

INTO THE

WORKING TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN

ISSUE 15 | JUNE/JULY 2025

THE BOTTOM
LINE

UN OCEAN
CONFERENCE

ANTARCTIC
AVENGERS

BLUE

Cover Photo:

Blue green
Chromis fish

Francesca Page



WELCOME

This issue of 'Into the Blue' features Blue Marine's shocking new campaign film, 'The Bottom Line', which reveals the dirty secret of the bottom trawling still widespread in the UK's marine protected areas (MPAs). Starring Blue Marine Ambassadors Stephen Fry and Theo James, the film keeps up the momentum that has already seen environment minister Steve Reed open to consultation the banning of bottom trawling in 41 English MPAs. Take action and support the ban by following the link below.

We also have the highlights of the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, details of a world report on saltmarshes, our ocean toolkit for teachers in the Maldives – and a heartfelt thanks to the brilliant Blue Challengers who have raised funds for Blue Marine's work. Plus, you can find out how to support Our Antarctica, a new initiative to ban krill industrial fishing that threatens wildlife in the Southern Ocean.

Use this [link](#) to email your MP and demand a ban on destructive bottom trawling in UK marine protected areas.

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

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

FOLLOW US ON LINKEDIN

Juan Fernandez MPA

Photo: Andy Mann



The brutal truth about bycatch

On World Ocean Day, 8 June, we launched 'The Bottom Line', a gut-wrenching film that stars two Blue Marine's ambassadors: actors Theo James and Stephen Fry.

The darkly satirical short was directed by two-time BAFTA nominee Ben Mallaby, and its shocking finale exposes the brutal truth about one of the most destructive fishing practices taking place in British marine reserves.

Most UK marine protected areas (MPAs) still allow bottom trawling – dragging weighted nets across the seabed, which decimates habitats and indiscriminately kills countless 'non target' marine species. →

TAKE ACTION

WATCH THE FILM

The Bottom Line

Photo: Duncan Nicholls

Stephen Fry and Theo James

Photo: Duncan Nicholls



Currently a staggering 90 per cent of the UK's MPAs remain open to bottom trawling. And as for the fish that is indiscriminately caught in the nets of trawlers – up to 80 per cent is discarded or destroyed.

The UK government has finally announced a plan to ban bottom trawling in 41 offshore MPAs. But it's not a done deal. A public consultation is open NOW before anything is finalised – and your voice is needed to turn these promises into real progress. The consultation window closes on 1 September – so now is the time to act.

Add your voice today and create a lasting legacy for UK waters with Blue Marine, Oceana UK and Only One by telling the government you support these plans.

[TAKE ACTION](#)

Theo James

Photo: Duncan Nicholls

Bottom Trawling

Photo: Howard Wood

An underwater view of a seabed covered in debris, including a white plastic cup and various pieces of trash. The water is a murky green color.

90%

OF THE UK'S MPAs
REMAIN OPEN TO
BOTTOM TRAWLING

UN Ocean Conference draws 60 world leaders


[FIND OUT MORE](#)

The third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) took place in Nice from 9 to 13 June, attracting more than 60 world leaders and heads of state. Among the top stories:

UK bottom trawling ban

Through the recent film *OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH*, whose premiere was supported by Blue Marine, audiences have witnessed the devastation caused by bottom trawling. More than 17,000 people signed the subsequent e-action we launched with our partners Only One, and Oceana UK. The day before UNOC, Environment Minister Steve Reed announced the government's intention to ban bottom trawling in 41 offshore marine protected areas. The campaign continues – see above.

'It's hard to imagine a more wasteful way to catch fish'

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

High seas treaty

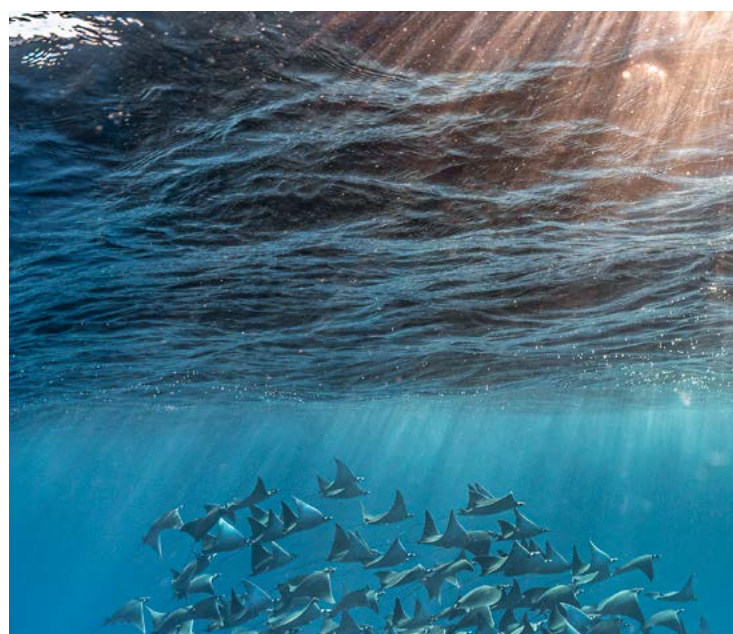
The UK government also pledged to ratify the high seas treaty, known as the BBNJ Agreement, by the end of 2025. With a further 19 countries ratified during UNOC and the total now at 50, only nine more are needed for the treaty to come into force, providing the first legal mechanism to create protected areas in the high seas, which make up nearly two thirds of the ocean. →

Manta rays

Photo: George Karbus

Munk's devil ray, Pacific Ocean

Photo: Ocean Image Bank Lars von Ritter Zahony



Deep sea mining

Four more global leaders committed to a moratorium on deep sea mining, bringing the total to 37. ‘The deep sea cannot become the wild west,’ said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea defines the deep sea as part of ‘the common heritage of humanity’.

World’s largest marine protected area proposed

French Polynesia announced its intention to create the world’s largest network of marine protected areas (MPAs), totalling almost 5 million sq km and including its entire Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Blue Marine is supporting these ambitions as part of Te Moana Collective, a conservation coalition led by Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy. Other members of the coalition are Bloomberg Ocean Fund, Blue Nature Alliance, Oceans 5, Wyss Foundation, Bech and Bezos Earth Fund.

Chile’s intention to boost protection

Chile announced its intention to expand the Juan Fernandez MPA in the west of Santiago. This would increase Chile’s EEZ protection to more than 50 per cent, placing it among the global leaders in ocean conservation. Blue Marine would play a leading role in the transition, with the support of Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy, Island Conservation and Wyss Foundation.

Listen to Clare Brook, Blue Marine’s CEO, on the Sustainability Uncovered podcast giving an update on UNOC [here](#).



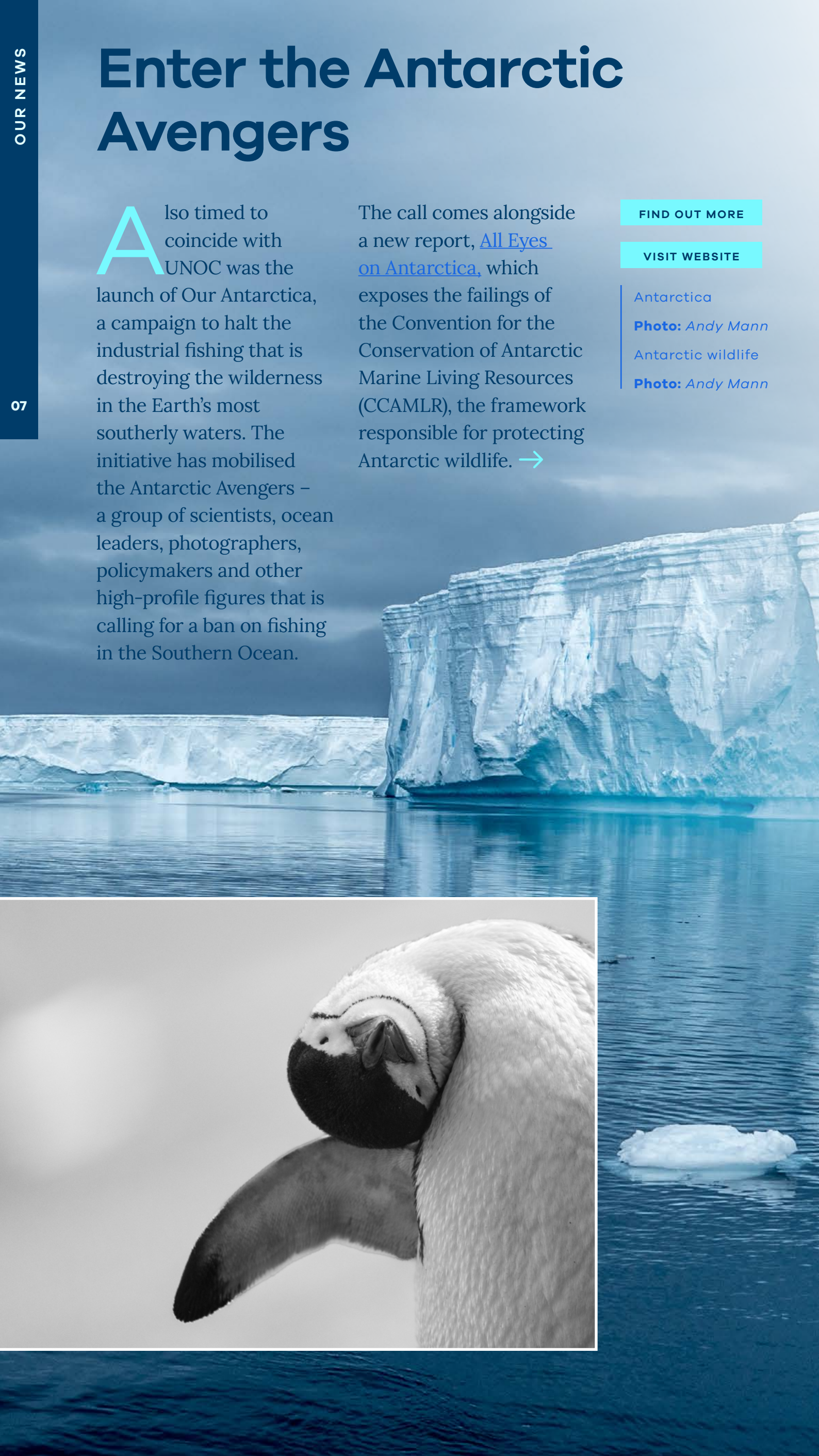
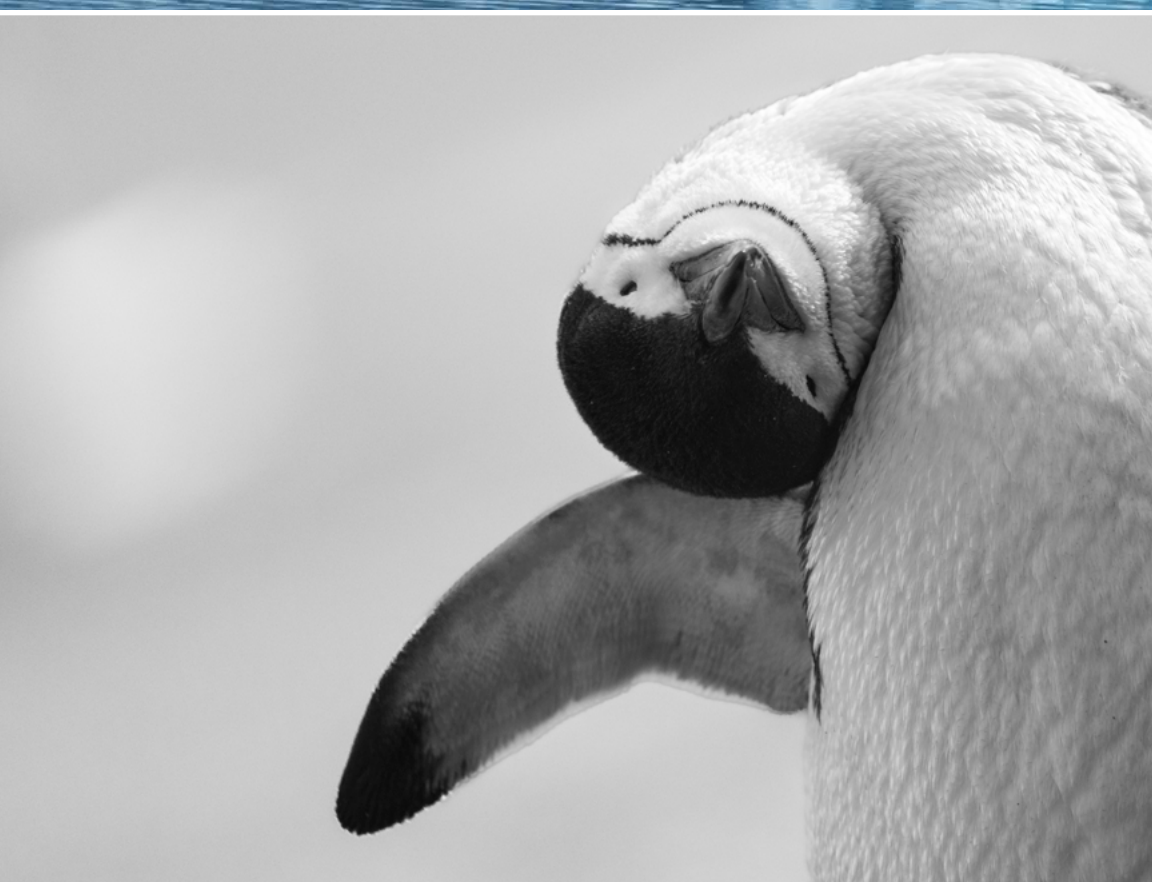
Endemic Juan Fernandez fur seals

Photo: Andy Mann

Enter the Antarctic Avengers

Also timed to coincide with UNOC was the launch of Our Antarctica, a campaign to halt the industrial fishing that is destroying the wilderness in the Earth's most southerly waters. The initiative has mobilised the Antarctic Avengers – a group of scientists, ocean leaders, photographers, policymakers and other high-profile figures that is calling for a ban on fishing in the Southern Ocean.

The call comes alongside a new report, [All Eyes on Antarctica](#), which exposes the failings of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the framework responsible for protecting Antarctic wildlife. →

[FIND OUT MORE](#)[VISIT WEBSITE](#)[Antarctica](#)**Photo:** *Andy Mann*[Antarctic wildlife](#)**Photo:** *Andy Mann*



The report highlights CCAMLR's failure to establish a single new marine protected area (MPA) in nearly a decade, or to intervene in the unsustainable expansion of industrial krill fishing.

Tiny, shrimp like crustaceans, krill are extracted for pet and aquaculture food – but they are the species upon which the entire Southern Ocean ecosystem relies. Without krill, Antarctic wildlife will starve and

global whale populations will suffer; without krill as a carbon sink, the global climate crisis will accelerate.

The campaigners are also calling for the establishment of an Antarctic MPA, the reform of CCAMLR, and the protection of at least 30 per cent of Antarctica's waters by 2030.

Check out the website [here](#).

Close the Southern Ocean to Krill Fishing

Photo: Andy Mann

The report highlights CCAMLR's failure to establish a single new marine protected area (MPA) in nearly a decade, or to intervene in the unsustainable expansion of industrial krill fishing.

Saltmarsh – vital yet undervalued

Blue Marine in association with WWF, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and Race to Resilience have created the first of its kind report, whose findings were launched at UNOC. Pulling together the expertise of nearly 100 researchers and practitioners from more than 30 countries, 'The State of the World's Saltmarshes Report' is a defining work on the importance of saltmarsh ecosystems.

Saltmarshes are vital yet undervalued – home to extraordinary biodiversity, protectors of coastal communities, and quiet allies in our efforts to address climate change. They provide critical habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife, sustain local livelihoods, and store carbon in their soils for centuries.

Yet they face ongoing degradation, threatening their ability to support people and nature. Produced in collaboration with Sky and WWF, the report aims to pave the way for 'a Saltmarsh Breakthrough' – a plan to scale actions and investments to turn the tide on conserving and restoring these vital ecosystems. The scheme would bring together governments, the private sector, and communities.

The report integrates saltmarshes into the broader blue carbon agenda – putting them at the heart of global efforts to tackle climate change, restore nature and build coastal resilience. To find out more about what we have lost and continue to lose, where the biggest opportunities lie and what needs to change, you can read the full report [here](#).

READ FULL STORY



Aisling McGarrigle
presenting

Photo: Maddie
Millington-Drake

Saltmarsh

Photo: Emma
Eatough



Blue Challengers – thank you, fabulous fundraisers!

In 2023, India Syms took part in the Ocean Globe Race sailing event and witnessed first-hand the beauty – and the rapid destruction – of our ocean. In May this year, India decided to run the Paris Marathon in support of Blue Marine and raised a fantastic £1,300.

Also in May, Stefano Giacobelli ran his first Iron Man triathlon in Venice, his achievement supported Blue Marine's work to the tune of nearly £1,000.

In June, Year 8 students from St John's College School in Cambridge created clocks in their Design Technology class with designs based on the ocean. They held a sale and raised an initial £300 and will do another sale in July.

Blue Marine would like to thank everyone who has been inspired by the ocean and supported our work through these fantastic feats and initiatives.

To learn more about how you can fundraise for Blue Marine visit: <https://www.blumarinefoundation.com/support-us/fundraise-for-us/> or contact hamish@blumarinefoundation.com



SUPPORT US

Paris Marathon

Photo: India Syms

Iron Man triathlon

Photo: Stefano Giacobelli

Clock sale

Photo: St John's College School

Ocean toolkit for Maldives teachers

Their world may be 99 per cent ocean and 1 per cent land, but Maldivians have little connection with the sea. Most can't swim, and the school curriculum lacks ocean education. A common misconception is that the sea is only for food, and that the only ocean-related career is fishing – one of low status in the eyes of many.

There is an iGCSE for Marine Science, but its author – Dr Ahmed Riyaz Jauhary, of Maldives National University – says it is impossible to engage Maldivians with the qualification. To tackle

these obstacles, our Blue Education unit has been developing a Blue Ocean Learning Toolkit (BOLT) for local teachers. →

BOLT workshop

Photos: Maldives Resilient Reefs



Confident that a programme to bring Maldivian case studies into the curriculum would interest the National Institute of Education (NIE), Dr Jauhary agreed to write the toolkit, and a proposal was endorsed by the education minister.



99%
OCEAN

Their world may be 99 per cent ocean and 1 per cent land, but Maldivians have little connection with the sea.

We invited marine science teachers and NGO representatives to suggest content at a workshop also attended by the principal examiner of the Cambridge International exam board, which is used across the Maldives.

Armed with enthusiastic input and ideas from the attendees, Dr Jauhary will now draft the toolkit. We are excited to present his completed version at a second workshop in January.



BOLT workshop

Photos: Maldives
Resilient Reefs



THANK YOU
for your
support!

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

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

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



Coral reef in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt

Photo: Ocean Image Bank, Renata Romeo

