



Marine
Biological
Association

annual report

2022-2023

page 8

MEMBERSHIP

page 10

LEARN WITH US

page 16

FACILITIES

page 18

RESEARCH

contents

04	OVERVIEW
06	WELCOME
07	ABOUT US
08	MEMBERSHIP
10	LEARN WITH US
12	PUBLICATIONS
13	POLICY & APPLIED SCIENCE
14	DATA & INFORMATION
15	NATIONAL MARINE BIOLOGICAL LIBRARY
16	FACILITIES
18	RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS
20	MARINE MICROBIOME
22	COASTAL ECOLOGY
24	OCEAN BIOLOGY
26	DONATIONS
27	FINANCE
27	LOOKING AHEAD



overview

INSPIRING, ENGAGING & VISIONARY

30
FIELDTRIPS



10
AWARDS



114,279
CPR NAUTICAL MILES



OVER
21K
TWITTER
FOLLOWERS



2 BRAND NEW
LABORATORY
DEVELOPMENTS

89 RESEARCH EVENTS
ATTENDED & HOSTED

20 NEWS UPDATES
COVERING MBA
ACTIVITIES



1,069 MENTIONS BY
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA



101
PAPERS
PUBLISHED



MEDIA REACH OF
2.5 billion
READERS

9% SOCIAL MEDIA
GROWTH ACROSS
ALL PLATFORMS



17 COUNTRIES
VISITED



49 MEMBERSHIP
TERRITORIES



£2.8m
IN DONATIONS



GRANT
SUCCESS RATE
BY NUMBER **62%**

TOTAL
INCOME **£9m**

49 membership territories:



EUROPE

Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom



ASIA

China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates



NORTH AMERICA

Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, United States

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina, Chile, Falkland Islands



AFRICA

Egypt, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa



OCEANIA

Australia, New Zealand

welcome



Welcome to the MBA's Annual Report, highlighting the myriad of successes achieved across the organisation this year. As always, I am astonished by the ambition and enthusiasm with which staff, students and volunteers carry out their work.

Throughout the reading of this report, you will see just how busy the MBA has been. HRH The Princess Royal opened the National Centre for Coastal Autonomy, of which the MBA is a governing body; the Membership team launched MyMBA, a portal exclusively for Members with numerous benefits; we held our first hybrid Postgraduate Conference; awards were won across disciplines, from student presentations and posters, to honouring Fellows' contributions to science; and our research received widespread media coverage, including by BBC News, CBS America, and The Independent.

This year also saw the opening of the new Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence (MMCE). This visionary new research centre will be the first of its kind in the UK, facilitating discovery and inspiration from the sea to the laboratory. Comprising new world-class laboratories to support strategic research in the Marine Microbiome and Coastal Ecology departments, the MMCE is at the forefront of science, exploring biodiversity in our ocean and its response to climate change. We are extremely grateful for the generous support from [The Wolfson Foundation](#), [Garfield Weston Foundation](#) and [UKRI-NERC](#).

We welcomed new Trustees Angelique Pouponneau, Dr Mark Dickey-Collas and Professor Carol Robinson to the MBA Council. They bring considerable expertise to the MBA, from international treaty negotiations to protect marine

biodiversity (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction – BBNJ); advising on ocean sustainability; and marine biogeochemistry respectively. I look forward to working closely with them, to provide new voices for research and advocacy in marine biology through the MBA.

I thank everyone at the MBA for the contributions and achievements detailed in this report, it is testament to their continued dedication, tenacity and hard work throughout the year. I hope you enjoy reading the report as much as I have.



Dr Gill Rider CB,
President

about us



Since 1884, the Marine Biological Association has conducted globally significant research into our ocean and the life it supports. As one of the world's longest running Learned Societies, we are dedicated to promoting our research to drive change.

Our Royal Charter, granted in 2013, is evidence of our commitment to maintaining professional standards and establishing our status as the representative body for the discipline of marine biology.

OUR VALUES

We value **integrity** and provide expert academic knowledge and evidence that is credible, honest and true.

From access to our world-leading facilities to sharing our expertise, we want to **inspire** everyone by giving them the power to learn about marine biology.

We are **visionary** and look to the future, using our discoveries to support and invest in the global marine biological community.

OUR MISSION

Focused on marine biology, our mission is to understand and disseminate the causes and consequences of environmental change in the ocean through research and discovery.

OUR VISION

To be *the* voice of marine biology.

AN OCEAN OF KNOWLEDGE

From the seashore to the seafloor, our vital research has helped us better understand the intricate, interconnected, inspiring marine environment for 139 years.

With our global community of Members, we continually work to fulfil our responsibility to future generations and become the voice of our ocean.

We hope you will join us on our journey.

membership

A WORLDWIDE COMMUNITY INSPIRING GENERATIONS

From Young Marine Biologists to Fellows, our Membership packages include access to the [National Marine Biological Library](#), free subscription to [The Marine Biologist](#) our quarterly magazine, discounts for publishing opportunities in the [Journal of the Marine Biological Association](#) as well as opportunities to influence policy.

Membership Portal

In 2022, MyMBA was launched, a new online space for Members to access exclusive content. This is just the beginning of our commitment to grow and support marine biologists, students and enthusiasts.

mba.ac.uk/our-membership/

membership@mba.ac.uk

visit portal

49

With 1,433 Members across 49 territories, our Membership offer is continually growing.

NEW TRUSTEES



Angelique Pouponneau

Angelique Pouponneau, lawyer and climate advisor, was awarded the Young Leaders Medal by Queen Elizabeth II and named one of Africa's most influential people in 2021. She joined Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction as a legal advisor in 2018.

I'm excited to connect science to policy, as well as society to ensure there is ocean science for sustainable development.



Dr Mark Dickey-Collas

Dr Mark Dickey-Collas is Chair of the ICES Advisory Committee and has 25 years' experience in fisheries and marine science both abroad and in the UK.

I hope to work with early careers scientists to ensure the MBA is open to the huge innovative, creative diversity that marine biologists across the world have to offer.



Professor Carol Robinson

Carol Robinson is Professor of Marine Science at the University of East Anglia. Her roles have included Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO Integrated Ocean Carbon Research initiative, and Co-Chair of a UN Decade for Ocean Sustainability programme on Ocean Negative Carbon Emission approaches.

I look forward to working with the committee to provide advice on MBA science strategy and funding opportunities.

learn with us

From ocean enthusiasts to working marine scientists, we engage, inspire and increase skills with a range of bespoke courses led by internationally-renowned experts.

✉ events@mba.ac.uk

302

Postgraduate conference attendees

379

Young Marine Biologist event attendees

21

Virtual events

11

Professional courses



In partnership with Save Our Seas Foundation, 2022's theme was "Hidden Ocean". Speakers shared their latest work showcasing microscopic marine life-forms and the processes that underpin all life on our planet. We welcomed over 300 delegates from across the globe.

YMB Summit attendees from **39** COUNTRIES

“ I’m really happy to join the Young Marine Biologist Summit. I learnt so much and it’s even interesting as I was able to understand explanations by the speakers. Looking forward to join next summits in the future.
Gayathri, Malaysia

“ The event opened my eyes to new ways to think about the importance of our oceans. I made lots of notes and enjoyed using them to tell my family what I’d been learning.
Alice, UK

EARLY CAREERS SUPPORT

This year, 44 students joined our Marine Biology MRes course, in partnership with University of Plymouth, benefitting from MBA expertise and facilities.



The 18th Postgraduate Conference, hosted by Liverpool John Moores University, was the first to be run as a hybrid event and was attended by 302 people.



The standard of academic talks and posters was higher than some of the international conferences I have attended in the past – an amazing sign of what is to come for the future academic world of marine biology

Christopher Brodie, Committee Chair, Postgraduate Conference

PROFESSIONAL COURSES

Using cutting-edge science and our world-class facilities, we delivered a range of professional courses. Taught courses included an Introduction to Rocky Shore Species Identification and Introduction to Plankton. We also supported and facilitated events for organisations such as Natural England and the University of Liverpool.

[view courses](#)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENCE TALK

Given by a prestigious marine expert, the annual science talk is open to all Members and follows our annual general meeting. In 2022, Christian Sardet, Directeur Recherche Émérite at the Marine Station of Villefranche-sur-Mer, presented "Viruses to plankton – a perspective from art and science".



Postgraduate Conference attendees from

19 COUNTRIES

publications

Bringing you the latest in marine science, it's been a year of change for the Marine Biological Association's publications.

✉ editor@mba.ac.uk

INSPIRING CONTENT

From early-career to professionals, our contributors share their expertise to produce The Marine Biologist, the magazine of the marine biological community.

A great variety of articles, interesting and eminently readable!

Professor Nicholas J P Owens, Director, Scottish Association for Marine Science



Number of Articles by Theme:

Marine Research
14

Careers, society and sustainability
12

Ocean protection and policy
11

Personal perspectives
10

REFRESHING OUR IMAGE

The Marine Biologist has a fresh and professional new look, our magazine continues to bring you the latest in marine science and more from top names in the field.



GLOBAL READERSHIP

The Marine Biologist is a global publication with almost **15,000 readers** in **49 territories**.

JOURNAL OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Journal of the Marine Biological Association is now a continuous publication, expanding its scope for new research from diverse fields.

178,150 downloads

DIVE DEEPER

Hear from world-leading experts on **The Marine Biologist Podcast**.



- The fall of the great ocean farmers: blue and fin whales in the southern ocean**
- Meet the gene genies! The Darwin Tree of Life project**
- Time to talk about Marine Protected Areas**
- Slow-motion speed dating and other shark matters with Professor David Sims**

policy & applied science

✉ info@mba.ac.uk

Since our inception in 1884, we have been providing scientific advice to UK, European and international policy makers on behalf of the global marine biological community.

Our Members have a wealth of experience and our researchers provide extraordinary contributions to marine science, policy and applied science. We engage with key committees and organisations to inform a breadth of management and conservation issues.

09
Events

08
Papers

04
Policy projects

PUBLISHING GUIDANCE

At the MBA, we are committed to providing evidence-informed policy. **Here are just some of the papers and guidance we published this year:**

Supporting academic freedom as a human right: challenges and solutions in academic publishing
The International Journal of Human Rights

[read article](#)

Defining Irreplaceable Marine Habitats
Natural England

[read article](#)

What are the benefits of assisted versus natural recovery?
Natural England

[read article](#)

INFORMING POLICY

We continue to develop our presence in marine policy, working closely with organisations across the globe to meet the challenges of oceanic sustainability.

UN Ocean meeting | World Association of Marine Stations | Marine Research Plymouth Executive Board | Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership and CEFAS Blue Belt Overseas Territory Meeting | DEFRA Marine Environment Stakeholder Meeting

POLICY PROJECTS

Each year, the Applied Science team deliver numerous policy projects for groups, from industry right up to nature conservation bodies and government agencies.

The Marine Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment | Natural England Citizen Science | Joint Nature Conservation Committee and MarLIN (Marine Life Information Network) Service Matrix Tool | Biodiversity Net Gain Policy Development

data & information

✉ dassh.enquiries@mba.ac.uk

Pioneering the gathering and management of environmental data and information, Data and Information at the MBA is reaching new heights, from participating in global knowledge exchanges to continuing its support of national, international and global policy.

MANAGING DATA

Building on the MBA's role of promoting marine science, DASSH, the National Marine Biodiversity Data Archive Centre, provides guidance on the long-term preservation of marine habitats and their species.

The DASSH team published 9 new data sets over the year, including the first ever recording of the sea slug *Berghia coerulea* in the British Isles.

SUPPORTING MARINE CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT

The Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN) provides data on marine biodiversity, sensitivity and conservation to support the management of life in our ocean. Over the course of the year, 148,568 people have accessed the datasets hosted by MarLIN.

Not only do we gather and record information on marine biodiversity, we also produce our own. This year, we published 12 papers from management guidelines to species sensitivity reviews.

CREATING CONNECTIONS

The MBA joined MARCO-BOLO, an EU project launched to improve the recording protection of marine biodiversity. Bringing together existing initiatives, MARCO-BOLO will transform the acquisition and coordination of marine, coastal and freshwater observations.

The project builds on, and will benefit from, the world-leading expertise based at the MBA, developing molecular observatories, standards-driven data management and science communication.

Dan Lear, Head of Data, Information and Technology



15 Events

12 Papers Published

510,752 MarLIN Page Views

19,597 DASSH Downloads

national marine biological library

✉ nmbi@mba.ac.uk

Housed at the MBA, the National Marine Biological Library provides Members and visitors with a peaceful environment to explore over 15,000 books on marine natural history, climate change and ocean exploration.



CONTINUALLY GROWING

The National Marine Biological Library is one of the largest marine reference libraries in the world. This year, we added 117 new journals, books and magazine to our collection.



PRESERVING HISTORY

Dating from 1714, our collection of over 2,000 rare books features first editions and signed copies of historically significant texts, among them expedition reports of the HMS Beagle and HMS Challenger. Valued by historians and visiting researchers, a dedicated team of trained volunteers have been working to preserve this important collection as part of our rare books conservation project.



OPEN ACCESS TO PLYMOUTH'S MARINE RESEARCH

PlyMSEA is an online open access repository for research output from Plymouth's scientific institutions. It includes peer-reviewed journal articles, published reports and papers. This year, 132 additions were uploaded to PlyMSEA, with downloads of Plymouth's outstanding output reaching 45,000.



facilities

✉ facilities@mba.ac.uk

Situated above Plymouth Sound National Marine Park, the MBA's base at Citadel Hill boasts world-class facilities and access to a multitude of marine habitats.

RESEARCH FACILITIES

Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence

In spring 2023, the Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence opened to our researchers, with advanced equipment and spacious work stations to help us explore the vast microscopic world of our ocean.

Ecology Laboratory

As part of the Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence, this year saw the redevelopment of our Ecology Labs, with offices and laboratories combined to create a flexible wet lab. The spaces provide facilities for our scientists researching benthic ecosystems and environmental change, biodiversity and climate change, non-native species, and the Darwin Tree of Life project.

Research Vessel MBA Sepia

Spending 67 days at sea, the RV MBA Sepia supported 12 groups in their research, as well as conducting 56 surveys of Plymouth Sound's marine life.

Cunliffe Research Group Surveys | Smale Research Group Surveys | iCPR | Long Term Bigbury Bay, Whitsand Bay and L4 Monitoring | Long Term Monitoring and Sampling of Young Fish Trawl | Darwin Tree of Life Project | University of Plymouth | MRes Marine Biology | University of Liverpool Marine Biology Field Week | FSC Marine Science Summer Camp | Amphioxus Eddystone Survey | BBC Filming

SUSTAINABILITY

Dedication to our ocean means dedication to our planet and its people. At our Citadel Hill headquarters in Plymouth, we've made positive changes to support a more sustainable future.

Sustainable Bike Shed

At the MBA, we believe it's our responsibility to support our community and fulfil our duty to future generations. We've installed our sustainable bike shed, complete with green roof, insect houses, and more space for cycling to work.

Going Green

The conservation verge bloomed with ivy broomrape and Plymouth campion, attracting pollinators including the dark honey bees from our very own [Pollenize](#) rooftop apiary.

The MBA Sustainability Group launched Go Green Grub, dedicated to providing organic vegan meals made with locally sourced ingredients.



QUIET ROOM & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

This year, we took steps to improve mental health support at our Plymouth headquarters, including the training of eight mental health first aiders and the introduction of the Quiet Room, a safe space to relax.

research highlights

✉ wilwil@mba.ac.uk

10

Awards

81

Papers Published

37

Events across 17 countries

10

Press Releases

578

Species recorded in one day at the Mountbatten BioBlitz



From the seashore to the seafloor, from the microbiome to the megafauna; and from Plymouth Sound to the Pacific, researchers at the Marine Biological Association are on a voyage to discover more about our ocean and all aspects of marine life.

Professor Willie Wilson, Chief Executive

37 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

WORLDWIDE REPRESENTATION

Our scientists have been taking their research to every corner of our blue planet at 37 international events.

INSPIRATION & IMPACT

Our research has reached new heights. Recognised globally for their work, here are just some of the ways our research community have been awarded this year.



Dr Keith Hiscock awarded MBE



Dr Katherine Helliwell awarded Society of Experimental Biology President's Medal



8 Student Awards

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Altmetric scores are assigned to papers with an automatically calculated impact score based on citations and the integrity of those sharing our research, helping academic institutions to benchmark the influence of research against contemporaries.

The papers published across our research generated an average score of 77 per paper, 57 points higher than what Altmetric describes as excelling above similar institutions' output.



6,269

Altmetric total score across research departments

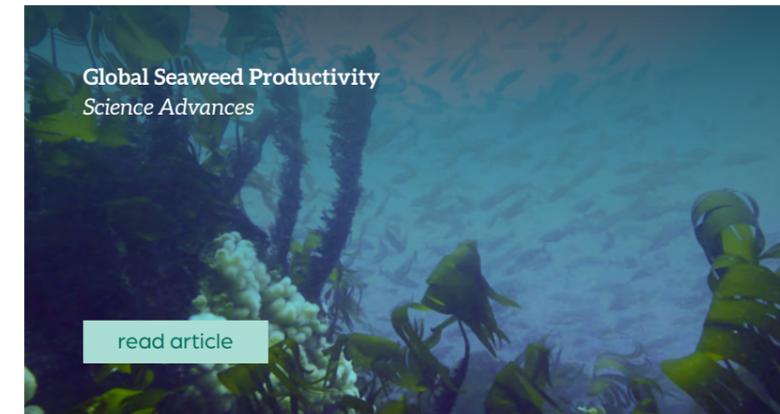
77 Per Paper Average

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS



Multiomics in the central Arctic Ocean for benchmarking biodiversity change
PLOS Biology

[read article](#)



Global Seaweed Productivity
Science Advances

[read article](#)



Diving into the vertical dimension of elasmobranch movement ecology
Science Advances

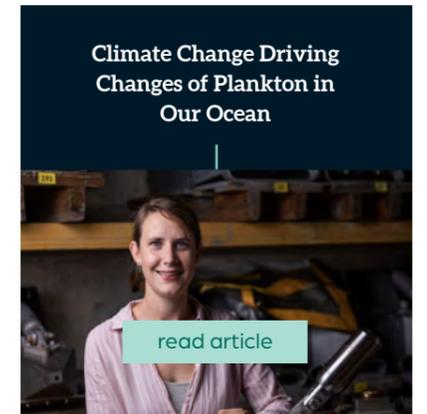
[read article](#)

NEWS



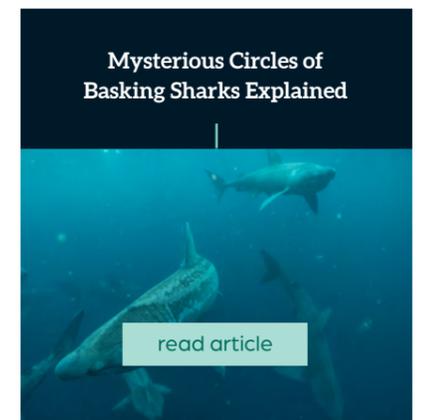
Ocean Forests Vitaly Important as the Rainforest

[read article](#)



Climate Change Driving Changes of Plankton in Our Ocean

[read article](#)



Mysterious Circles of Basking Sharks Explained

[read article](#)

marine microbiome

08

Events

22

Papers Published

491

Altmetric Score

OUR TOP PAPERS

Priorities for ocean microbiome research.
Nature Microbiology



[read article](#)

Molecular and cellular architecture of the larval sensory organ in the cnidarian *Nematostella vectensis*.
Development



[read article](#)

Cold-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevations function to support osmoregulation in marine diatoms.
Plant Physiology



[read article](#)

RESEARCH IMPACT

Bringing the smallest life to the largest stage, our research has had wide impact with an average Altmetric score of 22 per paper, higher than Altmetric's prediction for similar contemporaries.



Microbial life has dominated our ocean for billions of years. This vast and valuable microscopic world underpins food webs and sustains biogeochemical cycles, but is affected by human activity and global change. Exploring the ecology and biology of this minute world, the Marine Microbiome department's impact is growing.

EVENTS

Members of the Marine Microbiome department were involved with numerous conferences, talks and placements in the UK and abroad, including:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Evolutionary and Developmental Biology Conference | RoSES and ORCHESTRA Summer Annual Meeting | Better Dairy | Plant Calcium Signalling Conference | International Symposium of Microbial Ecology | Molecular Ecology Group Conference

AWARDING ACHIEVEMENTS

From students to Fellows, our Marine Microbiologists are recognised for their considerable contributions to science.

Dr Katherine Helliwell, NERC Independent Research Fellow and joint Research Fellow at the MBA was awarded the President's Medal by the Society of Experimental Biology. Awarded to scientists of "outstanding merit", Katherine was recognised for her work in cell biology, particularly in understanding algal nutrient sensing and signalling pathways.

I'm absolutely delighted to have received this award! The Society of Experimental Biology brings together a broad community of plant, animal and cell biologists. I feel very honoured for my research to have been recognised in this way.

Yasmin Meeda and Laura Branscombe were awarded for their presentations on diatom biology at the Molecular Ecology Group Conference.

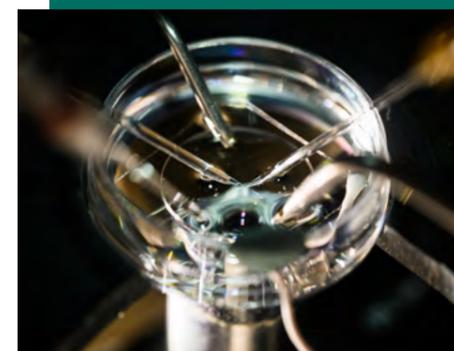
Best abstract at the Plant Calcium Signalling Conference was awarded to Ellie Murphy.

Emily Cooper won the Trustee Award for Best Talk at PlyMSEF23, bringing the winning cup back to the MBA for the 8th time in 10 years.

THE MARINE MICROBIOME CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Completed this year, the Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence boasts progressive facilities that allow our researchers to explore the cellular processes that underpin the biology of all marine life.

The research centre will focus on the vast and varied microscopic world of our ocean, and help us understand its health and the impacts of climate change using world-class technology.



coastal ecology

Coastal marine ecosystems are highly diverse, productive and provide natural resources to billions of people worldwide. At the MBA, our Coastal Ecology department aims to better understand the causes and pathways of change in these vital coastal ecosystems through research and engagement.

10

Events

33

Papers Published

2,163

Altmetric Score

363

Species processed by the Darwin Tree of Life team



OUR TOP PAPERS

Global estimates of the extent and production of macroalgal forests. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*

[read article](#)

Shoreline sentinels of global change show the consequences of extreme events. *Global Change Biology*

[read article](#)

The genome sequence of an encrusting bryozoan, *Cryptosula pallasiana*. *Wellcome Open Research*

[read article](#)

RESEARCH IMPACT

Papers published by the Coastal Ecology department generated 3 times more attention than Altmetric's average for other institutions, with an average of 66 per paper.

Now in its second phase, the [Darwin Tree of Life Project \(DToL\)](#) aims to sequence the genome of every eukaryote in Britain. The DToL team based at the MBA were busy this year talking to the press about the ground-breaking project, including the BBC News at 10, The Times, Times Radio with John Pienaar, CBS America and MSN's Good News Round Up of the Year.

EVENTS

Presenting projects to audiences of all ages and celebrating innovation, members of the Coastal Ecology department have visited locations across the UK and beyond to bring their research to the world stage.

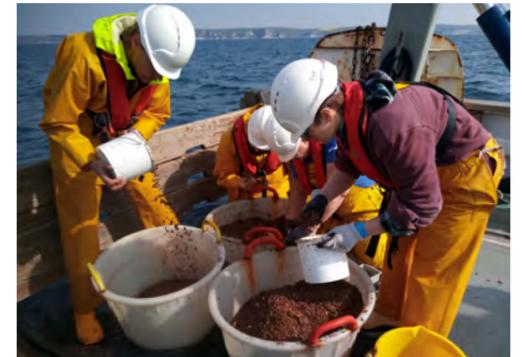
[Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition](#) | [Lundy Marine Festival](#) | [Global Ecosystem Services Assessment for Kelp Forests](#) | [International Temperate Reefs Symposium](#) | [British Phycological Society Conference](#) | [150th Anniversary of the Station Biologique](#) | [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship Conference](#) | [Global Ecosystem Services Assessment for Kelp Forests](#) | [International Temperate Reefs Symposium](#) | [British Phycological Society Conference](#) | [150th Anniversary of the Station Biologique](#) | [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship Conference](#)



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Whether by colleagues or Royalty, members of the Coastal Ecology department have been recognised for their work.

In the King's first New Year Honours List, Associate Fellow Dr Keith Hiscock received an MBE for over fifty years of dedicated service to marine conservation.



I am delighted and feel that the award wraps up the last 53 years of my life but certainly doesn't end my contributions to marine conservation. I will continue to contribute to MBA marine ecology and conservation initiatives as well as being grateful for the support MBA gives to me.

Co-organised by MBA postgraduate researchers, the [PlyMSEF23 Conference](#) is aimed at early careers scientists. Maxine Canvin won the People's Choice Poster for *Can farmed seaweed capture enough carbon to mitigate global warming?*

ocean biology

From tracking the movement of ocean predators to monitoring plankton, the Ocean Biology department focuses on the impacts of climate change and human threats on our ocean, and how we might understand and protect it for years to come.

OUR TOP PAPERS

Global collision-risk hotspots of marine traffic and the world's largest fish, the whale shark
PNAS



[read article](#)

Monitoring and modelling marine zooplankton in a changing climate
Nature Communications



[read article](#)

Circles in the sea: annual courtship "torus" behaviour of basking sharks *Cetorhinus maximus* identified in the eastern North Atlantic Ocean
Journal of Fish Biology



[read article](#)

RESEARCH IMPACT

This year the Ocean Biology research group had an average Altmetric score of 139 per paper. **That's almost 7 times Altmetric's expected score for popular research papers.**

19 Events

26 Papers Published

3,615 Altmetric Score

114,279 Nautical miles towed by CPR

EVENTS

From local festivals to international symposiums, scientists from the Ocean Biology department and the Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) Survey have been busy sharing their research across the globe, including:

UN Ocean Conference | Purbeck Planet Festival | University of the Azores | University of Virginia | IUCN African Protected Areas Congress Symposium | Mission Atlantic General Assembly | PICES Annual Meeting | Alaska Marine Science Symposium

RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENTS

At every stage of their career, our biologists are being recognised for their research, from early careers to dedicated veterans.

MBA INSPIRE PhD researcher Freya Womersley, won the University of Southampton Ocean and Earth Science Research Award and the Best in Faculty Award for her PNAS front-cover paper on whale sharks and marine traffic.

Research Technician Freja Azzopardi, won The Tyler Prize from the University of Southampton for her Master's work on blue and shortfin mako shark movement in the North Atlantic, and their overlap with longline fishing.

David Johns, Director of Research Facilities, and Marianne Wootton, Senior Plankton Analyst, celebrated 25 and 20 years respectively with the CPR Survey.



WORLD-LEADING FACILITIES

This year, the MBA received £400,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation for a new development project at the MBA. The grant will allow for state-of-the-art facilities and new labs for the Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey, reinforcing our position as leaders in marine research.



With the new funding we can build on our existing record-breaking plankton work, improving facilities and collaborative spaces, and create a dedicated taxonomy workspace. Combined with recent advances in augmented sampling, I'm really excited about the future research possibilities this will give us.

David Johns, Director of Research Facilities

donations

✉ info@mba.ac.uk

DONATIONS & LEGACIES

Total Received: £2,754,702

£1,350,000

The Wolfson Foundation: for Phase one, Marine Microbiome Centre of Excellence

£1,000,000

Legacy gift from Professor Brian Morton: for international travel and research bursaries for early career researchers

£400,000

Garfield Weston Foundation: completion of Phase one and new CPR Labs

£3,202

Other

£1,500

Douglas Ward: donation towards travel bursaries

SUPPORTING SCIENCE

Total number of bursaries awarded: 7

The Ray Lankester Fellowship was awarded to Professor José Souto Rosa Filho, Head of Oceanography at Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Brazil.

“ I look forward to establishing scientific cooperation agreements between UFPE and the MBA, with exchanges of academic staff and students between institutions. These types of collaboration are valuable for marine science on many levels, not least in attracting international funding for the development of future research.



MAKE A DONATION

There are many ways to support the work of the MBA, including by donation. Whatever you choose, your donation makes a difference.

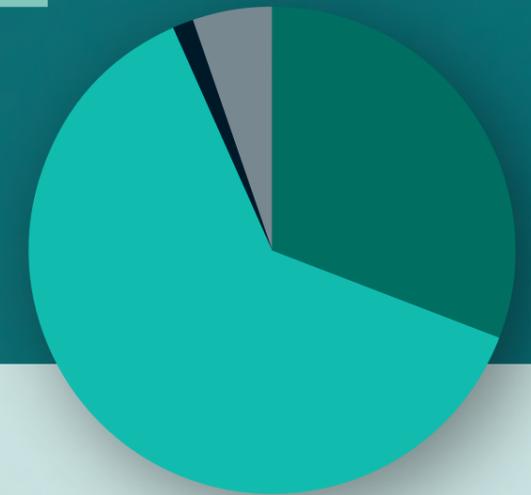
[support us](#)

finance

**total income
£8,931,883**

Operating as a non-profit making organisation, the MBA's income for the financial year 2022/23 was £8,931,883.

The MBA would like to acknowledge all of the funders, donors and all those who have supported us



- Donations and Legacies
- Charitable Activities
- Other Trading Activities
- Investment Income

looking ahead



It is simply astounding to see what has been achieved, including the new research laboratories of which we can truly be proud. It has been a massive, combined effort, from the design and construction teams to the staff and students.

We are in the midst of a large recruitment drive to strengthen our science offer, to include a Director of Science as well as up to three new MBA Research Fellows. These are unique opportunities to inspire a new generation of ambitious marine

scientists in a motivational, world-class research environment. I look forward to welcoming them to the MBA family.

This next year we will continue to strengthen all our activities, from research, membership, training and events, data and information, sustainability, EDI, fundraising, and communications. We also plan to recruit a new Director of Engagement to focus on business development and marketing as we move towards the accelerator phase of our 15-year strategy.

I hope you have enjoyed the highlights from our Annual Report, it is clear we have a great deal to be optimistic about.

Professor Willie Wilson, Chief Executive

MBA Members get exclusive access to resources, events and networking opportunities.

Want to become a Member?

join here.

The Marine Biological Association
The Laboratory,
Citadel Hill Plymouth,
Devon
PL1 2PB, UK

+44 (0) 1752 426493
info@mba.ac.uk
mba.ac.uk