How much?

NERC is investing approximately £24 million each year in the Oceans 2025 programme. This represents just less than fifty percent of its total spend on marine science which includes other strategic research programmes, responsive research grants and training awards, and major services and facilities.

Within Oceans 2025, the new Strategic Ocean Funding Initiative (SOFI) provides funds for competitive university involvement in the programme, bringing in additional research expertise and training opportunities.

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More information

www.Oceans2025.org

Who?

Oceans 2025 seven partners are:

National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
University of Southampton and Natural Environment Research Council

Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory
Natural Environment Research Council

PML | Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Scottish Association for Marine Science

Sea Mammal Research Unit

Marine Biological Association of the UK, Plymouth

Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science

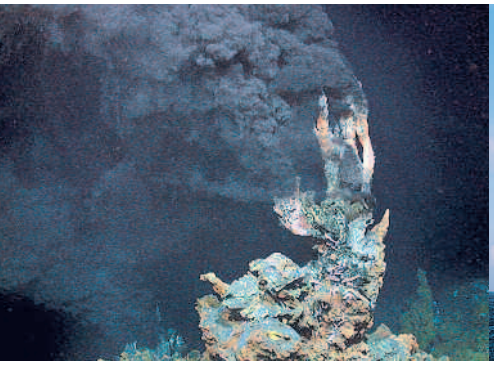
Oceans 2025

Next generation marine research

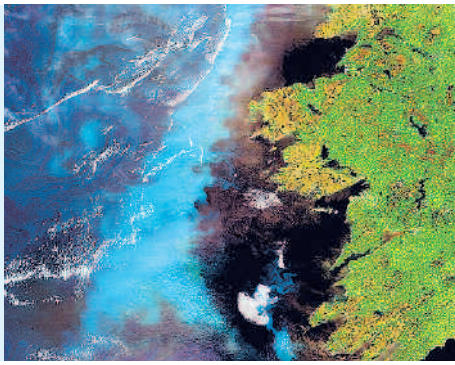
A strategic marine science programmme for NERC

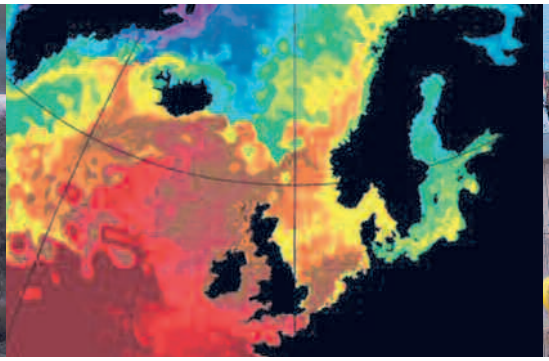
Natural Environment Research Council

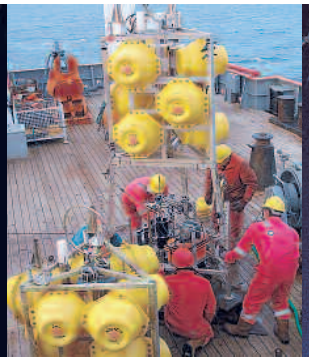
Oceans 2025



> Our vision for the marine environment is clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. Within one generation, we want to have made a real difference.
>
> *UK government, Safeguarding our seas, 2002*







Planet Ocean

Planet Earth is really Planet Ocean. The sea covers over two-thirds of the surface of the globe and makes up 97 percent (in volume) of the portion of the planet where life can exist. It plays a crucial role in regulating the climate and supplying us with food, energy and other raw materials. We still have much to learn about this vast and complex environment, and how it will alter in a rapidly changing world.

By 2025, just one generation away, many millions of people across the world are likely to be affected by global changes which involve the ocean. For example, the sea level could rise by more than ten centimetres if present trends continue, and the extent of Arctic summer sea-ice is predicted to decrease by about thirty percent – radically changing marine ecosystems and patterns of world trade. During the same time, our demand for natural resources from the sea is expected to increase by at least a third.

The challenges

It is crucial that we advance our knowledge of ocean processes to improve our ability to predict and respond to future changes. The main challenges are to:

- **Know the rules of ocean behaviour**, such as the dynamics of physical, chemical and biological interactions.
- **Know what is happening to our oceans**, using satellites, moorings and ships to monitor long-term changes.
- **Find creative and adaptive solutions**, to promote human well-being through sustainable use of marine resources; build new businesses whilst adapting to change; spot potential risks and mitigate adverse effects; and ensure stewardship of the seas for future generations.

Oceans 2025

Oceans 2025 will address these fundamental challenges in marine science. Starting in 2007, this five-year strategic research programme will improve our understanding of how the ocean behaves, how it is changing, and what this means for society.

Seven UK marine centres, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) designed Oceans 2025 as a cross-disciplinary partnership, coordinating their separate expertise. This approach to strategic marine science will be at the forefront of European and global research.

The programme will also involve a wider community of researchers, industry, policy makers and the public, to address nine major themes:

- Climate, ocean circulation and sea level
- Marine biogeochemical cycles
- Shelf and coastal processes
- Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning
- Continental margins and the deep ocean
- Sustainable marine resources
- Technology development
- Next generation ocean prediction
- Sustained observations in the marine environment

Several key elements of *national capability** are funded within Oceans 2025. These include the British Oceanographic Data Centre, the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level, the Culture Collection for Algae and Protozoa, the Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey, and the Marine Mammal Survey.

** NERC's national capability comprises basic long-term data, infrastructure, technology and expertise which enables wider research to be undertaken.*