

INTO THE

ACTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN

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WAVEMAKERS
LAUNCH

LONDON CLIMATE
ACTION WEEK

ASCENSION

BLUE

Cover Photo:
French Polynesia
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WELCOME

This month, we highlight continued progress and growing momentum for ocean recovery. From the launch of Wavemakers, supporting ocean champions, to World Ocean Day reinforcing the importance of a healthy ocean, these stories reflect a shared commitment to change.

We report on significant progress in French Polynesia and ongoing restoration in the Solent, supported by partners including Nyetimber. Activity across London Climate Action Week and the Blue Marine Max Stenbeck Legacy Programme fieldtrips underscore the value of collaboration and learning. As we mark ten years of the Blue Belt Programme and advance turtle research in Ascension Island, one message is clear: sustained investment in ocean protection drives lasting impact.

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Bora Bora Tahiti

Photo: iStock

Wavemakers Launch



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Blue Marine is delighted to launch Wavemakers, a two year programme created in partnership with Rituals and Edinburgh Ocean Leaders to empower ocean champions.

Wavemakers are exceptional individuals identified across Blue Marine’s project sites for their leadership, commitment and impact in marine conservation. Through this programme, they will be supported to build the tools, confidence and connections needed to drive lasting change, all in pursuit of protecting 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030.

The programme combines practical learning with long term support. Wavemakers took part in a series of coaching sessions and webinars led by conservation experts, exploring themes including sustainable

finance, ocean education, policy science communication, media and campaigning. Many will also benefit from one to one mentorship from Edinburgh Ocean Leaders, offering guidance, inspiration and access to global networks.

Alongside this, Wavemakers will receive media support to help share their stories and impact, opportunities to build international peer connections and travel bursaries to attend major ocean conferences, including Our Ocean, COP, IMPAC and the UN Ocean Conference.

Together, Wavemakers represents an investment in people, leadership and collaboration, and in a healthier ocean for generations to come.

Find out more [here](#).



The locations where Wavemakers are making a difference.

[READ MORE](#)

Te Moana
Collective in
Gambier Islands

Photo: Te Moana
Collective

Major ocean protection announced in French Polynesia

French Polynesia has announced plans to fully protect additional 520,000 square kilometres of ocean surrounding the Austral and Marquesas Islands, marking a significant step forward for global ocean conservation.

The new protections will strengthen the world's largest network of fully protected marine areas within an exclusive economic zone. Once implemented, 30 per cent of French Polynesia's waters, around 1.4 million square kilometres in total, will be safeguarded from extractive activities. This area is more than twice the size of continental France.

This milestone reflects more than a decade of work led by Polynesian communities and local leaders, placing local knowledge and

priorities at the heart of decision making. This initiative has been supported by the Te Moana collective, which includes Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy, Blue Marine and other partners.

In the Austral and Marquesas Islands, this collaboration has included extensive scientific, economic and sociocultural research, as well as cultural and scientific expeditions. Hundreds of public meetings and consultations have ensured that communities are closely involved, with documentaries and other materials helping to share knowledge more widely.

Together, these efforts represent a powerful example of community led ocean protection at scale.

Read more [here](#).

Ocean Hub at London Climate Action Week

FIND OUT MORE

School of trevally, Raja Ampat, Indonesia

Photo: Ocean Image Bank, Dani Escayola

Blue Marine is bringing the ocean to the centre of climate action this June with the launch of the first ever Ocean Hub at London Climate Action Week 2026.

Running from 22 to 25 June at Kanaloa House in Soho, the four-day programme will bring together scientists, policymakers, activists and artists to make the case for the ocean as one of the most powerful, yet underused, solutions to the climate crisis. Three reception events will be supported by Nyetimber. Hosted with Kanaloa and 10% for the Ocean, the Ocean Hub marks the first time the week has

dedicated a full programme to ocean action.

Sessions will explore how ocean protection, nature recovery and decarbonisation can work together to build a resilient future, alongside discussions on delivering the global commitment to protect 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030.

With 2030 targets fast approaching, the Hub will build momentum for COP17, COP31 and BBNJ COP1, underlining the need to align climate and biodiversity commitments and turn ambition into action.

Find out more about it [here](#).

Launching Blue Marine Max Stenbeck Legacy Programme fieldtrips

06



Last month saw the launch of the Blue Marine Max Stenbeck Legacy Programme field trips at Calshot Activity Centre with 39 pupils taking part so far. The fieldtrips are removing barriers to ocean access by giving schools the funding and support needed to deliver high quality trips that many students would otherwise miss out on.

Students are taking part in hands on learning linked to the geography and science curriculum, gaining direct experience of marine environments and conservation programmes. Learning is grounded in real world projects, bringing Blue Marine's conservation actions, such as the Solent Seascape Project, to life.

They support schools to build a more ambitious and inclusive outdoor learning offer, while equipping teachers with the tools to embed these experiential lessons back in the classroom. The field trips are designed to strengthen both marine learning and ocean connection with the aim of inspiring future careers.

Over time, the fieldtrips offer will help establish strong networks and partnerships, ensuring that high quality ocean learning becomes a consistent and integral part of the school experience.

Learn more about Blue Marine Max Stenbeck Legacy Programme [here](#).

"Our school trip to the marine conservation was incredible. We learnt about the vast ocean life and what it does for us with an incredible hands-on experience." Jhobe

[READ MORE](#)

Blue Marine Max Stenbeck Legacy Programme field trips

Photo: Hamish Mackay

A Milestone for Solent Oysters

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More than 240 volunteers cleaned 20,873 native oysters at the Institute of Marine Sciences in Portsmouth as part of Blue Marine's work to reintroduce the species to the Solent.

The oysters were then deployed onto a newly built reef in Chichester Harbour, as part of the UK's largest subtidal oyster reef restoration project, where they will start to repopulate the area.

It is the largest turnout the initiative has seen so far and the greatest number of oysters yet rehomed.

Native oysters are water cleaning powerhouses with a single oyster filtering up to 200 litres of water each day, yet populations in the

Solent have fallen by around 96 per cent over the past century due to historic overfishing, disease and invasive species. Oyster reefs also create habitats for hundreds of marine species and help protect coastlines from erosion.

The work, as part of the Solent Oyster Restoration Project (SORP), aims to help reconnect vital marine habitats across the Solent with support from Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Programme, East Head Impact, the Manor of Bosham, Environment Agency and Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Nyetimber also supports the wider work of SORP.

Read more [here](#).

Native oysters

Photo: Matt Jarvis



The Journey Beyond Ascension

Ascension Island hosts the largest Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nesting rookery in the South Atlantic with over 25,000 nests being recorded. This is an incredible comeback from the 4,000 recorded in the 1970's due to large numbers being harvested for meat when settlers first came to the island. But where do these turtles reside when they are not breeding?

Thanks to the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme, which provided funding for the most recent research into turtle migration routes, the

Ascension turtle rangers deployed 11 satellite tags on this year's nesting females. It is the third and final year of the project, which will provide information allowing us to uncover annual variations and movement patterns across the Atlantic Ocean to their home on the east coast of Brazil. This provides the information for decision making of how best to protect turtles in all aspects of their long lived life. The tags are lightweight and ergonomic in design, eventually falling off after several months and leaving the turtle with no long-term impacts.

Green turtle
nesting

Photo: Ascension
Island Government



Ten Years of the Blue Belt

[WATCH VIDEO](#)
[Back the Blue Belt](#)

Photo: Alfie
Hayward



This year marks ten years of the Blue Belt Programme, the world's largest marine protection programme in the world.

Since its launch in 2016, the Blue Belt has helped protect more than 4.4 million square kilometres of ocean across the UK Overseas Territories. These protected waters safeguard some of the planet's most important marine ecosystems.

The programme demonstrates what can be achieved when governments, scientists, conservation organisations and local communities work together toward a shared goal. Through the establishment of marine protected areas, the Blue Belt is helping marine life recover, protecting fish stocks, strengthening resilience to climate change and

supporting sustainable livelihoods in remote island communities.

It has also pioneered modern approaches to ocean protection, combining local stewardship with satellite monitoring, science and international enforcement to help prevent illegal fishing.

This year, Montserrat became the fourth UK Overseas Territory to join the Blue Belt in the Caribbean. Montserrat has pledged to protect at least 20 per cent of its maritime zone.

As the world works towards protecting 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030, the Blue Belt stands as a powerful example of ambitious, long-term conservation in action.

Watch the video [here](#).

Aruba Earns UNESCO Status

A baby reef shark glides through Aruba island

Photo: iStock

Aruba has been officially designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, marking a major milestone for the island and the wider Caribbean region. Approved at the 38th session of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme in Paraguay, the designation recognises the entire island, along with its surrounding marine area, as part of a global network committed to sustainable development.

Home to around 108,000 people, Aruba's biosphere reserve spans approximately 19,300 hectares on land and nearly 30,000 square kilometres of marine territory. This achievement reflects a strong, collaborative effort bringing together government, local communities, scientists and businesses to balance conservation with sustainable growth.

Despite its small size, Aruba's waters support diverse marine ecosystems. Mangroves and seagrass beds provide nursery habitats for fish, while coral reefs sustain species such as reef fish and sea turtles. These habitats protect biodiversity, support livelihoods and strengthen coastal resilience. They help buffer storms and safeguard communities.

The designation strengthens the Caribbean's presence within UNESCO's global network and highlights the region's leadership in innovative approaches to sustainability. It also reinforces an important message: protecting nature and supporting communities can go hand in hand, offering a practical and achievable model for other island nations.



World Ocean Day

On World Ocean Day, we celebrated the ocean, the beating blue heart of our planet. The ocean is the world's largest carbon sink, it produces half the oxygen we breathe, stabilises our climate and supports billions of people with food and livelihoods. Yet it can only perform these vital functions because of the life within it and today that life is under unprecedented pressure.

At Blue Marine, we are working to establish effective marine protected areas around the world. So far, we have contributed to safeguarding over 5.5 million square kilometres of ocean, a vital step towards restoring its health. Today, we are

delivering our mission through more than 75 active projects, working in partnership with 266 organisations worldwide.

Our mission is to ensure the effective protection of at least 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030 and the sustainable management of the whole ocean. When the ocean is properly protected, life can recover quickly and at scale.

This recovery strengthens biodiversity, enhances climate resilience and supports coastal communities, alongside the long term sustainability of fisheries.

Watch our World Ocean Day video narrated by Sylvia Earle [here](#).

WATCH VIDEO

Juan Fernández
Photo: Andy Mann



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.

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Loggerhead sea turtles

Photo: iStock

