

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

1B – Scuppering Invisibility: Raising Public Understanding and Engagement with Marine Protection, Heritage and Development

Chair: Victoria Hamlyn, University of Plymouth

Plymouth Marine Park: A New Vision for Deepening Community Relationship with the Sea

Lead Author: Simon J. Pittman, University of Plymouth (UoP) and Seascape Analytics Ltd.

Co-Authors: Dr. Lynda Rodwell (UoP), Jason Lowther (UoP), Michael Williams (UoP)

Plymouth Sound, its estuaries & surrounding waters have a plethora of statutory designations (SPA's, SAC's, SSSI's, MCZ & protected wrecks). The public find these confusing and the designations have failed to resonate with the public. Conversely National Park designations (Dartmoor & Exmoor) have a high degree of recognition and acceptance. This paper examines how this current proposal can facilitate sustainable public engagement with the local marine environment without introducing additional regulatory structures.

Offshore Renewable Energy Development in England & Wales: Generating Sight from a Site Lead

Lead Author: Dr Victoria Hamlyn (UoP)

Co-Author: Jason Lowther (UoP)

The existing international, regional and national legal regimes that govern the marine space around England and Wales is a complex patchwork of regulation that can act as a barrier to both professional and public understanding. This paper critically examines the complexity of these regimes in the context of offshore renewable energy development, and proposes that simpler, lay friendly regimes can be developed to improve public understanding and engagement. A simplified legal framework, when coupled with evolving methods and technologies, can develop awareness to combat 'sea blindness'.

Looting the Dead: The Emerging Threat to Sunken Naval Heritage

Lead Author: Michael Williams, University of Plymouth (UoP)

Co-Authors: Jason Lowther (UoP), David Parham (Bournemouth University)

Worldwide conflicts of the 20th Century have left a globally spread sunken Naval heritage, both in terms of the last resting places of service personnel and naval material. Advances in remote sensing, diving and salvage technology have seen the emergence of industrial scale looting of these wrecks for metal. Increasing public concern is driving demands for greater protection of this heritage. This paper examines the international framework for protecting sunken Naval heritage, the lacunae therein and how these might be addressed in a way that promotes a wider public appreciation of naval interventions and their lasting cultural mark on the oceans.

Making Hidden Heritage Visible: Mobile, Geospatial and Gaming Technologies as Mass 'Edutainment' to promote Engagement with Underwater Cultural Heritage

Lead Author: Craig Newbery-Jones, University of Plymouth (UoP)

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The inevitable invisibility and inaccessibility of underwater cultural heritage assets obstruct public understanding that, in turn, will detract from the public valuing its protection. However, the increased sophistication and mobility of technology can increase visibility, encourage community engagement, and change public attitudes. This paper will explore how new technologies (including VR and AR) can be utilised to increase public engagement with marine matters, specifically heritage, by making Hidden Heritage visible.