

Beyond the coast 2018: JNCC's conference on the future of our offshore marine environment

Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th June 2018

The objectives of **Beyond the coast 2018** are to:

1. Enable a review of the status of the UK's offshore marine environment in 2018, providing the opportunity for multi-disciplinary discussion around topical offshore issues;
2. Capture the challenges the future health of our offshore marine environment faces and explore potential solutions;
3. Facilitate new collaborations to build our collective knowledge base for effective environmental management beyond the coast.

About the conference

2018 marks the 10-year anniversary of the first five offshore MPAs being selected for designation as part of the UK MPA network. To mark the milestone and to reflect on progress in our understanding and management of offshore waters, this is the first conference run by JNCC that specifically focuses on the UK's offshore marine environment. The conference is not adopting an arbitrary definition of the UK offshore, instead, it focuses on areas away from the coast.

The conference aims to bring together a wide-range of marine stakeholders that work or have an interest in the UK offshore. The programme will cover the broad spectrum of issues and challenges faced offshore, to include offshore management, science offshore, health of the offshore and dealing with uncertainty. Q&A panels and breakout sessions will enable debate and interaction, and the 2-day event will provide ample opportunity and facilities for participants to network.

Overarching conference themes:

These themes cut across the sessions at the conference. We will ask all presenters to consider these themes in their presentations.

- Dealing with uncertainty in the environment offshore
- Future opportunities
- Working together to achieve a common goal

Day 1

11.00	Welcome and keynote speakers
11.00	JNCC welcome and review of achievements in the UK's offshore over the past 10 years
11.10	Welcome to Hull University - Professor Susan Lea, University Vice-Chancellor
11.15	Keynote – TBC
11.35	Panel debate on partnerships between industry, governments and society in the UK offshore, and opportunities for the future.
12.00	Review of the offshore
12.00	An overview of the health of the UK's offshore environment in 2018 – JNCC
12.15	Overview of current gaps in knowledge and understanding offshore – JNCC
12.30	Q&A session
12.45	Lunch and poster session
13.45	Developments in offshore science
13.45	Progress in understanding of the UK's deep-sea environment and challenges to furthering knowledge – Kerry Howell, University of Plymouth

14.00	Current and future use of new technologies to support improvements to understanding of the offshore environment – Brian Bett, NOC
14.15	The emerging use of eDNA to support offshore science – TBC
14.30	The ongoing challenges of describing climate change monitoring in UK waters – Matt Frost, MBA
14.45	Marine plastics in UK offshore – TBC
15.00	Windfarms and seabirds – Aonghais Cook, BTO
15.15	Q&A panel
15.30	Refreshments
16.00	The future of the offshore
16.00	Developments and opportunities for ecosystem services and natural capital – Daryl Burdon, IECS
16.15	How do we value the offshore marine environment –TBC
16.30	Ecosystem modelling – TBC
16.45	Latest approaches to assessing the impacts of fisheries on the marine environment – TBC
17.00	Q&A Panel
17.15	5 x 2 minute presentations
17.30	Wine reception
19.00	Conference meal

Day 2

9.00	Offshore management
9.00	Day 2 introduction and reflections from day 1
9.15	Review of offshore management over past 10 years, covering development of MPA network, fisheries management and licensed activities, providing wider context and making links to MSFD/OSPAR. JNCC presenter
9.30	Challenges and opportunities for fisheries management in MPAs - Dale Rodmell, NFFO
9.45	Licensing of O&G lifecycle and looking ahead – BEIS
10.00	Lessons learnt from Marine Planning and what the future holds – TBC
10.15	Wider strategic thinking to reflect the complexities of marine management: UK cetaceans as a case study – Oana Racu, Marine Scotland
10.30	Q&A Panel
10.45	Refreshments
11.00	Break out session 1
12.00	Break out session 2
13.00	Lunch and poster session
13.45	Break out feedback in plenary and discussion
14.30	5 x 2 minute presentations
14.45	Final keynote speaker
15.15	Conclusion by Marcus/Christine – reflection on what has been achieved at conference and actions to take forward.
15.30	Conference close

Breakout sessions

1. How best should we design offshore science in the future?
2. What are the priorities for offshore UK conservation?
3. How can we optimise offshore marine management?