



Science Bulletin

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SSSI Guidelines



JNCC is in the process of revising the [Guidelines for Selection of Biological Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#) (SSSIs). The guidelines provide a consistent rationale for the evaluation and selection of biological SSSIs throughout Great Britain. The seven recently revised chapters include: Woodlands, Freshwater habitats and Freshwater and estuarine fish. Further chapters are subject to revision and will be published in due course.

Beyond the Coast



JNCC's *Beyond the Coast* conference was held at the University of Hull in June. The conference brought together a diverse range of organisations to present their work in the offshore marine environment and was very successful. One of the outcomes of the event will be to produce a supplementary issue of the journal *Aquatic Conservation* that will turn the conference presentations into a set of peer-reviewed papers.

China



JNCC hosted a visit from a delegation from the city of Yancheng in China that included its deputy mayor. Discussions took place around how the UK could help with coastal conservation and the city's plans for conservation and World Heritage nomination of inter-tidal wetlands around the Yellow Sea.

MPA survey



Scientists from JNCC and the National Oceanography Centre completed a three-week exploration of two Marine Protected Areas to the south west of England: Greater Haig Fras (120km west off Land's End) and The Canyons (330km off the Cornish coast). The team on board RRS James Cook trialled new marine robots including the UK's first 6,000m-rated underwater glider.

For more than 25 years JNCC has provided robust evidence and trusted advice on nature conservation to enable UK governments to achieve their policy objectives. As a public body we also work in partnership with business and society. Our people are dedicated to providing high-quality evidence and advice on the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Our vision is to be a world-leading provider of innovative solutions, placing nature at the heart of sustainable wealth and wellbeing.

Earth Observation



Scientists from JNCC recently presented at *The UK National Earth Observation Conference 2018* – hosted by the Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry Society, the National Centre for Earth Observation and the Centre for Earth Observation Instrumentation.

The conference, 'Earth Observation into the future', involved UK research bodies, government and industry, encompassing all aspects of Earth Observation: science, technology and applications. Gwawr Jones and Daniel Colson presented on JNCC's involvement in projects to:

- map resilience and impacts of natural disasters in the Caribbean British Overseas Territories,
- create a national habitat map for County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland.

Lawrence Way, joined by Gesche Schmid from the Defra Data Programme, presented on developing an infrastructure to make better use of analysis-ready data.

Marine Monitoring Platform Guidelines



JNCC has recently launched two Marine Monitoring Platform Guidelines that provide marine scientists with a broad overview of the capabilities and limitations of key sampling platforms available for marine biological monitoring applications. Each guideline reviews logistical issues, operational recommendations and general costs associated with using a particular sampling platform.

The latest guidelines, that focus on Remotely Operated Vehicles and Autonomous Underwater Vehicles for use in marine benthic monitoring, will assist those responsible for planning marine biological monitoring surveys. The [Marine Monitoring Platform Guidelines](#) form part of JNCC's commitment to providing expert advice in the field of marine biological monitoring methods and applications.

Biodiversity Indicators



JNCC oversaw the publication of the 2018 update of the [UK Biodiversity Indicators](#) in late July. The indicators, collected from more than 100 organisations, measure progress against the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) biodiversity goals and targets ('the Aichi targets') as agreed in 2010.

The UK indicators were selected following consultation and agreement between the four country administrations. The next major update is provisionally planned for 2019.

JNCC in California

JNCC's Alice Cornthwaite and Laura Robson recently gave presentations on the development of a deep sea marine reserve in UK waters at the Deep Sea Biological Society's 2018 conference in Monterey, California. The society brings together student, academic and professional deep-sea biologists and this year's event considered research, exploration, marine operations, conservation and management of the deep ocean environment.



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