



Seabird safari



It's been a busy month for JNCC's Seabirds Team. We recently held a seabird bycatch stakeholder workshop at the University of Northumbria, presenting our findings of a recent Defra assessment project. There was much positive feedback from the meeting, with good debate on how to use risk maps and bycatch data to refine our understanding.

We showcased our work at the 4th Annual Scottish Ecology, Environment and Conservation Conference at the University of Glasgow. This annual conference is for PhD, Masters and advanced undergraduate students working in biology at Scottish Universities or conducting studies in Scotland.

JNCC staff also attended the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) conference in Evora, Portugal. EBCC conferences are held every three years, bringing together people involved in bird monitoring, research and conservation across Europe and beyond.

April saw the start of surveys for the Seabirds Count census for 2019. The census was developed by the Seabird Monitoring Programme Partnership and is coordinated by JNCC <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7413>

The first JNCC Volunteer Seabirds at Sea survey with CalMac ferries also took place with three teams covering Kennacraig - Islay, Oban - Barra and Ullapool - Stornoway.

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.

MoU signing



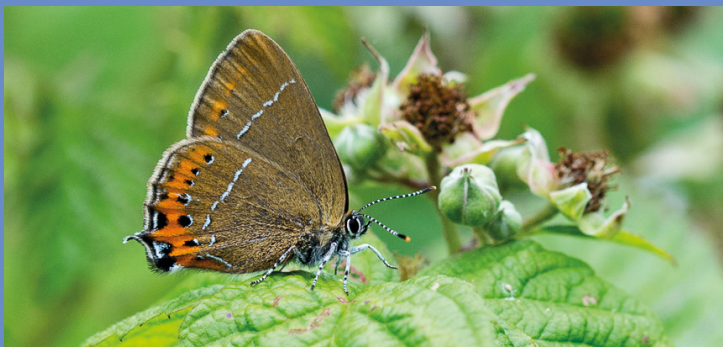
JNCC and South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, building on and reinforcing our working relationship, and establishing a framework for the delivery of future work. Pictured (left to right) are SAERI's Executive Director, Dr Paul Brickle and Deputy Director, Tara Pelembe, with JNCC's Developing Markets and Partnerships Lead, Sarah Harrison, and Chief Scientist and Deputy Chief Executive, Professor Christine Maggs.

Marine pollution response video



JNCC is proud to be part of the UK Government's marine pollution incident response team. Recently, the Cabinet Office for the Secretary of State for Scotland invited us to be part of a video campaign explaining the UK's response to marine pollution incidents. The video, which shows how agencies work together to coordinate an appropriate and timely response, can be viewed on the UK Government Scotland social media accounts.

Butterflies bounce back



UK butterflies bounced back in 2018 following a string of poor years, thanks in part to last year's heatwave summer. The annual UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme study, led by Butterfly Conservation, the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, British Trust for Ornithology and JNCC, has revealed more than two thirds of UK butterfly species were seen in higher numbers than in 2017, with two of the UK's rarest species, the Large Blue and Black Hairstreak, recording their best years since records began.

But despite the upturn, 2018 was still only an average year for the UK's butterflies. Around two thirds of species (36 of 57) show an apparent decline since records began 43 years ago with 21 of these showing significant long-term declines.

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7739>

PhD Internships at JNCC



We are delighted to welcome our latest PhD intern to JNCC. Charlotte Weaver has joined us as a NERC Policy Intern. She is in her fourth year of the Bioenergy Centre for Doctoral Training program at the University of Leeds. Her PhD is focussing on the global effects of land use change from bioenergy expansion.

Charlotte's main interest is looking at how global future scenarios of land use and climate can affect biodiversity. She believes it is important for global scenario scientists to fully consider current risks to certain regions before creating large-scale future predictions which can in turn affect policies. During her time with us Charlotte is working on applying Earth Observation analysis for habitat condition monitoring in the Caribbean Overseas Territories.

EMODnet update



JNCC's current tenure as lead of the EMODnet Seabed Habitats initiative, which provides a portal for access to seabed habitat data for all of Europe's seas, is coming to a close. The occasion was marked with a meeting between all partners in Rome at the Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research to finalise the deliverables, make plans for the future and present progress. JNCC was responsible for updating the EMODnet broad-scale seabed habitat map (EUSeaMap) for the Greater North and Celtic Seas, Barents Sea and the seas around Iceland and Norway which will be available on the EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal from May. In addition, we carried out a major redesign of the portal. This new-look intuitive portal is easy to use and hosts all available data and maps on seabed habitats in Europe. www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu

2018 Breeding Bird Survey

The latest results from the 2018 Breeding Bird Survey report suggests that last year's Beast from the East and Saharan winds may have had a big impact on both resident and migrant birds. The hard work of nearly 3,000 volunteers, covering more than 4,000 sites in the UK, saw the recording of 234 bird species in last year's survey, a partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and JNCC.

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7740>



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