

Oceans 2025

Welcome

Development of Oceans 2025 as a single, strategic research programme, involving all of NERC's Marine Centres and National Facilities is a unique achievement. Drawing not only on the strengths of individual organisations, Oceans 2025 will also foster opportunities for coordination and collaboration throughout the marine science community.

Produced by the National Marine Coordination Office (NMCO), this newsletter will report on the latest events concerning the programme's



activities, and the NMCO team and myself welcome your comments and contributions of news items.

As science coordinator for Oceans 2025, I very much look forward to working with you to address the scientific challenges of the marine environment.

Phil Williamson
Oceans 2025 Science
Coordinator

Next generation marine research

Strategic Ocean Funding Initiative (SOFI)

The aim of SOFI is to promote wider engagement between researchers at UK University and academic analogues and the NERC-funded Marine Centres in the Oceans 2025 programme. The main round of SOFI will support standard grants, small grants and studentships with funding of approximately £4m. Closing date for applications is 10 October 2007 and full details are at:

www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/oceans2025/events/sofi-ao0807.asp

The outcome of the recent 'Sustainable Marine Bioresources' announcement of opportunity (also part of SOFI) will be made available in late October.

Policy News: Oceans 2025 role in assessing status of the seas

Planning has begun for assessments of the status of UK marine waters and the wider North East Atlantic. The UK assessment will follow Charting Progress (2005); it is Defra-led, but with full involvement of the devolved administrations. Evidence groups will target Clean and Safe Seas,

Healthy and Biologically Diverse Seas, and Productive Seas. Data from Oceans 2025 sustained observations will be of key importance for this assessment, and is also expected to feature strongly in the next OSPAR Status Report, since the preparation processes will be closely linked.

Oceans
2025



A strategic marine science programme for NERC

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Oceans 2025 event reports

Centre Theme Leaders meeting

A workshop was held at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban on 10-11 July to take forward programme implementation. It was attended by ~40 senior researchers of the Centre Theme Leaders or their representatives together with Marine Centre Directors. The aim was to:

- Strengthen links between Researchers from different Centres within each Theme;
- Develop additional collaborative links between Themes.

This was a first opportunity for representatives of all the Themes to come together since the funding decision was made. Presentations were given on each of the main work packages, available on the website, enabling those present to see how they fit together within Oceans 2025. Even in the short

time available some unexpected synergies across Themes and opportunities for further collaboration were highlighted – on oceans sediments, on coastal observatory initiatives and an underlying reliance on modelling and risk assessment in a number of Themes. These ideas will be the subject of targeted Oceans 2025 workshops later in the year. It is intended to build on this first cross Centre, cross programme event by making it an annual occasion, also involving key stakeholders.



Technology Events

On 10 July the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (NOCS) hosted two events, the Breakfast Club and Technology Marketplace aimed at facilitating greater collaboration between the Natural Environment Research Council and the manufacturers of coastal and ocean technology. The joint event was well supported with 55 people, representing 27 organisations, in attendance.

The day kicked off early with the 2nd meeting of the Breakfast Club. This meeting allows industry the opportunity to meet with the NERC marine facilities users and discuss what the future equipment requirements will be for marine science. The scene was set through an introductory briefing by Colin Griffiths (Scottish Association for Marine Science) Head of the Marine Physics User Group, who advise on equipment purchases for the National Marine Equipment Pool. The meeting also provides an informal networking session, and judging from the volume in the room everyone took full advantage of the opportunity to catch up with colleagues from across the UK and Europe.

The next Breakfast Club meeting will take place in early 2008, the date and speaker will be confirmed shortly.

continued ...

The second part of the day saw the first Technology Marketplace event take place under the Oceans 2025 initiative. This event showcased 14 different technologies from across NERC marine centres including, Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory, the Sea Mammal Research Unit, the Scottish Association for Marine Science, and the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, with a view to taking these items to the marketplace through exploitation by industry.

Thirty-two meetings took place between the inventors and potential licensee companies, during the four-hour event. Comments from booth holders suggest that the event proved extremely useful with good contacts being made. John Humphery (POL) said, *'the event proved to be successful beyond any of my expectations.'* The Marketplace event was born out of a deliverable output from Oceans 2025 put forward by Gwyn Griffiths (NOCS). Gwyn was extremely pleased with the way the event went, commenting *'There was a real buzz about the room and we have collectively shown that there is a real need for interaction of this kind between business and NERC-supported technologists.'*

There was firm interest in four of the technologies entered into the marketplace and the inventors, companies and intellectual property experts are now working on ensuring all the necessary Non Disclosure



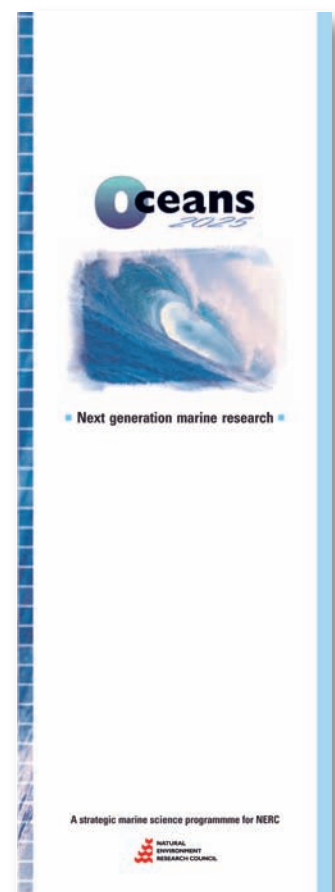
Aidan Thorn

Agreements and Licensing paperwork is in place. The Technology Marketplace will now become an annual event for the duration of the Oceans 2025 programme.

To be added to the mailing list for either of these events please contact Aidan Thorn at NOCS (adft@noc.soton.ac.uk).

Oceans 2025 leaflet

A new Oceans 2025 leaflet was published in June 2007, to coincide with the Oceans 07 and EurOceans2007 conferences and exhibitions in Aberdeen, Scotland. The leaflet, designed to fit into the series produced for other major NERC supported programmes, aims to provide a succinct introduction for policy makers, international contacts and the general public. Bulk copies have been sent to each of the Marine Centres and a .pdf version can be downloaded from the Oceans 2025 website. Coming soon – Oceans 2025 folders.



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Oceans 2025 Partners



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**Marine Biological Association
of the UK, Plymouth**



**SCOTTISH
ASSOCIATION
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SCIENCE**



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for Ocean Science**

Oceans 2025 Executive Board

The Executive Board has collective responsibility for the coordinated delivery of the Oceans 2025 Programme to NERC. This encompasses the scientific strategy for the Programme, including the specification of calls for SOFI proposals, and Programme implementation, data management and knowledge transfer. Comprising the Directors of the Marine Centres and the Science Coordinator it meets approximate two-monthly. The full terms of reference can be found on the website.

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions of news items, details of events and publications from the Oceans 2025 community are most welcome. Please contact:

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