

# South West Marine Ecosystems 2018

## April 13<sup>th</sup> Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University, Plymouth

### Delegate Notes

The 2018 South West Marine Ecosystems Meeting (SWME) meeting will take place again in the Sherwell Centre, Plymouth University on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2018. Full details are available on the [SWME website](#).

In 2017 200+ delegates attended representing 90+ organisations. The format and content for 2018 is similar to previous years with a mix of long and short presentations, poster displays and good time for discussion and networking.

The objectives of SWME have been updated following your feedback from SWME 2017 and are as follows:

1. **Networking** Through the conferences, website and mailings, to provide a networking opportunity for a wide cross section of people to meet, exchange views and build networks for the south-west's marine ecosystems in order to:

- Provide active support for existing networks enabling and building citizen science projects;
- To encourage collaboration between users, researchers/scientists and managers/policy makers;
- Encourage links between researchers on science projects throughout the region's seas (e.g. the English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Seas and the wider Atlantic Ocean).

2. **Annual Events & Recording** To use the annual conference to record observations on ecological and oceanographic events of the previous year that have affected the south west marine ecosystems and to make the linkages between environmental and biological phenomena. To publish these observations annually. To promote the recording of observations throughout the year and ongoing regional and national marine recording projects through the SWME website.

3. **Ecology of marine species** To promote research studies that focus on the ecology of marine species, planktonic, benthic and 'mobile' species (fish, birds, mammals, turtles) and the ecosystem that supports them. To understand the status of populations of marine species in the region's seas and how they are responding to environmental and anthropogenic pressures. To enable stories to be told about the ecology of our common species, their distribution, movements and numbers, and importantly to highlight the gaps in our knowledge.

4. **Management of south west marine ecosystems** To encourage strong relationships between policy makers and scientists; to promote science and the evidence base that underpins management of human activities in the coastal and marine environment with a view to supporting and promoting the health of the south west marine ecosystem.

5. **Marine Education and Outreach** To highlight marine education and outreach programmes in the south west. To support the development of new programmes that promote marine management and make use of marine science. To promote good practice in environmental education, interpretation, signage and outreach.

...and to come together to celebrate being part of the SWME!



**Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust**

Thank you to this year's sponsors and the organising team: Natasha Bradshaw, Ruth Williams and support staff at Cornwall Wildlife Trust and Bob Earll and Jayne O'Nions of CMS Ltd.



# SWME 2018 Programme

## Networks and Recording – Getting an Overall Picture for the South West

09.00 – 09.30: Refreshments

### Session 1 Events & Observations

- 9.30 Welcome** Chair: **Keith Hiscock, MBA**
- 9.35 The SWME Annual Report: Observations & Science, People and Making a Difference – The theme of SWME Conferences** **Bob Earll CMS**
- 10.00 Events & Observations in 2017** **Natasha Bradshaw SWME**  
*Comment on events and bring along your observations of 2017.*
- 10.15 From climate to oceanography to plankton** **Angus Atkinson PML**
- 10.35 From Regional to Global: how good data support good stewardship** **Dan Lear MBA**
- 10.55 MARINE-DNA: a forensic approach for detecting marine biodiversity**  
**Professor Willie Wilson, Marine Biological Association**
- 11.15 Power of the network** **Claire Wallerstein & Delia Webb** Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition

Short Updates

- 11.35 Mermaids Tears and Witches Britches: Plastic Pollution Research** **Pennie Lindeque PML**
- 11.40 Biofluorescence and rocky-shore organisms** **Rebecca Allen** Cornwall College Newquay
- 11.45 Is sticky ecology protecting our sandy beaches?** **Robyn Samuel** Plymouth University

11.50 – 12.40 First break: Buffet and refreshments

### Session 2 Seabirds & Mammals

Chair: **Matthew Witt** University of Exeter

- 12.40 Capturing seabird data in the South West – bringing monitoring and citizen science together**  
**Sophy Allen** Natural England
- 12.50 Seasearch – local to regional perspective**  
**Charlotte Bolton** Seasearch & **Matt Slater**, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- 13.10 Setting up, sustaining and securing a regional recording network**  
**Sue Sayer** Cornwall Seal Group
- 13.30 Sail training – an opportunity to advance ocean literacy**  
**John Hepburn** The Island Trust

Short updates

- 13.50 England's only resident bottlenose dolphin population: introducing the SW community**  
**Dr Simon Ingram** Plymouth University
- 13.55 Distribution of small cetaceans along the SW coast using passive acoustic & visual surveys**  
**Clare Embling** Plymouth University
- 14.00 Recreational impacts in the Plymouth Sound & Estuaries EMS: bridging science to policy**  
**Beth Siddons** Plymouth City Council & **Olivia Langmead** Plymouth University
- 14.05 Influx of Portuguese Man O War and By-the-Wind-Sailors into UK waters 2003-2017**  
**Victoria Hobson** Exeter University

14.10 - 14.50 Second break: Cakes and refreshments

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

**Chair: Martin Attrill** Plymouth University Marine Institute

**14.50 Development of a real-time, regional coastal flood warning system for southwest England**  
**Christopher Stokes** Plymouth University/SW partnership for Environment and Economic Prosperity (SWEEP) project.

**15.10 A Wrasse's tale: research and management**  
**Sarah Clark** Devon & Severn IFCA & **Pete Davies** Plymouth University

**15.30 Capturing the Coast** **Nova Mieszkowska** Marine Biological Association

**15.45 Inspiring people to connect to our beautiful UK SEAS** **Penny Wilson** WWF-UK

**16.00 Blue Planet stories** **Jonathan Smith** BBC Natural History Unit

**16.30 Close**