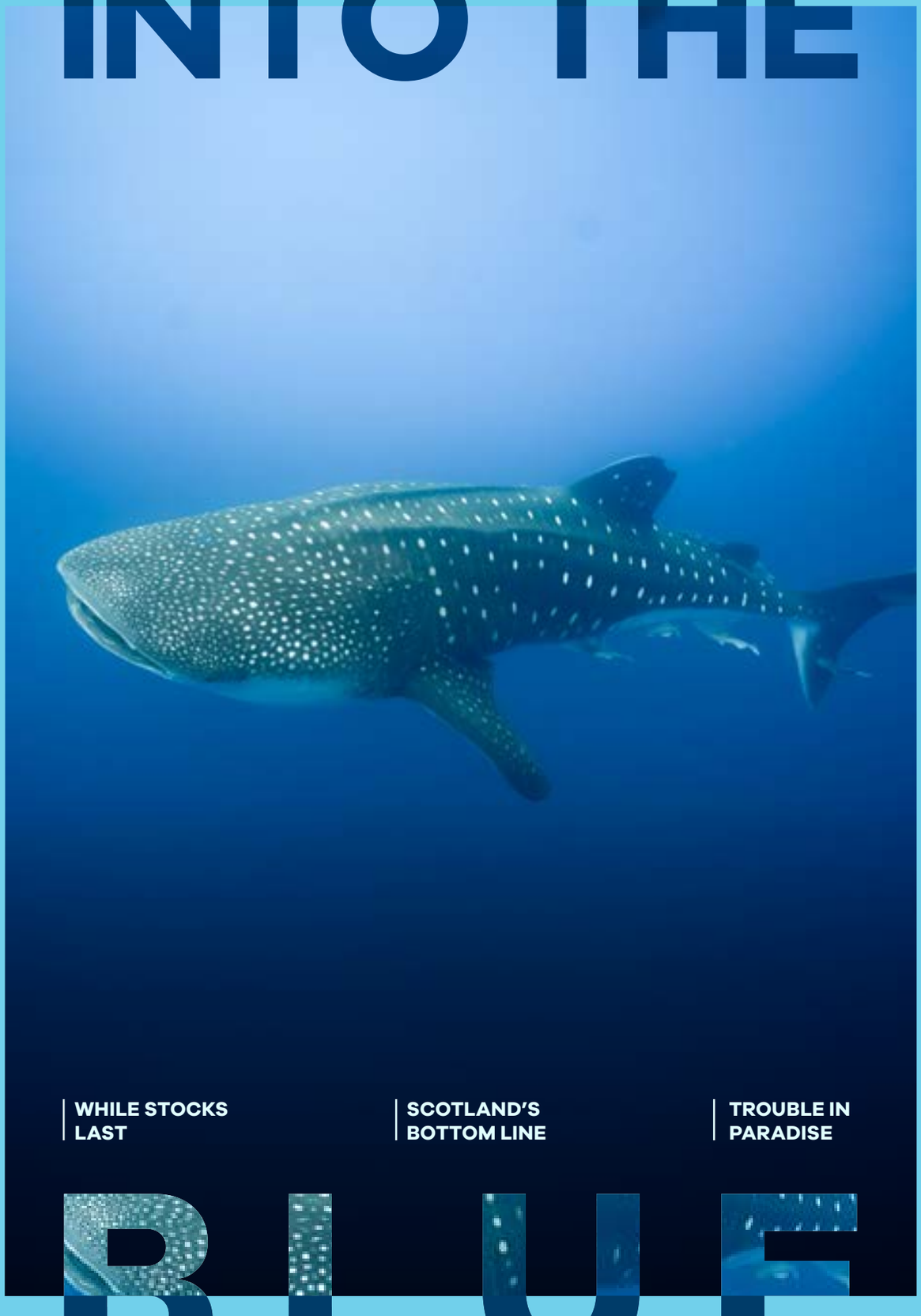
BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION

INTO THE BLUE



ACTION TO PROTECT OUR OCEAN

ISSUE 23 | OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2026

WHILE STOCKS LAST

SCOTLAND'S BOTTOM LINE

TROUBLE IN PARADISE

Cover Photo:
Over the Swell
Flora Tomlinson



WELCOME

From protecting Scotland's seas to tackling overfishing across the UK, this edition is about turning ambition into action. Blue Marine ambassador Ewan McGregor is supporting Scotland's Bottom Line, calling for stronger protection of Scotland's seas and encouraging people to take action. Alongside this, we spotlight While Stocks Last and the urgent need for catch limits to follow scientific advice, as well as sustainable fisheries in the Indian Ocean, community-led whale shark conservation in São Tomé and Príncipe, ocean education and marine recovery.

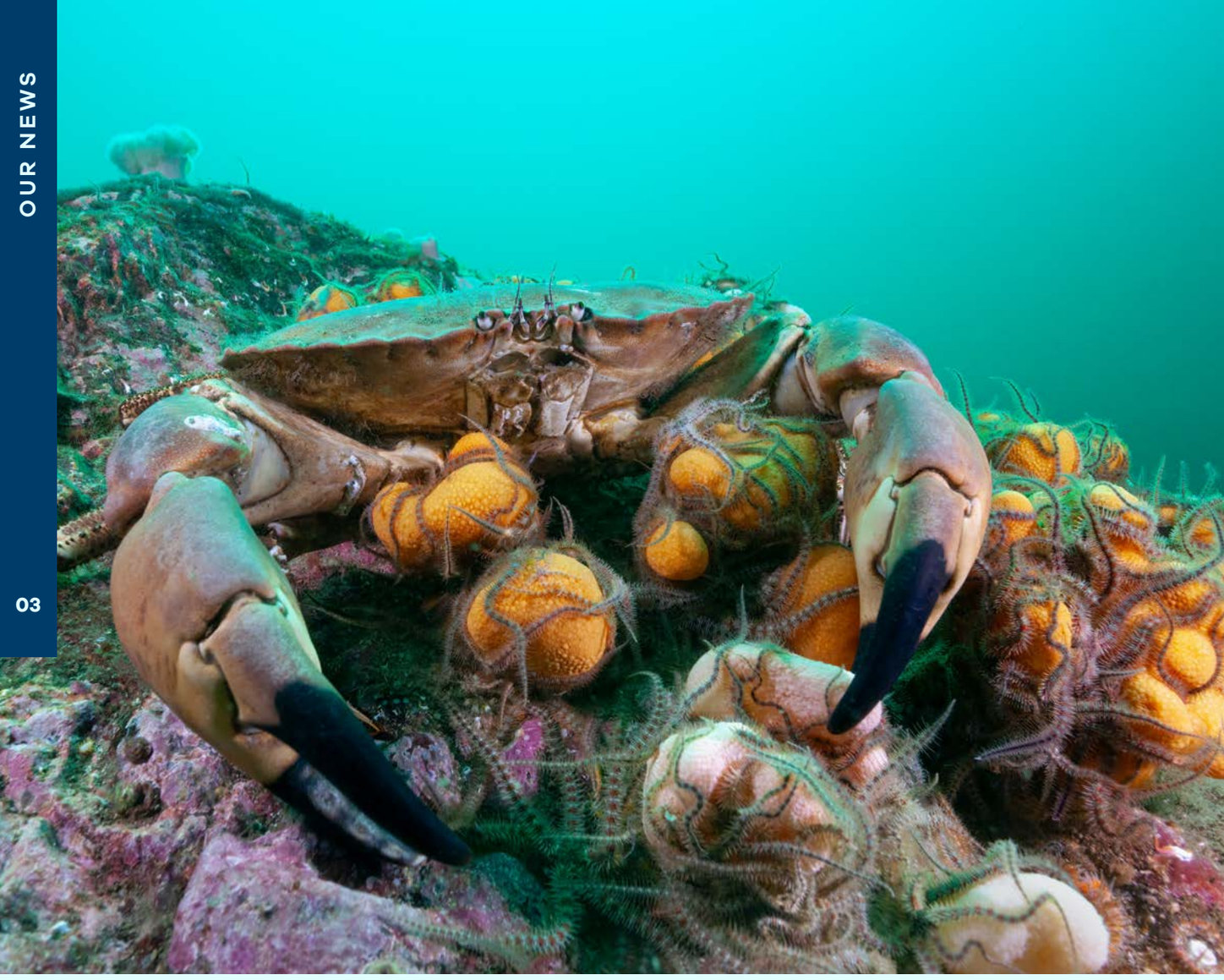
Don't forget to follow Blue Marine on Instagram and LinkedIn for the latest news.

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Juan Fernández Archipelago

Photo: *Andy Mann*



Scotland's Bottom Line

TAKE ACTION

Edible crab

Photo: *Jim Greenfield – www.oceaneyephoto.com*

Scotland has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure lasting protection for its seas.

Ewan McGregor, Blue Marine's ambassador, is supporting the campaign for stronger protection of Scotland's seas and encouraging people to take action.

Scotland's inshore waters are home to extraordinary marine life, from seabirds and basking sharks to kelp forests, flame shell reefs and deep-sea corals. But decades of overfishing and damaging practices, such as bottom trawling and dredging, have taken their toll. Some fish populations have declined by more than 90 per cent, while important habitats have been lost or damaged.

After more than a decade of delays, the Scottish Government is consulting on fisheries management measures for 76 inshore marine protected areas, alongside proposals to protect vulnerable habitats outside these sites.

This is a critical opportunity to turn the tide. Stronger protection from bottom trawling and dredging could help damaged seabeds recover, rebuild fish populations and support thriving coastal communities.

Blue Marine and partners are calling on people across Scotland to make their voices heard.

Take action to help ensure effective protection for Scotland's seas here.

While Stocks Last

Healthy fish populations mean thriving fishing communities. Yet 58 per cent of UK catch limits for 2026 were set above scientific advice despite warnings on the impacts of overfishing. The result is the collapse of some of our most valuable fish populations.

Blue Marine's analysis of 55 UK fish stocks paints a stark picture. Since 2016, 62 per cent have declined, while the total abundance of fish across these stocks has fallen by around 41 per cent. Some populations are in crisis, such as Celtic Sea which has collapsed by 98 per cent and Irish Sea plaice by 88 per cent.

But this decline is not inevitable. Evidence shows when fisheries are managed sustainably and catch limits follow scientific advice, fish populations can recover, providing greater security for fishing communities and healthier seas.

The science is clear and 71 per cent of UK adults support a legal requirement preventing fishing catch limits from exceeding scientific advice.

The choice is not between fish and fishing but acting to protect our fish stocks #WhileStocksLast. Join us in calling on the UK Government to end overfishing and follow the science.

Take action here.

Read our supporting report Apocalypse Now: The True Cost of Overfishing here.

READ THE REPORT



Cod

Photo: *Alex Mustard*

Trouble in Paradise: A collection of stories from the Indian Ocean

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Illustration:
Gary Embury

Tuna is one of the Indian Ocean's most valuable resources, supporting livelihoods, economies and communities across the region, but behind the seafood reaching supermarket shelves lies a complex web of industry pressure, geo-politics and foreign interests.

Trouble in Paradise brings together stories from across the Indian Ocean to examine the forces shaping the future of its tuna fisheries. Through first-hand accounts, investigations and analysis, the report explores growing concerns around transparency, sustainability claims and the impact of industrial fishing on marine ecosystems.

Together, these stories shine a light on the pressures facing one of the world's most important tuna fisheries and the people and marine life that depend on it. They also underline the need for greater transparency and genuinely sustainable management to ensure the Indian Ocean can continue to support healthy seas, thriving fisheries and coastal communities for generations to come. Read Trouble in Paradise here.



Blue Marine brings ocean action to Blue Earth Summit

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Blue Earth Summit

Photo: *Stew Mackellar*



Blue Marine joined conservationists, scientists and campaigners at Blue Earth Summit in London to explore some of the biggest challenges facing our ocean.

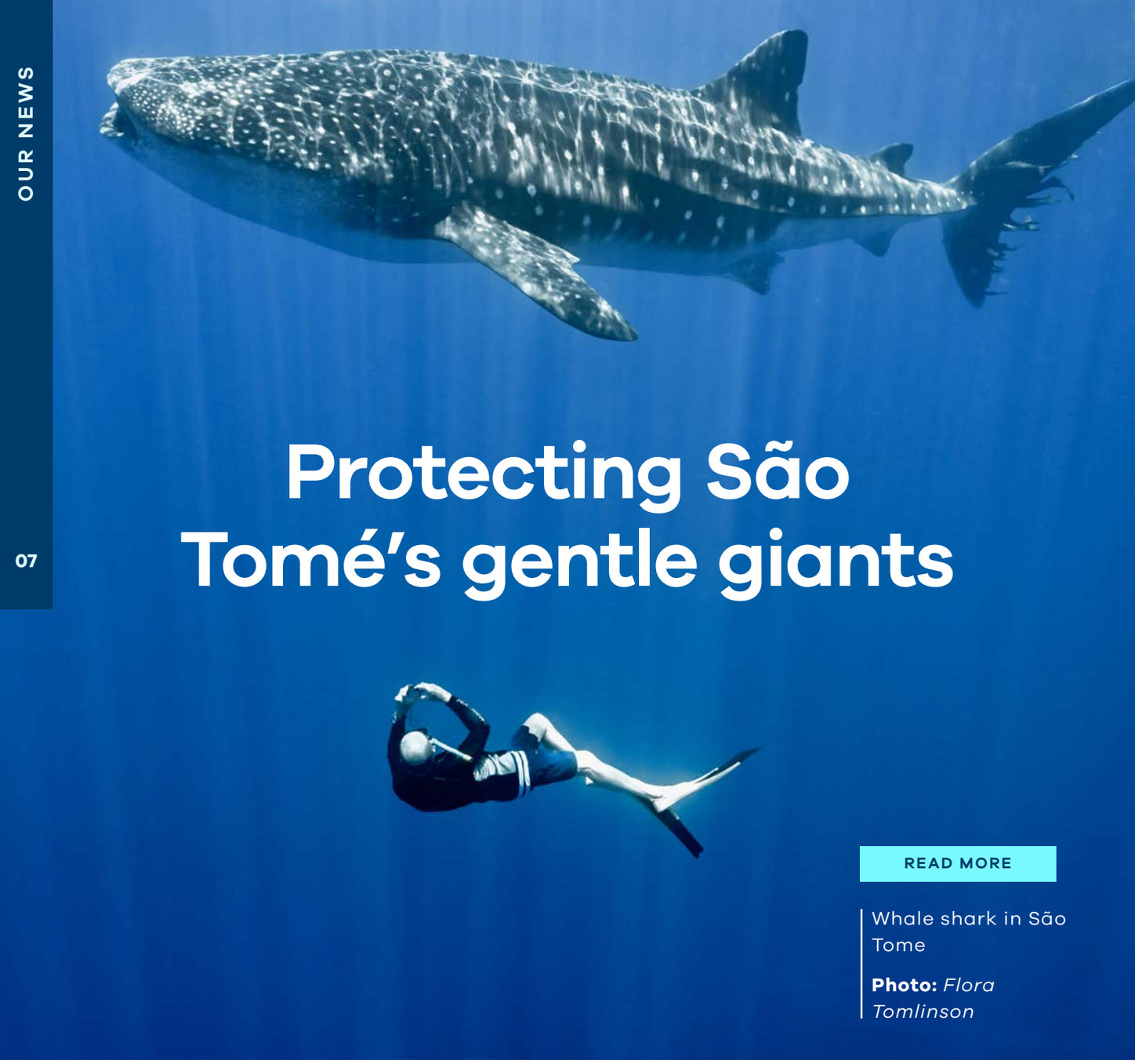
Throughout the summit, Blue Marine explored how we can drive meaningful change for our ocean. Clare Brook joined wildlife filmmaker Gordon Buchanan to explore how our fascination with the natural world can inspire meaningful action, while Blue Marine experts contributed to discussions on the future of Antarctic krill, the hidden impacts of the seafood industry and the power of communities to drive marine recovery.

The South Coast Marine Recovery Programme also took centre stage, highlighting how communities, fishers and local partnerships can help restore marine ecosystems where existing approaches have struggled.

Alongside this, Convex Seascape Survey explored how centuries of human activity have transformed our seas and what this history means for conservation today. Researchers examined the long history of bottom trawling, evidence of seabed recovery following protection and the importance of carbon-rich marine sediments, drawing together past and present to help inform the future of ocean recovery.

Together, these panels demonstrated the scale of the challenges facing our ocean, but also the growing momentum for meaningful change.

Read more about Blue Earth Summit here.



Protecting São Tomé's gentle giants

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Whale shark in São Tome

Photo: *Flora Tomlinson*

The waters around São Tomé and Príncipe are a haven for whale sharks, but the number gathering around the islands is estimated to have halved over the past 75 years.

Blue Marine is working with local NGO Over the Swell to help turn the tide, combining science with community-led conservation. Over the Swell has trained four former spearfishers as full-time ocean rangers and 20 fishers as volunteer citizen scientists, while engaging more than 3,000 artisanal fishers in whale shark conservation.

Now, this partnership is entering an ambitious new chapter. A three-year strategy will bring together science, education and policy to strengthen marine conservation in São Tomé and Príncipe. Plans include deploying 16 satellite tags, building local skills in whale shark monitoring, creating new whale-watching and citizen science opportunities, and using new evidence to inform conservation policy.

Together, Blue Marine, Over the Swell and local communities are building the knowledge, skills and momentum needed to protect these gentle giants for generations to come.

Elizabeth Scarlett is partnering with Blue Marine to raise £30,000 to help track and protect whale sharks in São Tomé & Príncipe, supporting three local rangers to follow their journeys.

Read more here.







All photos: *Victoria Turner*

Lasting conservation starts with education

Blue Marine Max Stenbeck Legacy Programme has shown the appetite for ocean education. More than 800 schools have joined the Blue Marine Education Network, creating a community of teachers and schools committed to bringing the ocean into their classrooms. Across the programme, 2,513 students took part in ocean education activities and fieldtrips to Blue Marine's project locations. Ocean engagement also included 16 careers talks, reaching 1,133 students across 12 schools and contributing to an 82 per cent increase in interest in marine conservation careers. Filmmaking workshops also gave 163 students confidence to speak up for the ocean.

Six new partnerships will deliver at least 55 free field trips in the programme's second year. Our long-term ambition is to offer free fieldwork opportunities to every school in our network where more than 50 per cent of pupils receive Free School Meals.

Every student should have the chance to experience and understand the ocean, wherever they live, whatever their school's postcode or budget.

By removing practical and financial barriers, we can help more students experience the ocean, discover new career opportunities previously beyond their reach and feel equipped to engage with the critical ocean solutions to the biodiversity and climate crisis.

Join the network here.

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EU Ocean Week: building a future where people and the ocean thrive

WATCH HERE

Subsidies Animation

Photo: *Mark Peberdy*



Blue Marine takes a more prominent role in the ocean protection scene in Brussels, participating for the second year in a row and co-organising a series of events together with its Brussels partners during EU Ocean Week.

The week opened on Monday, 28 September, with **Reclaim the Ocean** an event led by BLOOM, during which Blue Marine premiered its latest animation on fisheries subsidies, highlighting the opportunity to invest instead in marine protection, restoration and low-impact fishing.

On Tuesday 29 September, Blue Marine co-organised **'Protection that Pays'** in the European Parliament, bringing experts, MEPs and European Commission representatives together to explore how well-managed marine protected areas can benefit fisheries and coastal economies. That evening, Blue Marine joined eight other NGOs to organise the **Ocean Week Cocktail and Networking Event,** hosted by MEP Christophe Clergeau, where ministers and policymakers discussed the ambition needed for the forthcoming EU Ocean Act.

The week continued on Wednesday 30 September with **Rethink Fisheries Day,** organised with Seas At Risk and Low Impact Fishers of Europe, bringing fishers, scientists, NGOs and decision-makers together to identify practical pathways towards fairer, lower-impact fisheries.

Watch the animation here.

BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION

THANK YOU *for your support!*

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

Alea Laidlaw
Information Officer
alea@bluemarinefoundation.com

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

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Coral reef
Photo: *George Duffield*