





Clet 26 June 2013



# Sail Training – an opportunity to advance Ocean Literacy

John Hepburn

**the** Island Trust



# Sail Training

- Educational experience that occurs on board sailing vessels of various sizes in various contexts around the world
- Particular focus on personal and social development
- Variety of experiences ranging from day sails in protected waters to yearlong voyages across oceans
- Predominantly connected with youth development



# Ocean Literacy

- Understanding the ocean's influence on us and our influence on the ocean





# Barriers to Ocean Literacy

- Lack of connection with the Ocean
  - The very nature of the ocean makes it difficult to experience or understand.
  - The sea itself is a barrier.
  - The lack of personal experience on the ocean.

Géraldine Fauville et al; Using collective intelligence to identify barriers to teaching 12–19 year olds about the ocean in Europe



# Ocean Literacy for All

A toolkit

IOC MANUALS and GUIDES, 80



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Regional  
Bureau  
for Science  
and Culture  
in Europe



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



Sustainable  
Development  
Goals

- Examples, but not Sail Training





## Ocean Edge Directory

[www.seachangeproject.eu/campaign/sea-change-database](http://www.seachangeproject.eu/campaign/sea-change-database)



- School at Sea – Dutch project, six months on a 3 master to the Caribbean and back

<http://www.schoolatsea.com/wat-is-school-at-sea>



The background of the slide is a photograph of a beach. In the upper third, a white, frothy wave is crashing onto the shore. Below the wave, the wet sand is dark and reflective, showing some ripples and small pools of water. The overall tone is natural and serene.

# Is there is an appetite for a qualification in marine environmental education?

Laura Lyth; An online feasibility study: The development of a voluntary  
Marine Environmental Education programme for young people on board  
Sail Training vessels (2012)



# Ocean Discoverability

Day sails for children with disabilities  
in Plymouth Sound & estuaries

**the** Island Trust



# A typical day





How much do you think you know  
about the ocean and what lives in it?

How much do you think you know  
about what people do with the ocean?

Almost nothing	Just a bit	Enough to know how little I know			Quite a bit	Lots		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9





# Glimpses of Ocean Life – Marina Pontoons & What They Can Teach Us

“Learning about marine life”



Devil's Tongue Weed – a non-native  
invasive species



“I enjoyed it all. I now know why the  
seaweed is a different colour.”



Science in the saloon – microscope and underwater video.



“I got to know about sea creatures”



# Science in the saloon – microscope and underwater video.





# OCEAN DISCOVERABILITY

## The Island Trust Guide to Plymouth Sound and Estuaries



Ships,



Buoys,



and lots more

Boats,



Birds ...



You can help the children who sail with us see the sea differently  
[www.theislandtrust.org.uk/donate](http://www.theislandtrust.org.uk/donate)





And off to sea!

“Weather not so great today, but it was great to see the learners in their wet weather gear and really working hard with crew showing fantastic team work. Thanks to all.”



# Extra points for foreign warships





# Marine Litter





# Trawling for plankton



“I liked learning about the sea and the creatures within it.”



And this is  
the plankton  
they found.





# Marine Wildlife

## Feathers

Cormorants (right) and shags are not the same species, but they are difficult to tell apart, being large black birds.

**15 points** for a cormorant or shag.

☐

Gannets and guillemots are easy to tell apart. Gannets (left) are very big and impressive birds. Guillemots (right) are small and comical.



**20 points** for a gannet.

☐

**20 points** for a guillemot.

☐

The Great Black-backed Gull (left) is the biggest of our gulls.

**10 points** for a gull.

☐

Terns (left) are pretty and fairly small birds, but very agile.

☐

**15 points** for a tern.

**Total points**

☐



“I enjoyed finding the pictures in the book”

## Marine Wildlife Fins & Flippers

There is a wealth of life under the water which you can only see by diving, or by poking around when the tide

is out. What you might see from a boat are *mega fauna*—which is how scientists describe big animals.



Whales, dolphins and porpoises are mammals like us, and they need to breathe air.

**50 points** for any cetacean (plus **10 points** for each extra one).



Seals are difficult to spot as you only usually see the head.  
**70 points** for a seal.

**Total points**

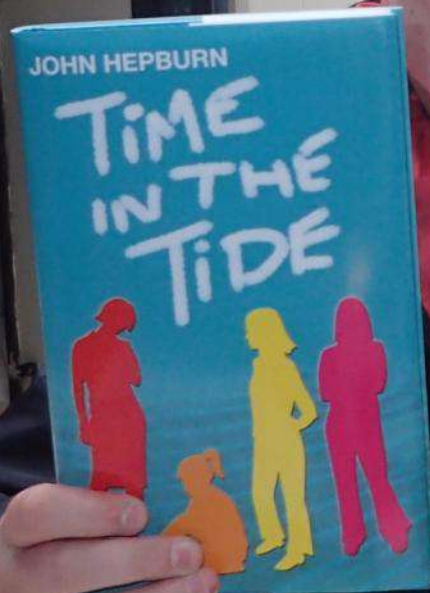
Basking sharks are our biggest fish. But they live on the smallest of sea creatures—plankton.

**90 points** for a basking shark.

(Photo: Alan Haynes, prizewinner in Brixham Yacht Club's Cruising Section photographic competition 2010.)



And points mean prizes!



"Today was very fun. I would love to come again. Thank you."



# Does it work?

How much do you think you know  
about the ocean and what lives in it?

How much do you think you know  
about what people do with the ocean?

Almost nothing	Just a bit	Enough to know how little I know			Quite a bit	Lots		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

What do you think you got out of your day?



# Does it work?

Average level of knowledge of the marine environment and maritime activities

At the beginning of the day:

4.74 and 4.5 Children; 4.67 and 5.23 Adults

At the end of the day:

6.78 and 6.67 Children; 7.2 and 7.0 Adults.



# Does it work?

"What you do grabs their attention and interest and gives them something to improve their concentration, knowledge and education in a very hands on way which they can relate to, since it is actually taking place on location then and there and is the 'real world' in action, so it is very 'hands on' and immediate - no text books involved!"

Julia Creeke (a funder)



They do it differently over there

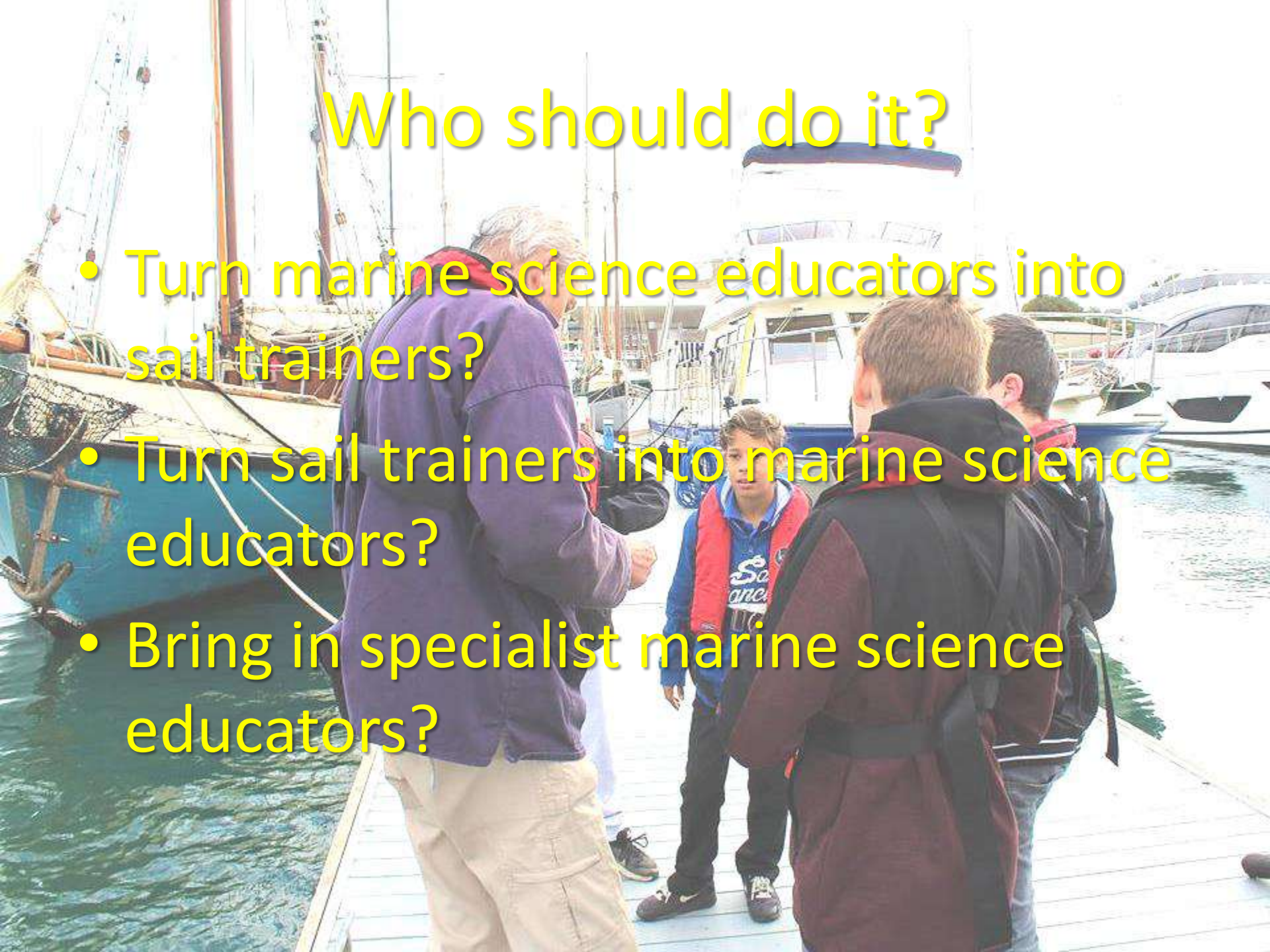


Adventuress — Photo: E T Becker



# Who should do it?

- Turn marine science educators into sail trainers?
- Turn sail trainers into marine science educators?
- Bring in specialist marine science educators?



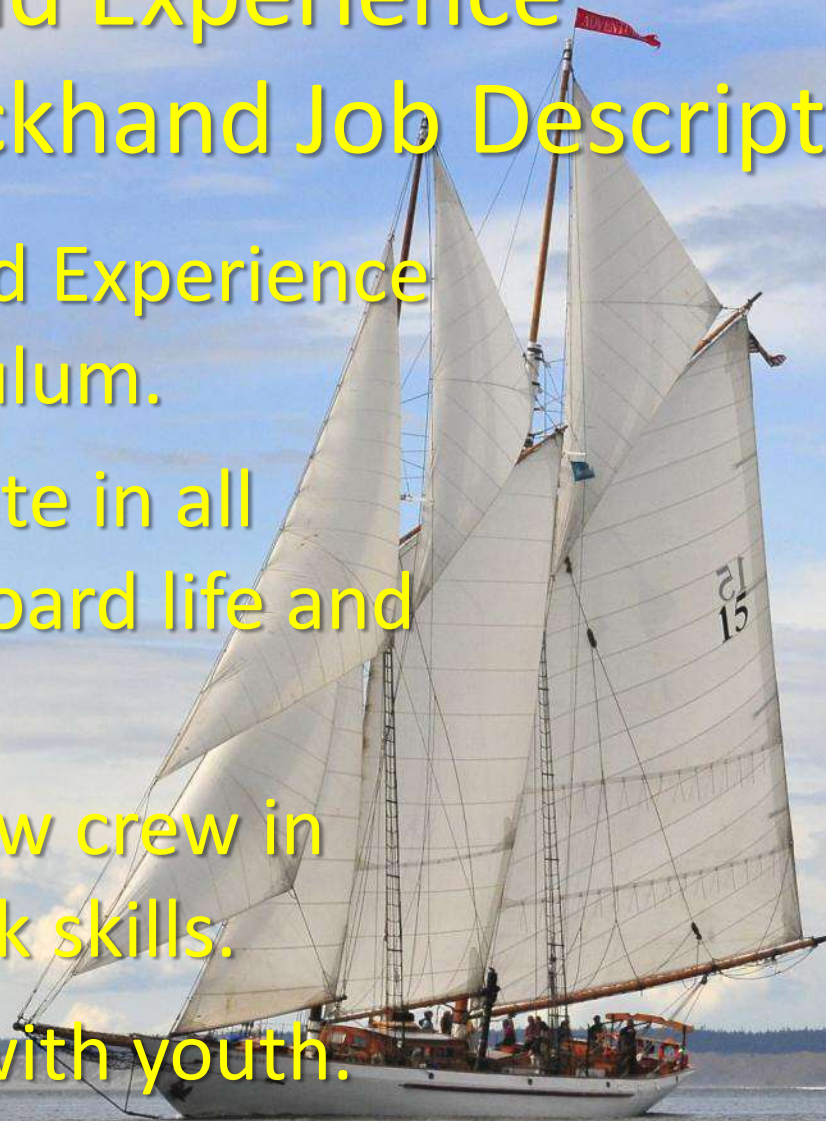


# Sound Experience

## Educator/Deckhand Job Description

- Convey the Sound Experience education curriculum.
- Actively participate in all aspects of ship board life and program.
- Assist training new crew in program and deck skills.
- Work positively with youth.

Adventuress – Photo: E T Becker

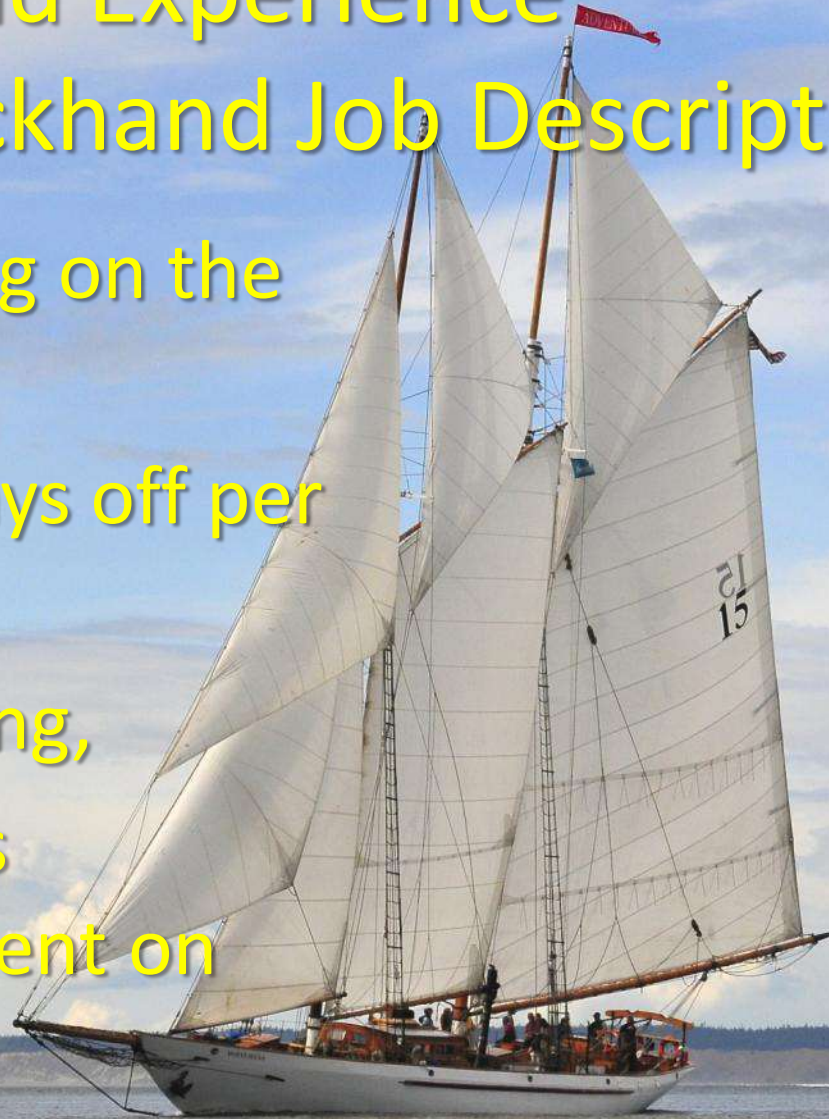




# Sound Experience

## Educator/Deckhand Job Description

- Meals and lodging on the ship
- Minimum of 6 days off per month
- On-the-job training,
- Monthly stipends available dependent on experience.





# Sound Experience Educator/Deckhand Job Description

- Background in sciences, recreation, or history.
- First degree or teaching certificate.
- Sailing experience preferred, but not required.



Adventuress – Photo: E T Becker



# The way ahead?

- Toolkit of activities?
  - Wildlife log
  - Maritime activity log





# The way ahead?

- Toolkit of activities?
  - Wildlife log
  - Maritime activity log
  - Beach cleaning







# LITTER PICK PACK

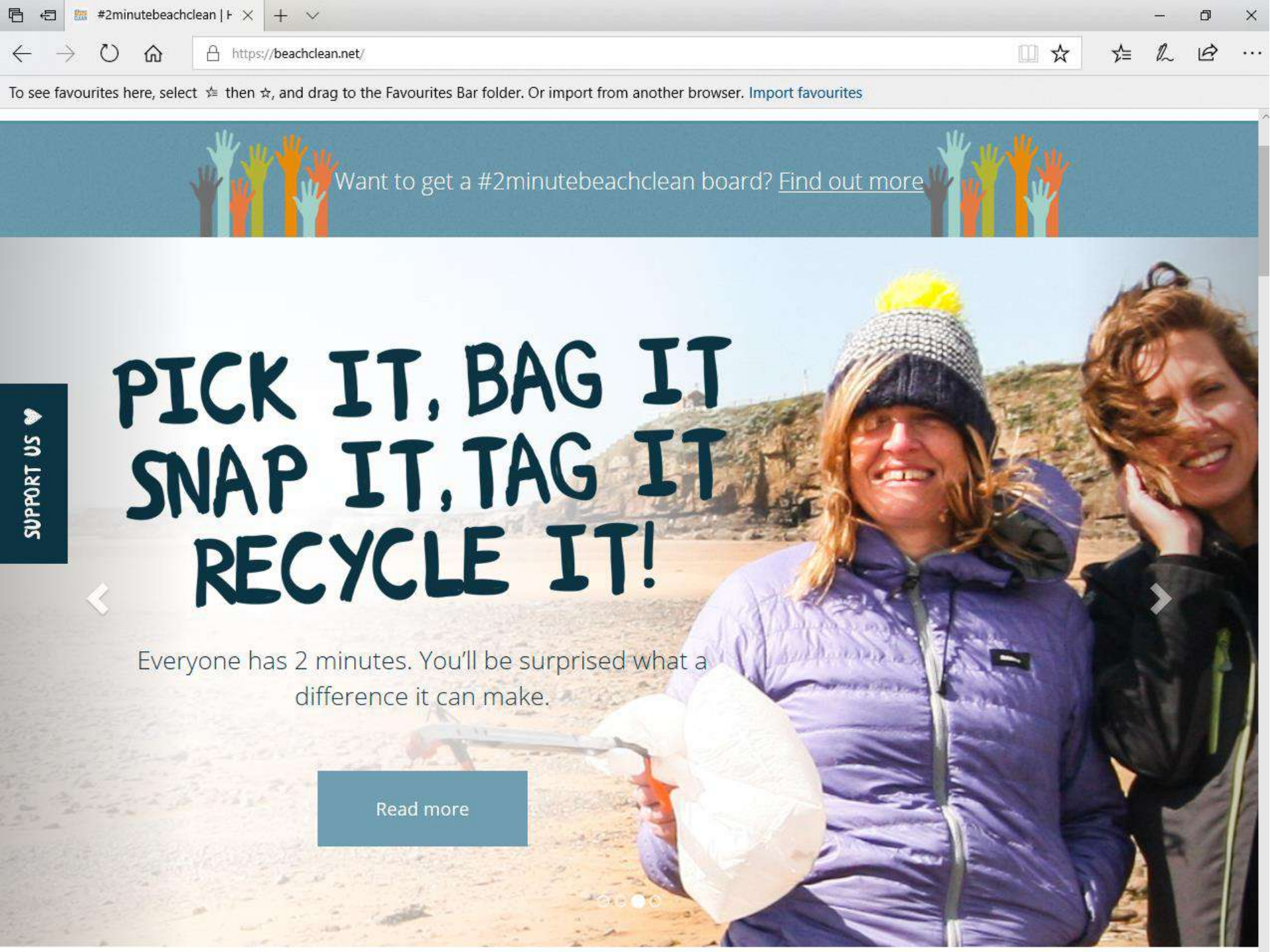
IN THIS LITTER PICK PACK YOU WILL FIND:

- ❓ WHAT CLEAN CORNWALL CAN DO TO HELP
- ❗ YOUR GUIDE TO ORGANISING A LITTER PICK
- ☰ A SAFETY CHECKLIST
- 📶 SOME USEFUL CONTACTS

**[WWW.CLEANCORNWALL.ORG](http://WWW.CLEANCORNWALL.ORG)**







Want to get a #2minutebeachclean board? [Find out more](#)

SUPPORT US ♥

# PICK IT, BAG IT SNAP IT, TAG IT RECYCLE IT!

Everyone has 2 minutes. You'll be surprised what a difference it can make.

[Read more](#)



# The way ahead?

- Toolkit of activities?
  - Wildlife log
  - Maritime activity log
  - Beach cleaning
  - Pontoon rambles



# The way ahead?

- Local assistance?





# The way ahead?

- Qualification?
  - Sail trainers & leisure boaters







Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

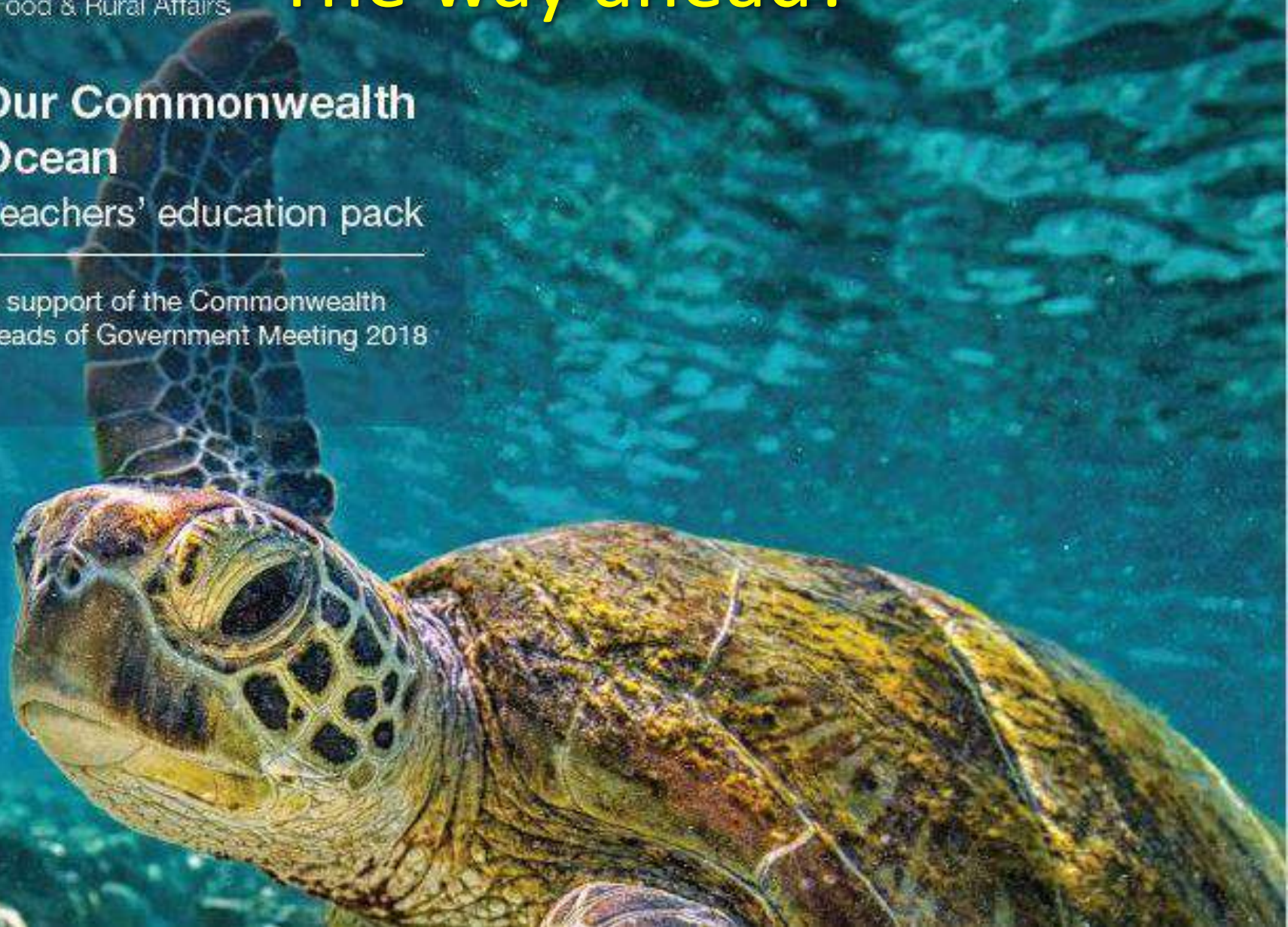
# The way ahead?

## Our Commonwealth Ocean

Teachers' education pack

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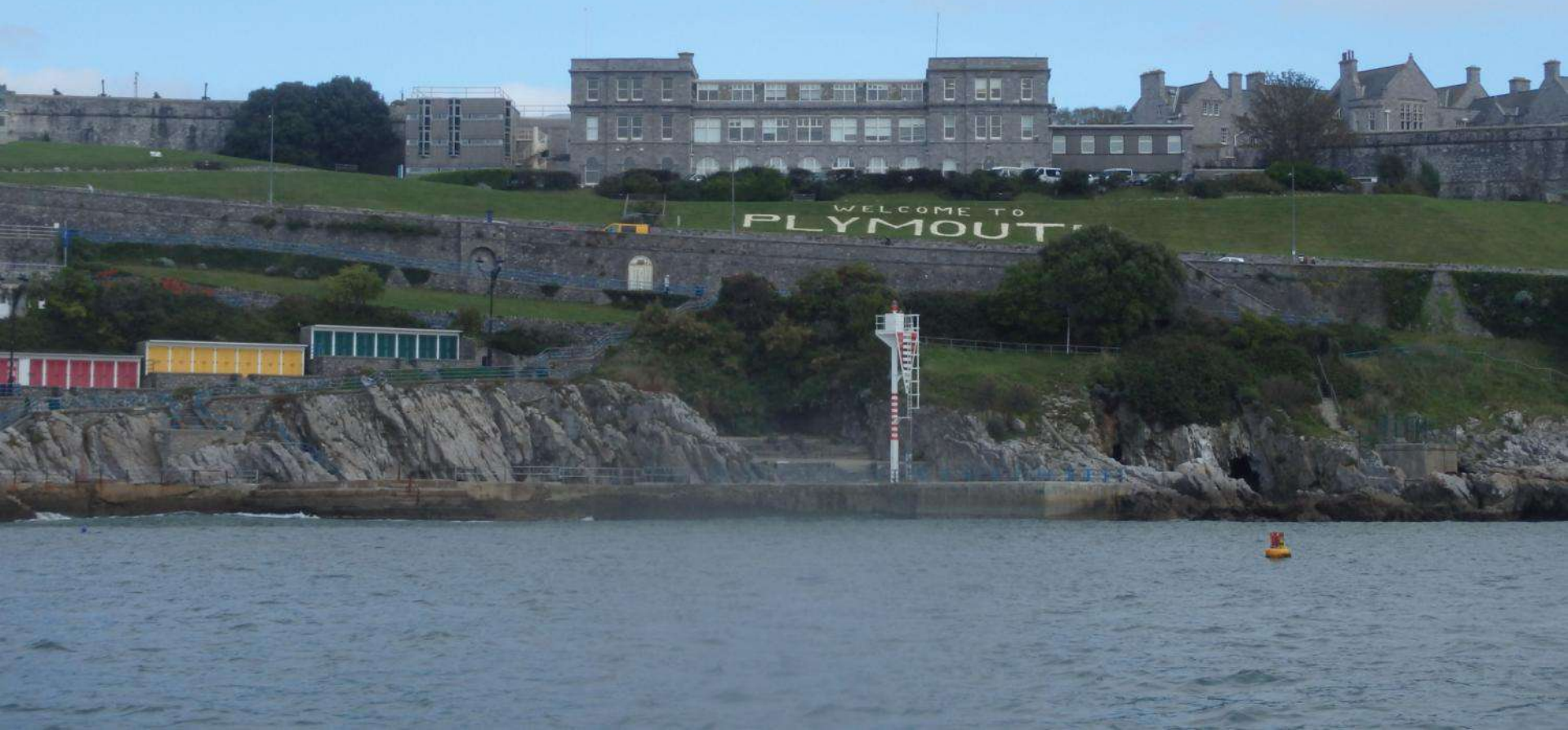
In support of the Commonwealth  
Heads of Government Meeting 2018





# The way ahead?

- Partnership?





# Thank You

## **Funders 2017**

Baily Thomas Charitable Foundation  
Bloss Family Foundation  
Dixie Rose Findlay Charitable Trust  
Eggbuckland School  
Elmgrant Trust  
Friends of Churchtown  
Norman Family Charitable Trust  
Plymouth Public Dispensary  
Scobell Charitable Trust  
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust  
Steel Charitable Trust

## **Participating Organisations 2017**

Brook Green Centre for Learning  
Doubletrees School  
Cann Bridge School  
Eggbuckland Community College  
Horizons Children's Sailing Charity  
Mount Tamar School  
Pencalenick School  
Plymstock School  
Routeways Beckly Centre

## **Support, Advice and Assistance 2017**

Marine Biological Association  
Marine Conservation Society  
Plymouth Yacht Haven  
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office





# Questions?

