless  
they are fished sustainably.*

LISTEN NOW

Tuna in the deep blue

Photo: iStock

Our head of investigations, Jess Rattle, was interviewed by Tom Heap and Helen Czerski on BBC Radio 4's podcast *Rare Earth* about the overfishing of Indian Ocean tuna.

Since 2018, we have been monitoring the EU's industrial tuna fishing fleet and have shown that their vessels frequently switch off their Automatic Identification System (AIS) and 'go dark' for months at a time. Our investigations show that these vessels are going dark in areas where the highest levels of tuna catch have been reported and in apparent contravention of numerous EU, national and international laws.

Insurers in the City of London are enabling this activity by providing fishing fleets with the cover they need to operate.

Jess said, "These are wild animals, and they are not an infinite renewable resource unless they are fished sustainably. If we don't start managing the tuna stocks around the world more carefully, we could see total stock collapse which could have terrible implications for the wider ecosystem and for coastal communities that depend on healthy tuna stocks for their own food security."

Catch up on 'Rise of the Tuna' [here](#).





# Jersey's underwater world

The wider Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) to protect Jersey's waters has been unanimously voted through by the island's government. This means that nearly 23 per cent of Jersey's waters has now been proposed to be designated as marine protected area, where dredging and trawling are prohibited. This is a huge improvement on the status quo, in which currently just 6.5 per cent of Jersey waters are marine protected areas, making the approval of the plan a significant result in favour of marine protection.

As part of our wider work on the island, Blue Marine has just launched the Jersey Ocean Observatory, the second in a series of four educational

ocean exploratory websites. Each Ocean Observatory is an educational tool and a portal to an underwater world that allows users to discover important marine species and habitats in a specific region, as well as providing information on current marine issues and local projects.

Jersey's waters are home to around 3,200 species and habitats, from magnificent maerl beds, rare pink sea fans and captivating cuttlefish, to the biggest pod of Bottlenose dolphins in Europe. In the 'Observatory' section of the site, you can explore these species in an archive of mesmerising videos.

Take a dive into Jersey's underwater world in the [Jersey Ocean Observatory](#).

NEARLY

# 23%

OF JERSEY'S WATERS HAS NOW  
BEEN PROPOSED TO BE DESIGNATED  
AS MARINE PROTECTED AREA

FIND OUT MORE

Exploring the underwater world

**Photo:** Charlotte Hotton Slater

Nudibranch (*Berghia coerulescens*)

**Photo:** Grace Bailey

Feather duster worm

**Photo:** Grace Bailey





# New film shines a light on the Solent Seascape Project

A new film, 'Sea, Land and City' by Wonderoom premiered at Blue Earth Summit in London, shining a light on the [Solent Seascape Project](#) and the positive impact it can have on both the financial and mental health of people on the south coast who live near it.

Filmmaker Mairead Cahill ventures on an inspiring journey across the UK to raise awareness and encourage commercial investment in nature. In addition to the Solent Seascape, the film features the restoration of forests, reintroduction of beavers to tackle flooding, eco-moorings and 'living pontoon' to restore urban waterways.

In the film, Solent Seascape project partner Jo Preston from the Institute of Marine Sciences praises the humble oyster which 'provides so much functionality – cleaning our waters, supporting fish stock and providing carbon storage.' The documentary estimates that oyster reefs can provide up to £2 billion of value a year across the region, through carbon, nitrate and phosphate removal – and also points out the potential to upscale oyster restoration across the UK, as well as improve biodiversity and abundance of species.

The film was supported by Blue Marine, The Crown Estate, Triodos Bank and West of England Combined Authority.

Watch the film for free on WaterBear [here](#).

WATCH THE FILM

VISIT THE WEBSITE

Saltmarsh habitat

Photo: Paul Adams

Native oysters

Photo: Matt Jarvis





# Double win for the ocean at COP16 in Colombia



In November Blue Marine representatives attended both the 2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP16) and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The primary focus of the CBD is the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which outlines 23 targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

Alongside others, we were there to make sure that the ocean does not get left behind. We spent our time connecting with partners and collaborating on protecting the High Seas, driving forward financing to enable 30x30, protecting and restoring vital habitats in Latin America, Africa, the Caribbean, Antarctica, the Mediterranean and the UK.

We cohosted an event for business leaders wanting to support biodiversity and nature, with NGOs Plan Vivo and Goodcarbon. We spoke on panels about how we can 'Unlock Opportunities in the Blue Economy' and shine a light on 'Ocean-Climate Financing for a Resilient Future: Commonwealth Approaches and Solutions'. Finally, we hosted an Ocean Lunch at Nature House to discuss the ambitious steps needed to achieve Target 3: the effective protection of 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030. Some of the brightest ocean minds were in attendance to share knowledge and lean into challenges, as we sought to encourage and accelerate cooperation on science, finance and policy solutions.

Coral Reef in South Pacific

Photo: Tracey Jennings / Ocean Image Bank



## Meet the team

Each month we like to introduce you to a member of the Blue Marine team. This month we'd like you to meet **Samantha Fanshawe** our Senior UK projects manager.

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

**A** So many amazing creatures to choose from, but I would have to go back to my research roots and choose the California sea otter. They're a keystone species, keeping the kelp forest ecosystem in balance – and they have the cutest pups!

**Q** Where is your favourite place?

**A** The giant kelp forests in Monterey Bay, California, which reach 100 ft tall. Diving through them is like drifting through the most magical of forests, with shoals of fish swimming through the canopy, rafts of sea otters bobbing at the surface and pelicans cruising above the waves. As one of the world's first large scale marine protected areas – 15,780 sq km, designated in 1992 – it's a truly inspiring place to see the benefits of protection for marine life and local economies.

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

**A** My original plan was to be a primate ecologist to protect orangutans in tropical forests, but that all changed after I learned to dive. I saw first-hand the incredible life beneath the surface of the slate grey seas off

St Abbs in Scotland, where I did my training dives, the teeming coral reefs in the Red Sea and the kelp forests of California, where I studied marine science. It was the interconnections between marine habitats, species and local people that intrigued me and inspired me to dedicate my career to the protection of that intricate marine web.

**Q** What is your favourite quote?

**A** "Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world." Joel A Barker, American teacher and thinker.

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

**A** Leading the Marine Reserves Now march on the UK parliament in 2007, dressed (very unglamorously) in a diving dry suit, with over 100 other divers and supporters from the UK NGO and diving community. We delivered a petition of more than 10,000 signatures (before the days of e petitions) to MPs and secured commitments in the Marine and Coastal Access Act to establish a network of marine protected areas in UK seas.

**Q** Why Blue Marine?

**A** Blue Marine has impact at every level, from influencing decision-makers to engaging with fishing communities and shares the wonders and value of our seas with a huge audience through its amazing communications.

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

**A** Being part of a bold and dynamic team, all sharing the same passion to make a difference and protect our seas for the future.







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# THANK YOU

for your  
support!

To learn more about ocean  
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Mangroves, Raja Ampat

**Photo:** Beth Watson /  
Ocean Image Bank

