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MPA conservation advice

JNCC produced formal conservation advice packages for eight offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) designated in Tranche three of the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) project in England:

Southern North Sea Region

- Markham's Triangle

East Channel Region

- West of Wight-Barfleur

Western Channel and Celtic Sea Region

- East of Haig Fras
- North-East of Haig Fras
- South of Celtic Deep
- South West Deeps (East)

Irish Sea Region

- Queenie Corner
- South Rigg

These formal packages supersede any previous conservation advice provided.

Using Earth observation for water quality monitoring

A JNCC report on the Using Earth Observation for Water Quality Monitoring workshop was published. The workshop, funded by the Caroline Herschel Framework Partnership Agreement on Copernicus User Uptake, was a great success, bringing together 174 delegates from 20 countries. Products derived from Copernicus satellite data have many applications for monitoring water quality in freshwater, estuarine and marine environments, and the workshop identified a number of issues and recommendations, largely focussing on the need for knowledge transfer and support for data access and use. The recently published report outlines the format and content of the workshop, discusses the issues raised, recommends future work and presents statistics and qualitative feedback to illustrate the reach and impact of the event. It includes links to the workshop outputs, including videos and presentation slides. We'd like to thank the speakers and all participants for making the workshop so successful and enjoyable, particularly Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Cefas, University of Stirling and SEPA for being so generous with their time and expertise.

Celebrating women in science

We celebrated the 6th International Day of Women and Girls in Science by highlighting a number of the inspirational women scientists who work at JNCC. The international day recognises the critical role women and girls play in science and technology.

At JNCC we are proud to have a high proportion of female staff who work across all areas of our organisation, from Earth Observation to air pollution and the offshore marine environment. During the week leading up to celebrating the day on 11 February, we shared a number of our women scientists' stories including their aspirations, inspirations and achievements across our social media channels, where we regularly celebrate the many ahievements of all our staff. You can keep up-to-date by following us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

International Coral Reef Initiative

The 35th International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting took place virtually – a first for the meeting which meant changes to its usual format but also allowed attendance from many members who might not otherwise have been able to attend.

JNCC's International Implementation Team Co-Leader, Jane Hawkridge, attended on behalf of the UK alongside Defra colleagues who presented on The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review, which had just been launched and was very well received.

130 participants took part in a productive meeting which also saw a creative and innovative addition with graphic facilitator Ms Fanny Didou in attendance producing beautiful illustrations over the three days.

Bird monitoring schemes across Africa

On behalf of Defra, we commissioned the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) to undertake an initial review of bird monitoring schemes across Africa. This will allow the UK Government to undertake further analysis of the challenges facing bird monitoring in Africa, informing future work to understand how the UK Government, including JNCC, can work in partnership to overcome these challenges.

Birds are comparatively easy to monitor, so they provide a useful indicator of overall ecosystem health. It is hoped that improved bird monitoring could inform environmental management across Africa by supporting domestic development policies while also contributing to the implementation of intergovernmental agreements on the environment.

NERC policy internships at JNCC

This month we welcomed two interns under the NERC Policy Internship Scheme "which provides the opportunity for doctoral students funded by the research councils of UK Research and Innovation to work for three months in one of a selected group of highly influential policy organisations". Jack Sheehy is working on a project to consider ecosystem services of marine mammals in a policy context and Danielle Norman is exploring the possibility of using global satellite imagery data to test whether open access data can be used to effectively monitor cetacean populations in a cost effective way.