

INTO THE

ISSUE 17

|

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

2025

ACTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN



PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
FOR AMORGOS

TURTLES BREAK
RECORDS

BAN BOTTOM
TRAWLING

BLUE



| **Photo:** Amorgorama, *Giorgos Moutafis*

WELCOME

Leading 'Into the Blue' this month is a major breakthrough in Greece, where the pioneering initiative on Amorgos has seen the government formally designate new no-fishing zones around the island. We are announcing the (semi) retirement of our co-founder, Charles Clover, but also the speedy arrival of a new Blue Marine ambassador, Formula 1 driver George Russell. It's your last chance to demand a ban on trawling in English marine protected areas. Elsewhere we visit the nesting turtles of Ascension Island in the Atlantic. Enjoy the issue! →

DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST NEWS

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| **Photo:** Amorgos, *Alexandros Avramidis*

Historic win for a Greek island and hope for the Med

A presidential decree was signed for the establishment of four new fishing protected areas around Amorgos. The decree marks the fulfilment of an 11-year campaign for protection by local fishers, supported by Blue Marine, the Cyclades Preservation Fund and the Agricultural University of Athens. This comes after the Greek Prime Minister announced in April 2024 plans to protect 32 per cent of Greek waters and confirmed his commitment during UNOC last June. →



| **Photo:** Amorgos, *Giorgos Moutafis*

The 'Amorgorama' initiative has become an example of cooperation between fishers, scientists, institutions, civil society and local and national authorities. Their common goal is to safeguard the seas and support livelihoods. In the past four years, the flourishing collaboration has been a key factor in establishing the protected areas.

The protection of Amorgos is the first step in Greece's commitment to designate 10 per cent of its territorial waters as no-fishing zones. Blue Marine extends heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed, inspiring hope for fishing communities across Greece and the Mediterranean. A vision has become reality and we are proud to be part of it.

[READ THE FULL OCEANOGRAPHIC STORY HERE](#)

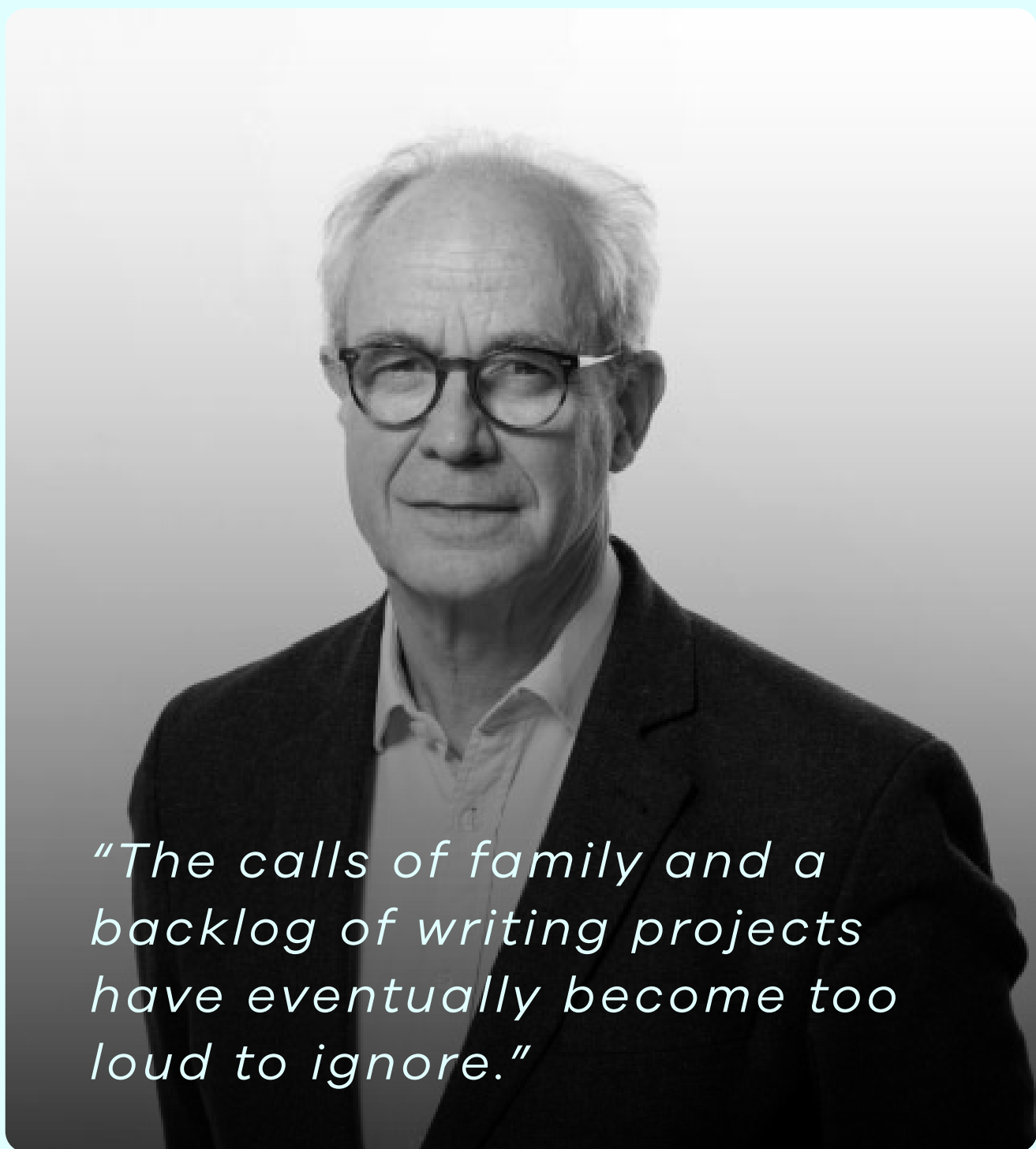
SCROLL DOWN



Co-founder Charles Clover to retire

Blue Marine co-founder Charles Clover has announced his retirement from the charity, which he helped establish 15 years ago. A leading environmental journalist and author, Charles has been a tireless campaigner for protection of the ocean since the publication of his 2004 exposé of overfishing 'The End of the Line'. The book and the award-winning film it inspired led to the creation of Blue Marine Foundation. →





"The calls of family and a backlog of writing projects have eventually become too loud to ignore."

‘With the buzz of a very successful UN Ocean Conference in Nice behind us and a very strong team in place in the charity, the time seems right,’ Charles said. ‘The calls of family and a backlog of writing projects have eventually become too loud to ignore.’

This is not the end of a pod life for Charles, however, but the beginning of a new one. Charles remains as a part-time consultant to tend to some of Blue Marine’s major campaigns and share the insights of his many years as a champion of ocean protection.

**YOU CAN READ HIS LATEST PIECE ON
SUBSIDIES FOR OVERFISHING [HERE](#).**

Last call to be part of the movement

At the start of the summer, the UK government launched a consultation to ask the public whether it should extend bottom-trawling bans in 41 English marine protected areas (MPAs). The launch coincided with the release of our award-winning campaign film about the issue, featuring Theo James and Stephen Fry. There are now just few days left to take action and have a say – so please do let your voice be heard. Click below and help kick this wasteful, destructive practice out of UK MPAs by following a simple e-action. The consultation closes on 29 September.

**TELL UK LEADERS: BAN BOTTOM TRAWLING
IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

SCROLL DOWN



By George! Russell is our ambassador

We are thrilled to announce that Formula 1 driver George Russell has joined Blue Marine as an ambassador. George made a flying start to his new role at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix that took place last weekend, where he unveiled to the world a stunning special-edition Blue Marine helmet – and went on to finish second in the race. →





"As someone who adores being in the water, this one has a special place in my heart"

‘As someone who adores being in the water, this one has a special place in my heart,’ George revealed to his 7.3 million followers on Instagram, about his decision to become our ambassador. ‘I’m backing Blue Marine’s global mission to protect 30 per cent of our world’s oceans by 2030.’

An enthusiastic free-diver when he is not on the track, George also announced that the helmet will be auctioned to raise funding for marine protection projects. That one-off sale will be part of our forthcoming Blue Marine Yacht Club charity auction in Monaco. The lucky bidder will also have the chance to meet George privately – schedule dependent – receive the signed helmet, have a chat and a photo taken together. Bidding in the auction will close at the end of the Monaco Yacht Show on Saturday 27 September.

**CLICK HERE TO CHECK THE AUCTION DETAILS
AND PLACE YOUR BID**

**OR YOU CAN EMAIL
SARA-JANE@BLUEMARINEFOUNDATION.COM
DIRECTLY.**



| **Photo:** Nesting green turtle

Turtles break records

The 2025 nesting season for green turtles on Ascension Island has been the busiest ever, with 13,008 nesting attempts recorded between December and July.

Supported by Blue Marine, conservation interns of the Ascension Island government conducted nearly 2,000 hours of monitoring, including 26,000 turtle tracks raked and 265 stranded turtles returned to the sea. To promote responsible observation of the nesting, more than 260 residents and visitors have also taken part in weekly turtle tours led by the interns. →

The internship programme is funded by entrepreneur Elizabeth Scarlett, who joined a Blue Marine donor trip in March alongside Harriet Parker of Liontrust, which manages the £2 million endowment fund for Ascension's marine protected area. Along with our Projects Director, Dr Judith Brown and Head of Partnerships, Sara-Jane Skinner, the funders met local groups who had benefitted from the endowment, which provides grants to support community, education, environmental and heritage projects.



Right to left: Sara-Jane Skinner, Blue Marine's Head of Partnerships; Dr Judith Brown, Blue Marine's Projects Director; Harriet Parker, Investment Manager at Liontrust; Elizabeth, founder of Elizabeth Scarlett and Annabel Brin, 3PL & Sales Liaison at Aqualona, *Dan Simpson*

The record figure for nestings comes with a warning, however. Green turtle sex ratios depend on nest temperature and with average incubation at 31.3°C, an estimated 97 per cent of hatchlings were female. This highlights growing concerns that climate change is driving severe imbalances in turtle populations.



Photo: Nest excavation, Emma Fowler and Stefan Thomas



Staff Spotlight

Flo Richardson
Management Accountant

Q If you were a marine animal, which one would you be?

A A giant manta ray. They symbolise tranquility, depth and a quiet strength – qualities I aspire to!

Q Why do you care about the ocean?

A Caring for the ocean is caring for our future.

The ocean is so interconnected, powerful and magical. It must be protected.

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

A The deepest parts are less explored than the surface of the moon. There is an entire unknown world lurking beneath us.

Q Why Blue Marine?

A It allows me to contribute to something greater than myself. Every day feels purposeful, knowing that my work helps to create lasting change.

Q What is your favourite thing about your job?

A I see snippets of all the areas of Blue Marine and have an impact through the financial side of our work. I feel proud knowing that my role helps the organisation to run smoothly.



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)



| **Photo:** Starfish on kelp, *Martin Stevens*

