

INTO THE

ACTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN

ISSUE 21 | JULY 2026

LONDON CLIMATE
ACTION WEEK

MARINE
HEATWAVES

COASTAL
COMEBACK

BLUE

Cover Photo:

Coral reef, Raja Ampat, Indonesia
Ocean Image Bank, Dani Escayola

WELCOME

Blue Marine continues to champion ocean recovery on the national and international stage. From bringing the ocean to the centre of London Climate Action Week and highlighting the growing threat of marine heatwaves in UK waters, to publishing new policy solutions for scaling up marine restoration, we are driving action for healthier seas. We also celebrate the launch of an exciting new competition with Christopher Ward, supporting the 30x30 Ocean Action Plan, and share the impact of our schools outreach programme, which is inspiring hundreds of young people to consider careers in marine conservation and become the next generation of ocean advocates.

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

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Manta ray

Photo: Ocean Image Bank, Toby Matthews



Ocean Takes Centre Stage at London Climate Action Week

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King Charles III
and Theo James
Blue Marine
ambassador

Photo: *Climate
Action*

During London Climate Action Week, Blue Marine brought the ocean to the heart of the climate conversation at Kanaloa House in Soho. Held from 22–25 June in partnership with Kanaloa and 10% for the Ocean, it created the first dedicated ocean hub of the week, demonstrating how ocean-based solutions can tackle the climate and nature crises.

One message stood out: if the world is to meet its 2030 climate and nature goals, the ocean must be part of the solution. Restoring marine ecosystems can protect biodiversity, support decarbonisation and strengthen food and energy security.

A public event at Golden Square brought ocean issues into the

heart of Soho through interactive installations, performances and film screenings. The week also featured leading voices including oceanographer Dr Sylvia Earle, who opened a discussion on the 30×30 target and the need for ambitious ocean protection.

Global leaders also joined [Blue Marine ambassador Theo James](#) and [Antarctic Avenger Benedict Cumberbatch](#) at a Buckingham Palace roundtable to explore how climate commitments can be turned into action ahead of COP31.

As 2030 approaches, the message is clear: a healthy ocean is essential for a healthy future.

Read more [here](#).

Marine Heatwaves Put UK Seas Under Pressure

[LISTEN NOW](#)

Seagrass meadow

Photo: Theo Vickers

The sea off the coast of East Anglia is currently experiencing category two marine heatwave conditions, with temperatures between 1.5°C and 4°C above average. According to the Met Office, this is the third and most intense marine heatwave recorded in UK waters this year.

While heatwaves on land are visible and familiar, marine heatwaves happen beneath the surface and can have serious consequences for ocean life. Prolonged periods of unusually warm water can disrupt ecosystems, alter food webs and force species to move into new areas. Scientists warn that some marine species may struggle to survive, while commercially important fish and shellfish populations can shift away from their usual habitats.

As Blue Marine's CEO Clare Brook said:

"The ocean is our best climate ally. Without the ocean, the earth would be 36 degrees hotter. Humanity wouldn't be possible."

But the ocean can only continue storing carbon, producing oxygen and supporting life if it remains healthy and full of life. Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems has never been more important.

Listen to Clare's interview on BBC Radio London [here](#).

BY THE END OF JUNE,
PARTS OF UK WATERS
WERE UP TO 5°C WARMER
THAN NORMAL.

Coastal Comeback: Bringing Our Seas Back to Life

[READ FULL REPORT](#)

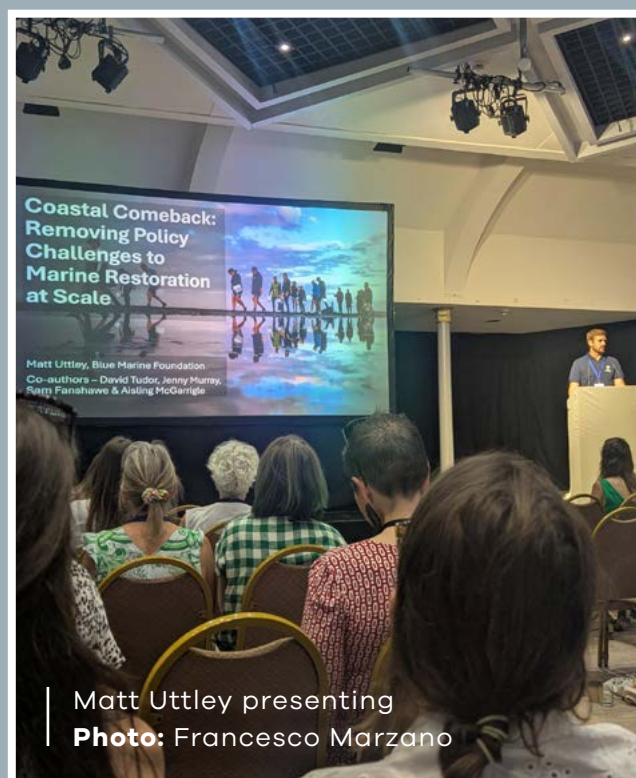
Saltmarsh habitat

Photo: Paul Adams

The UK has lost some of its most valuable coastal habitats at an alarming rate. Around 95 per cent of native oyster reefs, 85 per cent of saltmarsh and more than 90 per cent of seagrass meadows have disappeared over the last century, leaving coastlines less resilient to climate change and biodiversity loss.

Healthy saltmarshes, seagrass meadows and oyster reefs store carbon, support marine life, improve water quality and help protect coastal communities from storms and erosion. In England, saltmarshes provide flood protection to more than 87,000 properties, delivering annual benefits worth £62 million, with a further £9 million in Wales.

Restoration projects are ready to scale up, but progress is being held back by a licensing system designed for large industrial developments. Securing approvals can take more than a year and cost tens of thousands of pounds.



Matt Uttley presenting
Photo: Francesco Marzano

Blue Marine's new report, Coastal Comeback, identifies key regulatory and policy barriers preventing restoration at scale and sets out reforms to create a more proportionate regulatory framework. Streamlining licensing and removing unnecessary barriers would unlock investment, accelerate marine restoration and deliver lasting benefits for climate, nature and coastal communities.

Read the full report [here](#).



Christopher Ward launches #TakeTheTime competition in support of ocean conservation


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Chris Ward Trident watch



Christopher Ward has launched its #TakeTheTime photography competition in partnership with Blue Marine. The launch supports [Blue Marine's 30x30 Ocean Action Plan](#), helping drive efforts to protect 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030.

The brand has contributed to Blue Marine's mission since 2023 through its ongoing commitment to donate 2 per cent of Trident sales revenue to the charity. Since the partnership began, more than £750,000 has been donated to support marine conservation projects around the world.

The #TakeTheTime competition invites participants to share

photographs of coastlines, rivers, harbours, beaches or other blue spaces worth protecting. Through the campaign, Christopher Ward is encouraging people to pause, appreciate the natural world and highlight the importance of a healthy ocean.

"Christopher Ward's commitment to the 30x30 Ocean Action Plan is inspiring."

CLARE BROOK, BLUE MARINE'S CEO

The winning photograph will receive a Christopher Ward watch and a Fujifilm X-T30 camera. Entries close on 20 August.

Learn more [here](#).

Careers Talks Spotlight

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Photo: Ocean
Image Bank,
Katerina Katopis

Since February 2026, Blue Marine staff have visited 12 schools and delivered 16 ocean careers talks to more than 1,100 pupils. Before the sessions, 364 students said they were interested in a career in marine conservation. Afterwards, that number had risen to 662. These talks are aiming to inspire the next generation to help restore our ocean to health.

Name: Liv Eadie

Position in Blue: Office Manager

School attended: Bedford Modern School

Pupils reached: 260

Favourite moment: I was delighted by the enthusiasm and knowledge so many students showed about the marine environment. My favourite

moment was hearing a Year 5 student confidently explain the impacts of overfishing.

Number of pupils interested in a career in marine conservation before and after the talk: 131 before, 202 after.

Focus of the talk:

"It was a pleasure to return to my old school and inspire the next generation to care about the ocean. I spoke about the challenges facing our seas, the impact of human activity and the many ways students can help protect the marine environment through future careers and everyday actions."

Learn more [here](#).

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SCHOOLS VISITED

16

OCEAN CAREERS
TALKS

MORE THAN

1,100

PUPILS REACHED

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN A CAREER
IN MARINE CONSERVATION:

BEFORE

364

AFTER

662



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)



Red anemone and clown fish,
Woodhouse reef, Strait of Tiran,
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Photo: /Ocean Image Bank,
Cinzia Osele Bismarck

