Version December 18th 2016

**South West Marine Ecosystems 2017**

**April 21st, 2017 at the Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University**

**Programme**

The 2017 South West Marine Ecosystems Meeting (SWME) meeting will take place in the larger venue of the Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University on Friday April 21st. The programme, booking details, directions and sponsorship details can be found on the [**new SWME Website**](http://swmecosystems.co.uk/). In 2016 150+ delegates attended representing 75+ organisations. The format and content will be similar to previous years with a mix of long and short presentations, posters and good time for discussion and networking.

**All the speakers and delegates pay for the conference fee** of £20 (including refreshments and lunch) to help attract the widest range of people and in particular volunteers, students interested this area of work. The full programme is set out below but the objectives of the meeting are:

1. **Networking** To provide a networking opportunity for a wide cross section of people to meet, exchange views and build networks on south-west marine ecosystems; this includes active support for volunteer observations and schemes (citizen science), marine science and research interests, managers and a range of sea users including nature conservation, fishing, tourism etc.
2. **To assess the annual events – ecological and oceanographic - of the previous year** that have affected the south west marine ecosystems – making the linkages between environmental and biological phenomena e.g. SST on plankton or mackerel and cetaceans. We will be asking delegates to contribute their observations on 2015.
3. **Ecology of marine species** To explore research studies that throw particular light on aspects of ecology of marine species, planktonic, benthic and ‘mobile’ species (fish, birds, mammals, turtles) and the ecosystem that supports them and to understand the status of populations of marine species in the south west and how they are responding to environmental and anthropogenic pressures.
4. **Management and southwest marine ecosystems** To understand the linkages between science and managing human activities in the marine environment with a view to supporting and promoting the health of southwest marine ecosystems

**SWME 2017 Programme**

**Friday 21st April 2017 Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University**

**Session 1 Events & Observations in 2016**

**9.30 Welcome Chair: Martin Attrill, Plymouth University Marine Institute**

**9.35 Events & observations in 2016** *facilitated by* **Bob Earll & Natasha Bradshaw**

***Comment on events and bring along your observations of 2016***

10.00 **The Events of 2015 – SWME Annual Report**

**Keith Hiscock**, Marine Biological Association (MBA)

10.10 **Physical impacts of marine climate change and variability in the SW**

**Jonathan Tinker**,Met Office Hadley Centre

10.30 **Western Channel Observatory update**

**Steve Widdicombe**, Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)

10.50 **Satellite-derived environmental drivers for top predator hotspots**

**Peter Miller**, PML

11.10 **Seasearch SW diver record highlights**

**Charlotte Bolton,** Seasearch/Marine Conservation Society

**Short Updates**

11.30 Community Seagrass Initiative (tbc) **Jessica Mead**, National Marine Aquarium

**11.35 Marine Ecology and Conservation Network      Zara Botterell,** University of Exeter

**11.40 – 12.30 First break**: Sandwiches and refreshments 

**Session 2   Seabirds & Mammals**

**Chair: Matthew Witt** Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter **12.30**  **The influence of tidally driven processes on harbour porpoise distribution**

**Duncan Jones**, Marine Discover and Falmouth Marine School

12.50 **Acoustic monitoring of dolphins with the F-Pod**

**Nick Tregenza**, Chelonia Ltd

13.10 **Trends in callouts over the past ten years in Cornwall & unusual events of 2016**

**Dan Jarvis**, British Divers Marine Life Rescue

13.30 **CWT Marine Strandings Network** **Abby Crosby**, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

**Short updates**

13.50 Bottlenose dolphin photo-id work **Ruth Williams**, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

13.55 2016 seal highlights **Sue Sayer**, Cornwall Seal Group Research Trust

14.00 National seabird census - population trends and causes of change 1986 - 2015

**Alex Banks**, Natural England/JNCC

14.05 Metal contamination, microplastics & maerl distribution in the Fal (tbc)

**Mathew Witt**, University of Exeter

**14.10 - 14.50** **Second break**: Cakes and refreshments

**Session 3 Using science to inform marine management**

**Chair: Sarah Clark** Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority

14.50 **South West Marine Plan**

**Neal Gray**, Marine Planner, Marine Management Organisation

15.10 **Response of benthos to zoned exclusion of towed demersal fishing gear in**

**Lyme Bay; 5yrs after closure Martin Attrill,** Plymouth University

15.30 **Anchoring & Mooring in MPAs: impacts, risk and management**

**Olivia Langmead**, Marine Biological Association and Plymouth University Marine Institute

15.50 **Somerset’s Brilliant Coast**

**Nigel Phillips,** Coast Ambassador, Somerset Wildlife Trust

**Short Update**

16.10 **Cornish Plastic Pollution**

**Claire Wallerstein**, Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition

16.15 **Inspiring images from the north coast**

**Sue Sayer** with Annabelle & Chris Lowe, Marine Life Boat Surveys

16.30    Close and refreshments

**See booking form below**

**SWME 2017 Booking Form**

**Book in good time before the event. Your name, organisation and email will be used in the delegate listing sent to delegates before the meeting**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Organisation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE – these details go in the delegate list and on your badge]

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**It is essential for pre and post-conference (outputs) communication to have delegates email address**

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Twitter Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The conference Twitter account is **#SWME17**

Dietary Needs: Do you have any special dietary needs\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

All delegates including speakers will pay the conference fee of £20.00

We hope that most people will pay by credit card using [**Eventbrite**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-west-marine-ecosystems-meeting-2017-tickets-29780296669)

You can pay by cheque;

This booking form can be downloaded from the [SWME website](http://swmecosystems.co.uk/) – see the bookings section

Bookings & cheques - should be sent to Bob Earll, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos., GL18 2BU

Cheques should be made payable to ‘R.Earll’

**We will not accept cash on the day**

**The booking fee will be non-refundable after 10 working days before the event.**

Receipts will be provided.

If you have any questions email [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk) or ring 07930 535283